

# Galatians 1 – 3 July 2022

## “God’s Initiation Of Justification”

### Introduction

\*Written to a region of churches in what is modern day central Turkey

\*Theme of Book: Justification By Faith – Self-merit can never justify man, who is sinful by nature, in the presence of God, who is holy by nature

\*Galatians Outlined

\*Chap 1-2 – **Jockeying** for justification by faith

\*Contending for JbF that this is the way to God

\*Chap 3-4 – **Basis** of justification by faith

\*The rationale that makes JbF make sense

\*Chap 5-6 – **Fallout** from justification by faith

\*The benefits or fruit from being JbF

\*In Chap 1, we see how our redemption is made possible wholly b/c of God’s initiation and work

**\*Today, let’s examine God’s initiation of our justification**

# **1<sup>st</sup> we see that it's His work (that brings justification) and not ours (Vs 1-12)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. Paul was sent by God (apostle), the very God that did the work of raising Jesus from the dead
2. This isn't initiated or created by man at all

Read Vs 3

1. Paul wishes God to pour into them His grace & peace, even this has its origin in God, not man
2. Cannot have peace w/o 1<sup>st</sup> having God's grace

Read Vs 4-5

1. Jesus did the work of the cross to bring us out of this evil world into a new one forever
2. Read I Pet 1:3 – HE made us born again & started this hope within us

Read Vs 6-7

1. When we fall for a manmade religion, it's us that have moved not God

2. They've departed not to another religion but to an illegitimate version of Christianity
3. Departure from true Christianity, isn't depart a religion or even people...it's departing from Jesus
  - a. The One w/ whom we have to do (Heb 4:13)
  - b. The One that began a good work in us (Phil 1:6)

Read Vs 8-9

1. Preaching isn't the beginning of the Gospel, it's the spreading of what God has done for us
  - a. Age of Conscience – God gave creation, preaching used to spread it
  - b. Age of Israel – God gave the Law, preaching used to spread it
  - c. Age of the Church – God gave Jesus, preaching used to spread it
2. Men or angels can't invent a religion, it's always based on the work of God
  - a. J. Smith says he was led to GT by an angel
  - b. Many today are led by what we do for God instead of what God did for us

Read Vs 10-11

1. If the source of the gospel was man's words, then Paul would just use palatable words
2. It's not from men, but it's from Christ's work on cross

Read Vs 12

1. Gospel wasn't given in whole as a message nor was it taught to him over time
2. Paul's gospel is simply from God & he's a conduit

**2<sup>nd</sup> we see that it's His timing for when to bring revelation to us (Vs 13-16)**

Read Vs 13-14

1. Paul was both hard against Christians & hard for the Jewish tradition

2. There is often much zeal/passion in false religions or false Christianity, but it's not in alignment w/ truth
  - a. Read Rom 10:1-2 – Israel was passionate, but passionately wrong
  - b. Read I Tim 1:12-13 – Zeal isn't enough, we need to know and follow God's truth
  - c. If you've only read a 10<sup>th</sup> of the Bible, how can you say you're serving God in truth?

Read Vs 15-16

1. Read Isa 49:1, 5 & Read Jer 1:5
2. God has planned our purpose since our conception, & then He enacts the plan in His timing for our good
3. “Well why didn't God reveal Himself sooner to Paul or to me?”
  - a. Read Rom 11:30-36 – Trust that His plan is designed to enable the offering of mercy to all

## **3<sup>rd</sup> we see that it's His Spirit that teaches and not men (Vs 17-24)**

Again, Read Vs 16

1. It's not that we can't learn from flesh & blood people but God will confirm it directly to us thru His Holy Spirit inside
2. Read I Cor 2:14 – The best commentary on the NT is the OT and vis versa
3. Matt 16:17 – OT said it, Peter believed it

Read Vs 17-18

1. Arabia was a territory stretching from modern Saudi Arabia up toward Syria
2. Showing that Paul was grounded in the faith directly between God & himself w/o the influence of men & their religious bias
3. Growth is dependent on God teaching us & He uses many resources to do it
  - a. I was alone 3 yrs in a house trailer – just me & the Lord in the Word & church

Read Vs 19-20

1. This is the James that led the early Jerusalem church & wrote letter of James, half bro of Jesus

Read Vs 21-22

1. Paul's taking great pains here to help us see that his grounding in the faith was not influenced by men

Read Vs 23-24

1. All praised God for the knowledge that this famous persecutor of Christians is now serving Christ
2. Even in evangelism today, it's the same idea
  - a. We don't need to instruct a new convert to come to OUR church (maybe that's right, maybe that's wrong)
  - b. We simply ask them if they have a Bible & ask them to read it while they plug themselves into a Bible-believing church

## Conclusion

When it come to our justification before God for eternal life, we're justified by faith **IN WHAT JESUS HAS DONE** (not "I have faith")

Our faith is the saving response to God initiating and activating our justification w/ His death on the cross

1. **It's His work that brings salvation, not ours**
  - a. Not random "Gotta have faith", not blind faith, but faith in Christ's work
  - b. We can do nothing, it's what He did
2. **It's His timing for when revelation comes**
  - a. Do you trust that God's know the best method & time to draw each person to Himself?
3. **It's His Spirit that teaches, not people**
  - a. To know God is completely in His Word, we need nothing else to know Him
  - b. If conflict between direct of man & direction from Word of God... follow God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit inside you