

Christ Set Us Free:
A Study through the Book of Galatians
Justification by Faith in Christ, Galatians 2:11-16

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing.

Dear God, since you call all of the stars by name, do you know the name of this friend of mine? And would you mind calling them by name too? That would be amazing. Amen.

Why the Gospel matters so much in a broken world!

If Christianity is reduced to a religious, rigorous system of thought and behavior it will fail to reach the deepest needs of the human condition.

Our issues run deep, to the very core of our being, the soul and the heart. We need transformation not religion. We need relationship with our Creator, not behavioral modification. We need rescue from our brokenness, not a rigorous system of thought. No amount of human effort will ever rescue us from our state of spiritual death.

Only the Giver of Life can make spiritually dead people come alive. He does this through the only way possible, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:1-2 Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.

Galatians 2:3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

Galatians 2:4-5 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

Galatians 2:7-9 But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles), and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Galatians 2:11-12 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For 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.

Galatians 2:13-14 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all...

"The Book of Galatians is what he should have said to Peter at Antioch had time and sufficient reflection allowed it." Dunn

Galatians 2:13-14 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But 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?"

Galatians 2:15-16 "We are Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless 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."

Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

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Justification: God's sovereign act to declare sinners to be righteous even while we are still in our sinful condition.

Philippians 3:8-9 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith

Right standing before God: an illustration.

Called in to the IRS and confronted with years of unfiled tax returns and years of unpaid taxes. Millions in unpaid taxes and zero resources.

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Peter's behavior, not his theology is the focus here. Paul's issue with Peter is not theological but Peter's failure to allow his theology to determine how he treats other people.

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