

Galatians – Lesson 16

Galatians 2:17-21

October 27, 2024

This morning we will be looking at **Gal. 2:17-21**>>

Having stated that justification is received by faith with out any human effort, in v. 17-18 Paul deals with two objections>>

v. 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!...>>

To rephrase>>

If we are still seeking to be justified and are disregarding the Torah>>

<<then we are law breakers who are causing Christ to be ...*a minister of [our] sin*...>>

In v. 18, Paul explains>>

...[because] if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor...>>

To rephrase>>

If I agree with you, I would be re-building the very structure of human merit that has no place in being justified by faith in Jesus>>

There are two issues involved with the Jewish objection to Paul's teaching about justification through [the means of] faith>>

Their 1st objection had to do with their theological misunderstanding of the nature and result of Jesus' atoning death>>

Their 2nd objection was that Paul had made justification to easy>>

<<that Paul was teaching easy *believism*>>

<<that all we need to do is to believe in Jesus>>

<<that we saved without having to obey the Law [*antinomianism*]>>

Paul if you teach this, people will take advantage to use this teaching to excuse their disobedience>>

<<surely there must be work we must perform>>

<<that we saved without having to obey the Law [*antinomianism*]>>

In v. 19 Paul explains how he was justified by faith in Christ without having to 1st keep the Torah>>

For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God>>

I was justified [declared *not guilty of breaking the Law*] when I died to the penalty of the Law so that I am now in Right standing before God>>

Paul, what do you mean ...I died to the Law, so that I might live to God...>>

In v. 20 Paul explains>>

[1] *I have been crucified with Christ*, [2] *it is no longer I who live but* [3] *Christ lives in me and* [4] *the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God* [5] *Who loved me and gave Himself for me...>>*

We will look at each statement separately>>

[1] *I have been crucified with Christ...>>*

In this statement, Paul explains *when* and *how* he was *justified*>>

In **Rom. 4:25**, we read the two *stages* of *how* God has justified us>>

1st. v. 25a>>

...[Jesus] was delivered over because of our transgressions...>>

When>>

Rev. 13:8 *...the Lamb ...was slain from the creation of the world*>>

Therefore, God sent His Son into the world to lay our *... iniquity [Is. 53:6]...* upon Him in order to justify us of the guilt of our sin>>

1 Peter 2:24 *...He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness...*>>

This means that God declared Jesus to be **judicially guilty** of our sin **in order** to put Him to death as a *...guilt offering...* in our place>>

Is. 53:10 *...the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief...*>>

<<therefore, Jesus died the death of a **guilty Man** in our place>>

As a result, ...*My Servant, will justify the many* [Isa 53:11]...>>

<<so that in Jesus' death we are declared *not guilty*>>

2 Cor. 5:21 [God] made [Christ] Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him.

2nd v. 25b>>

...[Jesus] was raised because of our justification...>>

In raising Jesus from the dead, God has declared that the guilt of our sin has been fully, finally and forever paid>>

Jesus died as a guilty Man but rose as THE justified Man>>

When Paul says ...*I have been crucified with Christ...*, he was affirming that God had placed him in Christ>>

<<so that Jesus' death for sin was also Paul's death to his own sin>

<<and that when Jesus rose as THE justified Man, Paul was also declared to be a justified man>>

This means that our justification, as with everything else about our relationship with God, is the result of our **prior spiritual position** in Christ ...*before the foundation of the world* [Eph. 1:4]... as manifested in us when we received Jesus by faith>>

Therefore, our position produces our practice>>