

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 2:15-21

Lesson 4

In this portion of Galatians, Paul gets to the heart of the matter of Peter's transgression as described in the previous verses. Peter had *set aside the grace of God*. That is never something to be ignored within the body of Christ. We must, as Paul did, fervently fight for the truth that man can be justified by nothing other than the blood of Jesus Christ – nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. To Him be the glory!

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 2:15-21

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 2:15-21 is the last part of the paragraph division that begins with verse 11. Scan the entire paragraph division (verses 11-21) and list below the subject(s) covered.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

After titling this section, record a title for Chapter 2.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God, Jesus, grace, faith, live, and Gentiles*

New to this lesson: *law, justified, and flesh*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 2:15-21. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Paul used the contrasting term *but* three times in this section. Mark the word on your Observations Worksheets. Choose one and record what is being contrasted.
4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 2:15-17

1. Paul agreed there is a distinction between Jews and Gentiles (verse 15). Their backgrounds and heritage are very different. However, spiritually there is no distinction. What do the following scriptures state that support this truth?

Colossians 3:11

Romans 3:9

2. *But how can a man be righteous before God?* Job 9:2 The Judaizers insisted that they knew how to obtain righteousness (justification). Christian Jews *knew* the true way of *justification* – being made right before God. What did they *know justification* does not come by? verse 16

- a. What did they know *justification* does come by?

- 1.) In your own words, describe the difference between gaining God's approval by *works* and gaining God's approval through *faith*.

- 2.) What do you appreciate about God's plan to *justify* through *faith* and *faith* alone?

3. Paul asks a question in Galatians 2:17. What does he ask? Use other translations if you desire.

- a. As believing Jews put themselves in the same category as Gentiles, they also found themselves to be *sinners* in need of a Savior. Does joining Christ with *sinners*, make Christ a *minister of sin*? See Paul's answer in verse 17.

- 1.) Since we can be *justified* by trusting Jesus, we are no longer bound to the law's demands of perfection. Some were thinking this would promote sin. What similar problem did Paul address in Romans 6:1?

- 2.) According to 1 John 3:5, why did Christ come?

- b. How have you personally discovered that your life is no longer dominated by sin since you became a believer?
 - 1.) There is something inherent in man to seek to be worthy of salvation. What are some works that you did, before you were saved, in an effort to gain God's favor?
 - 2.) Why do you think *grace* does not promote sin, but rather gives the believer power to overcome it?

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 2:18,19

- 1. Paul explained in verse 18 that if he went back to the old ways of believing, that following the law was necessary for salvation, he would be *making himself a transgressor*. The law did not keep people from sin, it proved they were sinners. How does trying to keep the law end up revealing a person's sinfulness?
- 2. What do the following verses reveal about the law?
 - Romans 3:19
 - Romans 3:20
 - Romans 7:7-11
- 3. Consider the Jewish mind-set at the time of the writing of Galatians. The law was their claim to belonging to God. In what ways does the law prove us to be sinners, rather than make us righteous?
- 4. Write Galatians 2:19 phrase by phrase.
 - a. To *die to the law* is to cease to have any relationship with it. Paul was stating that he had been freed from the demands of the law in his effort to be made right with God. Once he acknowledged that freedom, who was he free to *live to*?
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How is this perspective different from that of keeping the law?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 2:20

1. Galatians 2:20 is a powerful statement. As you fill in the blanks, meditate on the impact of the *crucified* life.

I have been _____ with _____; it is _____ I who _____, but _____ lives in _____; and the _____ that I now _____ in the _____ I _____ by _____ in the _____ of _____, who _____ and gave _____ for _____.

- a. In your own words, describe the *crucified* life.
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2. Christ *lives* in each and every believer. Verify this by recording the main points of the following verses:

John 14:20

Ephesians 3:17

Colossians 1:27

- a. What *hope* do you have because Christ dwells *in you*?
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3. What lesson does Jesus want us to learn from John 15:4,5?
 - a. How have you learned to apply this truth?
 4. Because Christ lives in each believer, we have blessings and privileges that the unbeliever does not have. List a few. Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answers.

5. Galatians 2:20 speaks of Christ's love for us. Describe that love using the following verses from 1 John 4:

verse 9

verse 10

verse 11

- a. How does knowing God's love for you incite you to live for Him?

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 2:21

1. *I am not one of those who treats the grace of God as meaningless. For if we could be saved by keeping the law, then there was no need for Christ to die.* Galatians 2:21 NLT How is making additional requirements for salvation *treating the grace of God as meaningless*?

- a. Grace (**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense). We have access to the riches of God because of the price Christ paid. Share a few of the costs paid by Jesus to save you.

2. Why can we not be saved *by keeping the law*? see Ephesians 2:8,9

- a. What does Romans 3:10 add to this?

3. Review last week's lesson. This is a strong rebuke to Peter. How did Peter *set aside grace*?

- a. What are some common ways we can *set aside grace* today?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 2:15-21

1. Peter, by refusing to eat with Gentiles in the presence of Jews, was giving the Gentiles a message that they were still inferior. They had Jesus, but they did not have the law. What are some ways that people in the church can make others feel inferior today?

2. Share what you learned in this lesson about:

the law

faith

grace

3. In what ways have you been *crucified with Christ*?
4. Share one way you can see the evidence of *Christ living in you*.
5. In what ways have you been encouraged to live for God's glory through trusting Him for the power?

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- Ephesians 3:17-19