

Main Idea: Our salvation cannot be earned by good works, but is a gift of God received through faith in Jesus.

Context of Galatians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Audience:** Churches in Galatia
- **Situation:** False teachers have come proclaiming a false gospel in the churches of Galatia.

Know and guard the one true Gospel. (1:6-9)

- False teachers distort the gospel (v.7)
- You are the church's defense against false teaching (v.8-9)

Guard against a false gospel of good works (2:15-16)

- **Justification** - A person is declared to be right with God.
- We are not justified by keeping rules.
 - **Old Testament Law**
 - Given to specific people in a specific time
 - Only ever a shadow of the real salvation of Jesus
 - Reflects the character of God in its morality
- We are justified through faith in Jesus.

The faith that justifies is a faith that works (5:16-26)

- Do not give in to the sinful desires of the flesh.
 - Those who continue in sin are not justified.
- Cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Those who are justified are being transformed by the Spirit.

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Intro Question: What makes a lie convincing?

Teaching Part 1

Know and guard the one true Gospel. (1:6-9)

What is the good news of Jesus?

- The gospel, or the good news, or Jesus is the story of our salvation by His grace. We were created by God for His glory, but we rebelled against Him in our sin. Now our sin has separated us from the goodness of God and the penalty for our sin is death. But God loved us enough to send Jesus for our salvation. Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not live. He carried our sins and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our rebellion. He rose from the dead to defeat death for those who would put their faith in Him. Now He offers eternal life to those who will trust Him for their salvation.

What are some ways that people distort the gospel?

- One of the most common ways is to make the gospel into a works-based salvation. Anytime someone suggests that we are saved by faith in Jesus *and* some sort of other action, it is a distortion of the gospel. We are saved by faith, not by our own good works. Other false gospels: prosperity gospel, universalism (everyone will be saved), etc.

Guard against a false gospel of good works. (2:15-16)

How do the rules of the Old Testament show us our need for Jesus?

- If you read through the Old Testament you will find that it would be impossible for someone to keep all of the rules without failure. Paul says that the Old Testament rules were a temporary standard to show people their need for salvation in Jesus. While not every Old Testament rule applies to us as Christians today, the law is based on the unchanging character of God and the morals of the Old Testament reveal our need for a Savior.

Teaching Part 2

The faith that justifies is a faith that works. (5:16-26)

Is there someone in your life who has shown one or more of the fruits of the Spirit to you consistently? Tell us about it.

What are some steps you can take to resist the temptations of the flesh?

- Talk about community, accountability, fleeing from sin, getting rid of opportunities for sin, and replacing sin with spiritual disciplines.

What are some steps you can take to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

- Many of the same answers help here, but in a more positive way. Spiritual disciplines help us walk in step with the Spirit. Community gives us examples and support in our walk. Try to get specific in your own life about what you can do this week to cultivate these fruits.

Answer to Remember: The letters of the New Testament are God's inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

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GALATIANS

NT Overview

Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: Galatians Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to Galatians](#)

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