



7/24/25

*Have you ever had a piece of dessert that was kinda small but so rich that you knew you that even a small piece was plenty to savor? Today's passage is a great example of that. In these short 7 verses, there is so much to savor. I love to dig into these passages and get a deeper understanding of the meanings of the words. With God's word, there's always more to savor.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Galatians 2:15-21*

*In Romans 3, Paul demonstrated to the Jews that they are not superior to the Gentiles. ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Several years earlier, he wrote a letter to the church at Galatia, a church he had planted on his first missionary journey. They should have known all the things Paul taught to the Romans, but they were getting confused. They were struggling because some Jewish people had come to their church and told these Gentile believers that they had to practice the Jewish rituals and laws in order to be saved. It was the "Jesus AND" plan. Paul was MAD. He knew that any diversion from the truth of the gospel is preaching a false gospel and ruining the faith of those who embrace it. In this passage in Galatians 2, Paul made it crystal clear that no works of the law can save us... no matter who we are. It is only by faith in Christ.*

*Vs. 15-16 ~ "We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 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."*

*Paul... who was preaching the gospel without apology to the Gentiles, was a Jew. He was not a "Gentile sinner". Why did he call the Gentiles "sinners"? That was the view of the highest order of Jews, the Pharisees. They viewed all Gentiles as sinners, and Jews as the chosen people of God, which made them superior. Paul was saying, "I was Jewish from birth... but I'm not superior. No human is."*

*This is what Paul knew because Jesus made it clear... A person is not justified (declared righteous, acquitted of breaking the law) before God by doing all the works that the law requires... circumcision, keeping the Sabbath, doing all the festivals... all the stuff. No one can do the works perfectly. The only thing the law does for my salvation is prove to me that I need a Savior because I can't keep the law without fail. No one can. (No one but Jesus.)*

*The only thing that justifies me (declares me righteous, acquits me of guilt) is faith in Jesus Christ... His sacrifice, His fulfillment of the righteous requirement of the law for me, His death and resurrection. It is belief in Christ that saves me, and it is belief in Christ that changes me.*

*Paul repeats himself as a parent does to his child when he's trying to make a very serious point... By works of the law NO ONE WILL BE JUSTIFIED. It doesn't matter who I am, Jew or Gentile. I cannot be declared righteous before the one and only Judge. It is HIS court, HIS plan, HIS judgment that matters.*

*Vs. 17-18 ~ "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! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor."*

*Here, Paul was speaking to one of the arguments he heard from the Jewish people who believed the Gentiles had to follow God's law for salvation. "What about the fact that these people who call themselves Christians sin??? Doesn't that prove the whole 'Jesus AND' plan to be the only way to true salvation?" Paul said NO.*

*If, as a believer, I miss the mark of obedience to the Lord, does that make Jesus a servant or a minister of sin? Aren't I just using my freedom in Christ as permission to keep sinning? And doesn't that make Jesus the servant of the enemy??? Yikes!!! I think we sometimes treat our salvation that way, but that is NOT why Jesus came. My sin does NOT make Jesus guilty. When I go and do the very things Jesus had to die for, I prove MYSELF to be a transgressor and a law breaker, not Jesus.*

*This is really important for me to get! Blaming God or others for my sin goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Proverbs 19:3 says, "When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord." Whether I'm on the side of judging those who sin or the side of those who sin, it is never God's fault. Jesus is never the servant of sin... He came to set me free from sin, not to give me permission to sin.*

*Vs. 19 ~ "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God."*

*The law is "holy and the commandment is holy and righteous and good" (Romans 7:12). But the law cannot save. In fact, the law shows me my sin and proves that I am the walking dead without Jesus. But by faith in Jesus, I don't have to live under the condemnation of the law ever again. When Jesus died and I put my faith in Him, I died. When Jesus rose from the*

*dead, because of my faith in Him, I rose from the dead. And now I have a whole new purpose... that I might live, not to the law, but to God. The law is words on a page... holy, righteous words that display the heart of God. But living to God is about relationship with Him.*

*It is not that I was saved from the condemnation of the law so that I could live to SELF, but to God... the very thing I was created to do... the very thing I couldn't do without Jesus... the very thing I'm being restored to do... the very thing that brings me the most satisfaction and joy. Sometimes I treat living for Jesus as a death sentence... It IS a death sentence in one way only... death to SELF (which is death to corruption and the deception of sin) ... but in every other way, it is a LIFE sentence. LIFE to purity and peace and hope and goodness and love and grace and mercy... forever.*

*Vs. 20-21 ~ "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. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose."*

*My old, cursed, corrupt self died with Christ so that my new, free, justified self could live with Christ. My old self no longer lives. Christ Himself lives in me. The word "live" is repeated FOUR times in this one verse. When God has a word repeated, it means that I need to pay attention. The Greek word for "live" is "zoe". It means physical and spiritual eternal life.*

- My old corrupt self does NOT live for all eternity. It's gone.*
- Christ lives in me for all eternity.*
- My new self that lives forever, right now is in a temporary body that will be replaced with a glorious eternal body (Philippians 3:20-21).*
- My new self lives forever by faith in Jesus... always trusting Him, always putting my full confidence in Him.*

*Why do I have this eternal, physical, spiritual life? Because Jesus Christ loved me sacrificially, unconditionally, and completely... so much so that He gave Himself up for me. He emptied Himself of His glory in heaven and became a man who humbled Himself by letting Himself be delivered over to death on a cross. The enemy would never do that for me. The enemy's goal is to deceive me and make me think that I am better off without the One who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*O Lord, please help me never to be deceived by the enemy. I praise You that I have not been blinded by his lies that would keep me from salvation. But please also help me not to be deceived by his lies that make me think freedom for SELF is true freedom. Help me to wholeheartedly live for YOU. Let me not nullify the grace of God by living for self and trying to measure up according to the rules. If I had to earn my righteousness by my own works in any*

*way, Christ died for no reason. If that were true, then God the Father would be the cruelest of all to sacrifice His Son when it was not necessary. But Father, You are the holiest and purest of all. Jesus died for the most merciful of all purposes... to save sinners like me.*

*What is the one thing I need to do from this passage? Live FOR GOD and NOT SELF by FAITH. O Lord, may it be so.*