

# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM

## Series objective

The church in Galatia was divided over issues of observing Jewish laws and regulations according to the Torah. Many leaders within this church were requiring non-Jewish Christians to live by Jewish laws that missed the main point of the Gospel message in that Jesus fulfilled the law and saved all who believe in him. As has always been true when people trust in Jesus as the Messiah, His life, death, and resurrection become the basis of their salvation. As a result, they become new creations. The book of Galatians reminds Jesus' followers to embrace the Gospel message of the crucified Messiah, that justifies all people through faith and empowers them to live as Jesus did.<sup>1</sup>



## Overview of Chapter 2

Verses 1 – 10 Paul adopted by the apostles

Verses 11 – 29 Paul opposes Peter

## Questions

1. Paul gives us a timeline of his early ministry in the first two chapters of Galatians. In Galatians 1:18 we see that after 3 years (after the road to Damascus experience). Then, we see in Galatians 2:1 he went again to Jerusalem. For these two texts it's possible to construct a 17-year time frame. That's a long time!
  - a. Paul said he went in response to a revelation. What does this mean?
  - b. In verse 4 Paul uses the phrase *freedom in Christ*. Also, read James 4:17. What is the opposite of "freedom" and what does our having freedom in Christ mean to you?
2. Does Paul seem a little sarcastic in verse 6? If so, why do you think he might have been a little frustrated?
3. One thing I love about Paul is his living with purpose. In reading verses 6 through 10 there is no doubt God had a plan for his life. In what ways has God uniquely called you and what experiences have you had to support this call?

---

<sup>1</sup> Bibleproject.com

4. Read verses 11 through 14 that addresses Paul's confronting Peter.
  - a. Do you think Paul was wrong for "calling Peter out"?
  - b. In what ways were Paul and Peter different?
  - c. In what ways were Paul and Peter similar?
  
5. Verses 15 through 21 provide some of the most significant text in the Bible on salvation (justification).
  - a. In comparison to Jewish traditions and even some of today's religions, what makes Christianity radical?
  
  - b. Review the information presented below related to salvation. I know this concept is new to some of you. Does what is presented make sense to you?

Provided in the figure below is a graphic showing the three facets of salvation. I want to be very clear – this is NOT a progressive salvation, or stages of salvation that we see in cults where people work to earn their salvation. Rather, there are three distinct facets of salvation we experience as Believers. Once we make a profession of faith and are justified, we are eternally secure. From that point forward until death (or the Rapture of the Church), we are being sanctified.

To better understand justification, sanctification, and glorification, consider the following:

- Justification – saved from the **PENALTY** of sin
- Sanctification – saved from the **POWER** of sin
- Glorification – saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin



I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 3:14

The following verses discuss how the three facets of salvation.

- Justification (Romans 5:1 and 8:33)
- Sanctification (2 Timothy 2:15-26)
- Glorification (John 12:12-16, Romans 8:30, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12)

Most teaching on salvation does not distinguish between what can be called the *facets of salvation*; specifically, failing to distinguish between justification and sanctification. Failing to make a distinction between justification and sanctification at best results in confusion when discussing salvation, while at worst creates a works-based salvation that is common-place among the cults.