

Christ Alone: Study in Galatians. Study Guide 3 (Gal 2:11-2:21)

Read Galatians 2:11-13

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

1. In verse 12, before certain men came from James, what was Peter doing?
2. After the men came, what did Peter, Baranabas, and the rest of the Jews do?
3. We see in this passage how peer pressure impacts even how we view our religious convictions. According to verse 12, what emotion did Peter have concerning the “circumcision party?” Why do you think this was so?

Read Galatians 2:14

14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

4. Fill in the Blank
Their conduct was not in step with the truth of the _____
5. What is the gospel?

Read Galatians 2:16

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

6. Put a box around the word justified, underline works of the law, and circle faith/believe
7. The word justified can have two main nuances. It can mean *to be declared righteous* (like in court) or it can mean *to be proven right*. Read the following passages in the NT and write which meaning best fits justified in the context.

(Romans 8:33; 1 Corinthians 4:4) Meaning #1:

(Matt 11:19; Luke 10:29) Meaning #2:

8. A person is justified by _____

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A person is NOT justified by _____

9. Which meaning best fits “justified” in Galatians 2:16?

Many people think Paul’s teaching in Galatians conflicts with James. Consider the two meanings of “justify” and read James 2:18-26.

*18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father **justified** by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture [cf. Gen 15:6] was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is **justified** by works and not by faith alone. 25 And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute **justified** by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.*

10. Which meaning best fits “justified” in James 2:18-26?

11. How do you think Galatians 2 & James 2 fit together?

Read Galatians 2:17-18

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

12. What word in Gal 2:17 is the same as in Gal 2:15?

13. Some believe being saved by “faith” cheapens grace, since Christ becomes a servant of sin since he saves sinners enabling them to go to heaven. How does Paul respond to this?

14. Paul says if we rebuild “the law”, we prove ourselves to be _____. No matter which way you go, Paul says you are a sinner and transgressor.

Read Galatians 2:19-20

19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

15. Put an ‘X’ on the terms Paul has died to or died with. Circle the items Paul lives through and for.

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Law

God

Myself, I

Christ

Faith

16. Which term has Paul both died with and lives through? How can this be?
17. How do you think having Christ live in us might lead to good works?
18. What two things did the Son of God do for Paul? Why do you think this leads to faith or trust in Him

Read Galatians 2:21

21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Circle True or False

19. If we were able to be righteous by keeping the law, then there was no purpose for Jesus to die.

True or False

20. Christ died for a purpose; therefore, righteousness is not through the law.

True or False

Bonus Questions

Read Luke 18:9-14

21. What were some of the actions of the Pharisee?
22. According to verse 9, what were people like the Pharisee trusting in to save themselves?
23. Who went home justified? Why?
24. What meaning of justification is meant in Luke 18:14?

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Group Application:

1. What truth resonated most with you as you studied Galatians 2:11-2:21?
2. Some today preach that you go to heaven by being good enough. How would you respond to them?
3. Some today preach that you go to heaven by simply praying the sinner's prayer. What's the difference between praying the sinner's prayer and trusting Christ in faith?
4. Why is it tempting to believe you are declared righteous by your good deeds? How can believing we are saved by works lead to a self-righteous and judgment attitude?
5. Do you think you are trusting in Christ alone for your salvation? Why or why not?
6. Why is it comforting to know that your saved by Christ's righteousness and not your own?
7. Paul says the key to life is living by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. How does trusting in Jesus lead to a life of good works and the right attitude before God?
8. Share requests and pray for one another! Specifically pray that you would trust on Christ's finished work and not your own.