

Justified By Faith

Gal 2:11-21

1. Intro

1. Last week we looked at Paul's defence as an apostle, his gospel message, Jesus crucified, buried and raised from the dead.
 1. In opening his letter he is shocked that they have turned away from the basic message.
2. He brings his concern to a head when he confronts Peter about his hypocrisy.
3. He then tries to explain the difference between being justified by grace vs the law.
 1. Understand that we are talking about salvation by grace, not any works that we do after.
 2. Justification is being made right in the sight of God.
 3. Law is the Mosaic law. The do's and don'ts by which the Jewish people lived by.

2. Paul Opposes Peter

1. Paul had received confirmation of his teaching from the Jerusalem leadership.
 1. Two Jerusalem events for Paul. (1:18 and 2:1.)
 2. Did this discussion happen between the Jerusalem events?
2. Peter in Antioch is meeting and eating with Gentiles (12a)
 1. Peter lived according to the lesson he had learned in Acts 10.
3. Peter pulls back when some Jews teaching Christ + law come on the scene.
 1. Please men (12b)
 2. Caused some to stumble (13)
 3. This would cause problems when the church came together to observe communion with their common meal.
 1. Worship would be divided.
4. Paul calls this hypocrisy. Saying one thing but doing another.
 1. They were not consistent with the Gospel message. (14)
5. The crux of the matter was forcing a Gentile to live like a Jew, when a Jew did not need to do the same.

3. Justification

1. Jews by birth not Gentile "sinners" (15)
 1. Gentile not under the law so viewed as "sinners"
 2. Could this be the Judaizers slogan? (Not sinners)
 1. They felt spiritual superiority (John 8:33)
2. Paul affirms that all are justified by Christ, not the law (16)
3. If we become sinners like the Gentiles, because we are no longer under the law, then are we lead into sin because of the freedom we have in Christ? (17)
 1. To the Jew, having freedom from the law would lead to licentiousness (lack of legal or moral restraint)
 1. They believed the law was able to overcome sin's power.
 2. To require the Gentiles to keep the law, it would reduce sin.
 2. If the Jew is also justified by Christ, and they are now also "sinners", then Jesus must promote sin, because now there are more sinners (17b)
 3. Paul - do not use your freedom to sin (Gal 5:13; I Peter 2:16)

4. Paul's answer is an emphatic "No".
 1. Building again what was once torn down (18)
 1. If I am dead nothing affects me (19)
 1. The law has no more influence over me.
 2. Christ has taken the condemnation of the law, so the sinner dies to the law.
 1. It no longer has influence over him.
 5. Since I have been crucified with Christ, I live in Him and for Him. (20)
 1. A new resurrected me lives no longer affected by the rules and regulations.

4. Application

1. We as believers need to become more conscious of the implications of our actions
 1. We can deny in practice what we believe.
2. Expect to be tested on those points which we believe.
3. No matter how spiritual we may be, we are always capable of sin.
4. Serious problems can have good outcomes.
 1. I believe Peter's writings reflect what he may have learned from this encounter.
5. Our authority comes from biblical principles, rather than from our position.

5. Conclusion

1. Paul confronted Peter about his hypocrisy.
2. Paul puts forth the argument that we are justified only in Jesus Christ.
3. Reflect on what we believe and how we act.