

Galatians 2:1-21

Crucified With Christ

Paul ends chapter 1 telling us that Paul (the writer of Galatians) used to persecute Christians and after he was saved by faith in Jesus he preaches the good news of Jesus to others and glorifies God. God changed him! (1:23)

As Christians we are changed by Jesus.

1. He saves us (death to life)
2. He forgives us of our sins (justification)
3. He indwells us (fills us with the Spirit of God)
4. He allows us to talk to Him (prayer)
5. He helps us understand His word (Bible)
6. He helps us know how to live (sanctification)
7. He gives us a desire to be led by Him (live for Him and run from sin)
8. He allows us to be part of His work (sharing Jesus with others and modeling Christ to others)
9. He gives us a community for life (the church)
10. He does a divine work in us and through us (miracles)
11. He gives us perfection forever (heaven)

Has your life been changed by Jesus? If yes, how?

What area of your life needs to mature more in Jesus? Are you asking God for that?

What false teaching or division is going on in the church now that might be impacting you? Are you willing to stand with Christ and stand with Christ's commands or will you wilt to the world?

Vs 1-10 Paul's salvation is evident because of his life change and life goals. He is taking disciples of Christ with him (mentoring and discipling) to make new disciples of Christ.

Titus was a Gentile Christian. Since there was a debate from false teachers requiring circumcision, this godly Gentile's perspective would be helpful to this church.

Paul, Titus, and Barnabas all agree that circumcision is not needed to be saved. These are some heavy hitters who are respected, and who are together in refuting these false teachers.

There will always be non-Christian or immature Christians who try to cause problems in the church. It is our job as mature Christians to correct this dangerous and false teaching and division.

A false brother or sister should be expected to hide in a church and cause ungodly quarrels and divisions. They are unsaved people trying to lead people away from godliness and cause divisions.

Matthew 7:15-20 *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Most false brothers and sisters think they are right and think they are doing a good work. They say things that are wrong and ungodly with conviction.

We know someone is a false-teacher if they:

1. Won't follow godly elders (bad fruit)
2. They refuse to repent (bad fruit)
3. They refuse to recant their lies that lead others astray (bad fruit)
4. They desire to always be right, even though they are doing things against scripture (bad fruit)
5. They love negativity, quarrels and dividing others (bad fruit)

The reason elders/pastors and mature and godly believers must correct false teaching is because if we do not, it will harm others. It will lead others in the church astray.

The Gospel is for both Jews and Gentiles! Jesus is for all tribes, tongues, and peoples. All cultures.

James, Cephas (Peter), and John were pillars in the early church. They approved of Paul's teaching Jesus to the Gentiles. If they approved this from Paul, why do these no names (look influential) not approve of this?

Vs 11-14 Paul and Peter had a dispute. Paul lovingly corrected him. Peter knew and taught that the Gospel was for Jews and gentiles. We were not saved because of our deeds, we were saved by faith in Jesus. Peter knew this, but Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles and returned to eating with the Jews. This caused a division in the church. They put Jews and law against Gentiles. This was confusing to the church and Paul corrected this. All Christians did not need to live like Jews. They did not need to follow dietary rules and old holidays. They needed to trust in Jesus!

We must know that the Gospel means we are saved by faith because of what Jesus did. A safe way to view this is that we are saved by Jesus alone. We are not saved by any works.

2 Timothy 3:15 -16 *And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*

It is good that Paul shows us an example of how we can remind each other of the truth and people can be brought back when they go astray.

Vs 15-21 Justified means we are counted righteous because of our faith in Jesus.

Paul is making the point that there were Jews in the church desiring to bring gentiles into their traditions. They saw the Gentiles as sinners. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. Our rules do not save us. Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Since we are saved by faith in Jesus as our Lord, we can live in Jesus and through Jesus. Since I live for Jesus, my old self is crucified and dead. I can now live for Him and through Him. This is a relief not to be bound by sinful actions or rules and laws.