

Galatians – Lesson 13

Galatians 2:15-21

October 6, 2024

We will be looking at the theological basis of Paul's rejection of circumcision as a means of salvation in **v.15-21**>>

In **v.15**, after reminding Peter that they are both Jews and not Gentiles, in **v.16-21**, Paul summarizes the theological basis of their salvation>>

As we read the passage, notice the highlighted terms>>

16 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. **17** But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! **18** For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. **19** For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if Righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

This morning we will begin by looking at **v.16a** in which Paul states the heart of the question that faces the Galatian churches>>

*Does our salvation depend upon something **we do** or is it the sovereign unilateral work of God>>*

<<this is the age old question that began in the Garden of Eden>>

As we look at **v.16a**, let's notice the highlighted words>>

...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus...>>

In order to understand what Paul is saying, we need to understand the meaning of these words>>

...justified...>>

...the works of the Law...>>

...faith...>>

We begin with *...justified...* because it is the basis for our relationship with God>>

<<it is the reason we have *...become partakers of the Divine Nature* [**1 Peter 1:4**] ...>>

The significance of this term is seen in how often Paul uses it in his letters>>

once in Acts, **10** times in **Rom.**, **2** times in **1 Cor.**, **7** times in **Galatians**, **once** in **1 Tim.** and **once** in **Titus**>>

This morning we will seek to answer the following two questions about *...justified...*>>

<<*what and how*>>

what

justified or justification is a legal or forensic verdict that declares the guilty person to be *not guilty*>>

Biblically, *justified* or justification is God's Verdict in which He declares the guilty sinner to be *...not guilty...* of his sin>>

how>>

1 Peter 2:24 *...[Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His Body on the cross...*>>

...in His Body...>>**John 1:14**

Why>>

<<to be our Divine Representative Who took upon Himself the full burden of all our sin>>

<<so that in His death, He paid the full, final and forever penalty of all our sin>>**Gen. 2:17**

As a result>>**John 19:30**

Eph. 1:7 *In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace...*>>**John 19:30, Col. 2:13**

In raising Jesus from the dead, God was affirming that He had accepted Jesus' death as the just payment for our sin>>

1 Peter 3:18 *...Christ also died for sins once for all, the just* *for the*
unjust, so that He might bring us to God...>>

Therefore, when we receive Jesus by faith, we are receiving God's declaration that we are now His justified people in Christ>>

Rom. 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...*>>

Our faith does not justify us>>

Our faith is God's gift to us that enables us to receive God's justifying grace>>

John 1:12 *...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name...*>>

Eph. 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved [justified] through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...>>*

This now brings us to the next word of our list