

Galatians

Lesson 2: Galatians 2

The difference between Christianity and every other religion in the world is that every other religion teaches some form of good works to be justified and get to Heaven. Christianity denies works righteousness and teaches that one is justified by grace through faith in Christ alone. In chapter 2, Paul continues to defend his calling as an apostle and show that he preached the true message of the gospel. Judaizers, Jewish religious leaders who added the legalistic requirements of the Old Testament to the gospel, had plagued the churches in Galatia and were trying to turn the true church against Paul and away from the true gospel. The Judaizers were bent on preaching a false gospel and had even influenced Peter and Barnabas. Paul shows that as a true apostle, his message was the true gospel and the Judaizer's was false. Let's dive in and see what Paul had to go through to defend the true gospel of grace.

Acts 15

➤ **Read Acts 15:1–35**

1. In verse 1, what were the Judaizers teaching?
2. In verse 5, who agreed with the Judaizers?
3. In verses 7–11, what was Peter's response at the Jerusalem Council?
4. In verses 19–20 and 28–29, what did the apostles and elders in Jerusalem encourage the Gentile believers to do? Was this a requirement for salvation?

Galatians 2

➤ **Read Galatians 2:1–10**

5. Compare verses 1–2 with Acts 15:1–4. What does Paul tell us is the reason he went to Jerusalem?

6. In verse 2, what did Paul do when he first arrived in Jerusalem? Why?

7. In verse 3, why was it important for Paul to have Titus with him?

8. In verse 4, what were the “false brethren” (Judaizers) doing?

9. In verse 5, how does Paul refer to the gospel?

10. In verse 6, what does Paul say about God?

Application: How does the world look at those with credentials? What does God look at? How does this truth comfort you?

11. At the end of verse 6, what did “those who were of high reputation” (namely James, Peter, and John [see v. 9]) add to the true gospel message Paul was preaching?

Application: What are things you have heard people add to the gospel? How are you able to confront those lies?

12. In verse 7, who did Paul focus his ministry on? Who did Peter focus his ministry on?

13. In verse 8, who does Paul appeal to for his calling in ministry?

14. In verse 9, how does Paul identify James, Peter, and John?

15. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1–4. Did Paul listen to the leaders in Jerusalem? What does this say about Paul's heart?

Application: Why is it important for the church to take care of poor believers in the church? (see 1 John 3:17)

➤ **Read Galatians 2:11–14**

16. In verses 11–12, who did Paul confront face to face? Why?

17. Why is it important for Paul to tell of this incident?

18. In verse 13, who was carried away with Peter by the Judaizers?

Application: What does this account of Peter and Barnabas reveal? How can you guard yourself from being led astray?

➤ **Read Galatians 2:15–21**

19. In verses 15–16, how does Paul say Jews and Gentiles are justified (declared righteous)?

20. In verse 17, Paul confronts Peter with the teachings of Jesus. Read Mark 7:14–23. What did Jesus say defiled a man? How does that relate to Paul’s argument?
21. In verses 20–21, how does the believer’s union with Christ refute the teachings of the Judaizers and the wrong behavior of Peter?
22. In verse 21, what is Paul’s argument against works righteousness?
23. Read 1 Peter 1:3–5. According to Peter, how is a person saved? Did he learn his lesson?

Application: Christians today typically aren’t trying to uphold the Mosaic Law. What “Christian laws” do people uphold today as those which “earn favor with God”?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.