

BEREAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Galatians 2:11-16

Wednesday October 25, 2023

Galatians 2:11-16 (NASB95)



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¹²For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

¹³The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

¹⁴But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵"We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;

¹⁶nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Group Discussions



- 1. Share your questions and observations from the inductive process for Galatians 2:11-16.**
- 2. What does it mean for Cephas to be standing “condemned”?**
- 3. What would qualify as not being “straightforward about the Gospel”?**
- 4. How would you define the word *justification*?**

“The epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it, I am, as it were, in wedlock. Galatians is my Katherine.”

(Martin Luther – 1616 Martin Luther’s Commentary on Galatians and Psalms)

Outline of Galatians

- I. Galatians 1-2 / Context: There is No Other Gospel [Defense of Paul’s Apostleship]
- II. Galatians 3-4 / Theology: Justification by Faith
- III. Galatians 5-6 / Application: The Spirit’s Work is Evidence of Faith

Flow of Thought in Paul's Autobiographical Accounts



1:11-12 / Paul's MAIN POINT: The Gospel is not of man. It is completely of God.

1:13-17 / God converted Paul from persecutor of the church to preacher of the Gospel

1:18-24 / Paul's first encounters with apostles of Christ's church

2:1-10 / Paul's summit meeting with apostles about his Gospel ministry

2:11-21 / Even the apostles of Christ's church are not above Christ's Gospel

- 2:11-16 / **Man can be justified only by faith alone in Christ alone**

- 2:17-21 / A justified man is a man united with the crucified Christ

Justification Through Faith in Death of Christ Jesus

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I opposed him to his face, **because** he stood condemned. ^[!?!?] ¹²For prior to the coming of certain men from James, **he used to eat with the Gentiles;** but when they came, **he began to withdraw** and **hold himself aloof,** **fearing** the party of the circumcision.

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I said to Cephas in the presence of all,

“If you, being a **Jew**, live like the Gentiles and not like the **Jews**, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like **Jews?** **We are Jews** by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;

¹⁶nevertheless knowing that

a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus,

even we have believed in Christ Jesus, **so that** we may be

justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. ¹⁷“But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ,

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Jerusalem: Home base of ministry to the Jews

- James, Peter, John: Apostles & Elders (Acts 15)
- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- “Men from James” (Gal. 2:11)



Antioch: Home base of ministry of Paul and Barnabas

- Barnabas “recruited” Saul from Tarsus and brought him to Antioch (Acts 11)
- Disciples of Jesus first called “Christians” in Antioch (Acts 11)
- One year (Acts 11) and then “long time” (Acts 14) Fierce debates with Judaizers (Acts 15:2)
- Nicolas the Proselyte deacon from Antioch (Acts 6)
- Persecuted Christians from Jerusalem had fled to Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)
- Home to many idolatrous Greeks (Acts 11:19-26)
- Cult center to Daphne; free metropolis with a theater, amphitheater, a circus and a marble paved main street.*

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What’s at stake??? The Gospel of Jesus Christ

* Keener, C. S. (2019). *Galatians: A Commentary* (pp. 143–144). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.

“Live like the Gentiles”

Acts 10:42-48 (NASB95)

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

⁴⁵All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

⁴⁷“Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”

⁴⁸And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11:1–4 (NASB95)

¹Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

²And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him,

³saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying,



“Live like the Gentiles”

Acts 15:7-10 (NASB95)

⁷After there had been much debate, **Peter** stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

⁸“And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;

⁹and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

¹⁰“**Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?**

¹¹“**But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.**”

¹²All the people kept silent, and they were listening to **Barnabas** and **Paul** as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

¹³After they had stopped speaking, **James** answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me.

¹⁴“**Simeon** has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.



“Live like the Gentiles”

Acts 15:23-26 (NASB95)

²³and they sent this letter by them, “The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

²⁴“Since we have heard that **some of our number to whom we gave no instruction** have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls,

²⁵it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Romans 2:17–20 (NASB95)

¹⁷But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God,
¹⁸and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,
¹⁹and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,
²⁰a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,

A Privileged People

- The Law of God – OT Scriptures
- Sign of the Covenant – Circumcision (Genesis 17:11)

But Does the Law Really Justify Us and Grant Us Eternal Life?

- The Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism (Matthew 3:7)
- Rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-27)
- Nicodemus, Pharisee and ruler of the Jews (John 3,7,19)

“We, Jews, know that the Law cannot save us!”

Judaizers

“Judaize” ἰουδαίζω (Gal. 2:14): to live according to Jewish customs and traditions



Judaizers - Three Things Gentile Christians Need in order to Truly be Saved

1. Circumcision
2. Ritual Bath in Water
3. Agreement to take upon the yoke of the Mosaic Law (as interpreted in Halakah, *Rabbinic Legal Decisions*)

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Condemned vs. Justified



Condemned: to declare or make wrong; liability to punishment; judicial act of declaring one guilty

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Justified: to declare “not guilty”; to be declared righteous

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we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!

¹⁸“**For if** I rebuild what I have once destroyed [!?!], I prove myself to be a transgressor.

¹⁹“**For through the Law** I died to the Law,

so that I might live to God.

²⁰“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but

Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved me and **gave Himself up for me.**

²¹“I do not nullify the grace of God, **for if** righteousness comes through the Law, **then** Christ died needlessly.”

Condemned vs. Justified



Condemned: to declare or make wrong; liability to punishment; judicial act of declaring one guilty

Justified: to declare “not guilty”; to be declared righteous

- Grudem: An instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight.
- Mayhue: Declaration that the person has been restored to a state of righteousness through belief and trust in the work of Christ rather than on the basis of one’s own accomplishment.
- Berkhof: a judicial act of God, in which He declares, on the basis of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, that all the claims of the Law are satisfied with respect to the sinner.

Application?



Galatians 5:12–13 (NASB95)

¹²I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Hebrews 10:35–39 (NASB95)

³⁵Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

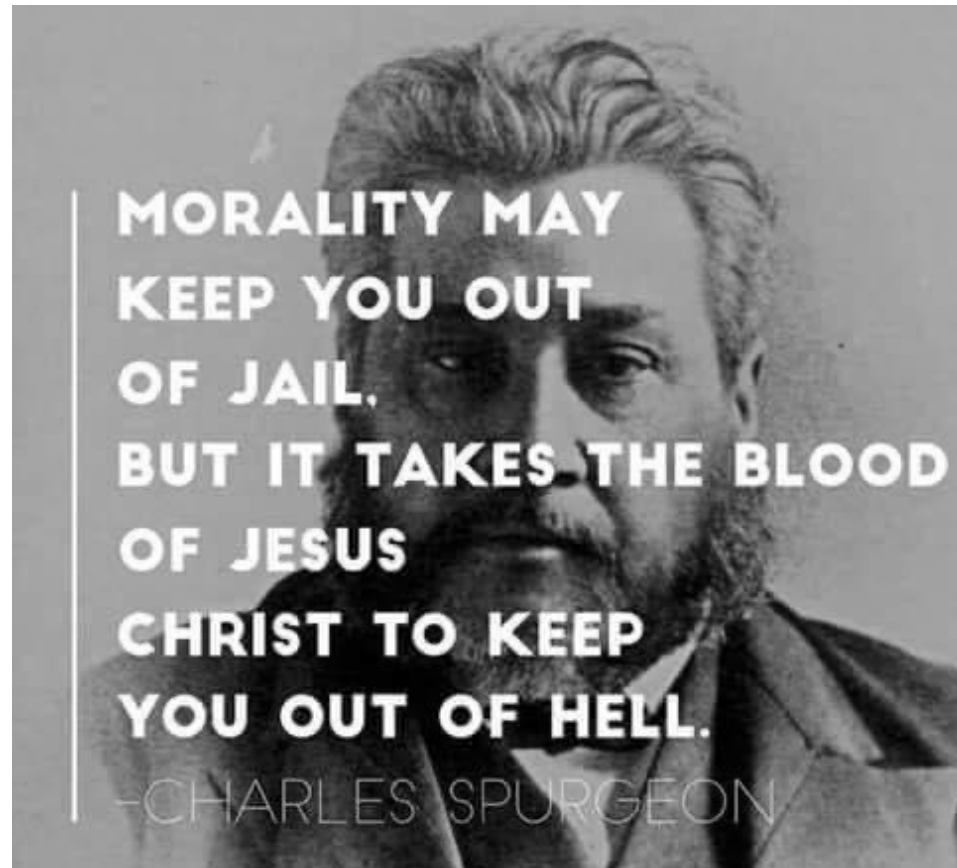
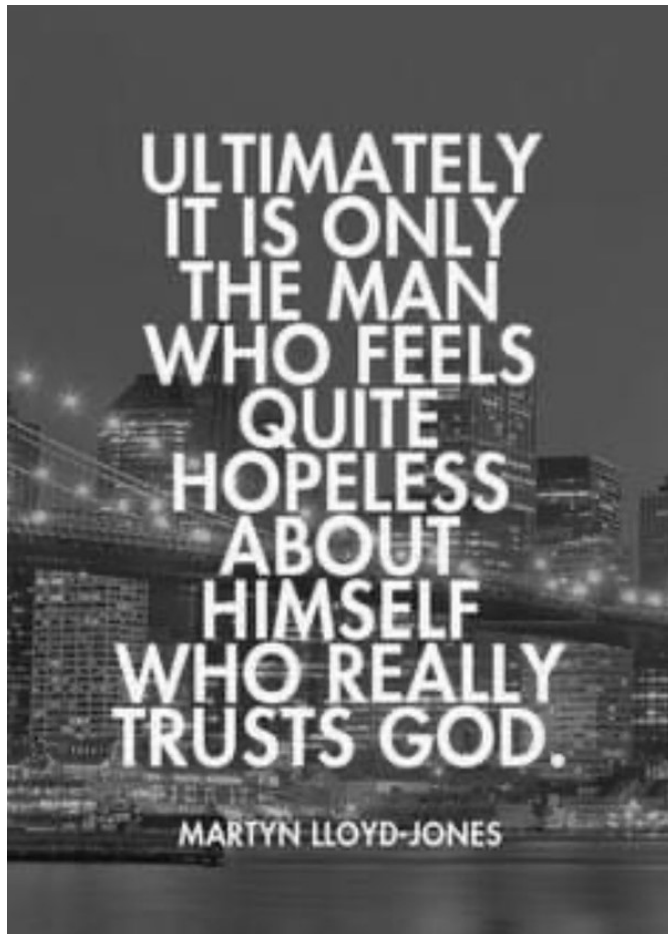
³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

³⁷For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

³⁸But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

³⁹But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Condemned vs. Justified



Upcoming Events



Sunday 10/29

- **FreshBAM Dinner / Seminar @ 5:30pm**

Tuesday 10/31

- **Reformation Night! @ 5:30pm**

Saturday 11/4

- **BAM Seminar @ 5:00pm**

Saturday 12/2

- **Fam245 Bowling Fellowship @ 4pm**

PARTICIPANT SIGN-UPS
Regional Thanksgiving
Dinner
Sunday, November 19th
Dinners will be hosted
at various homes



Prep Questions



- 1. For Wednesday 11/1, read and inductively prepare Galatians 2:17-21.**
- 2. What is being emphasized in Paul's rhetorical question (2:17)?**
- 3. What does it mean to die to the Law?**
- 4. What is the purpose of living by faith while in the flesh?**

Group Discussions



- 1. Are there areas of your life that you feel are not “straightforward” about the truth of the gospel?**
- 2. How did you come to faith in Christ Jesus?**
- 3. What role does the Law play in your life? Do you struggle with legalism? Do you have moments where you struggle with assurance?**
- 4. Any prayer requests from questions 1-3?**