

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

The Doctrine of Justification by Faith

Galatians 2:15-21

1. The Special Privilege of the Jews (v.15)

The Jews were the blessed recipients of God's revelation (cf. Rom. 3:1-2) and therefore had a tremendous advantage over the gentiles in knowing about God and what He requires.

2. The Doctrine of Justification by Faith (v.16)

Without exception, anyone who is found to possess the righteousness necessary to abide with Christ will have received it by faith in Christ (cf. Mt. 5:20).

3. Objections, Directions, and Conclusions (vs.17-20)

A. What Would it Mean if the Judaizers are Right? (v.17)

If the Judaizers were right, Jesus would be found to have promoted sin and sinfulness in which the apostles engaged (cf. Mk. 7:19; Acts 10:9-16, 34).

B. Since Christ is Correct, What does that Mean for the Judaizers? (v.18)

Because Christ is not a minister of sin, the Judaizers were drastically wrong in their teachings, and seeking to rebuild a system of works goes against Christ.

C. How Then is the Christian to Relate... (vs.19-20)

I. ...to the Law (v.19a)

Union with Christ by faith is now controlling relationship for the Christian, and life is no longer decisively defined by the Law (cf. Mt. 5:17).

II. ...to God (v.19b)

One cannot live to God by keeping the Law (cf. Rom. 3:23), but only by dying to the Law through faith in Christ.

III. ...to Christ (v.20a)

The sin which justly demanded my judgment was upon Jesus Christ on the cross (1 Pt. 2:24; 3:18), and now the defining characteristic of the Christian's life is that Christ lives "in me" (cf. Col 1:27).

IV. ...to This Life (v.20b)

The life of the believer is characterized by faith in Christ (cf. Gal. 3:3), a life of faith is a life of thankful obedience to the God who has shown you mercy.

4. The Demands of God's Grace (v.21)

The death of Jesus Christ is rendered useless and unnecessary if man can be justified by works of the Law. For salvation to be an act of God's grace, it must be done so on the basis of justification by faith (Rom. 4:16).