

# Guarding the Gospel of Grace

Preserving Liberty in Christ





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# The Book of Galatians

- ➔ 1-2 The Gospel of Grace **Defended**
- 3-4 The Gospel of Grace **Explained**
- 5-6 The Gospel of Grace **Applied**



# Galatians 2:15-21

We are **Justified by Faith** (15-16, 21)

We are **Dead to the Law** (17-19a)

We are **Alive in Christ** (19b-20)



# Contrasts in this passage

**Jews** by birth vs **Gentile** sinners

By works of the **Law** vs By faith of **Christ**

**Destruction** of works vs **Rebuilding** of works

**Dead** to the **Law** vs **Alive** to **God**

Life **in the flesh** vs Life **by faith**

# Galatians 2:15-21

We are **Justified by Faith** (15-16, 21)



We are **Justified by Faith**

The **Nature** of Justification by Faith

The **Basis** of Justification by Faith

The **Proof** of Justification by Faith

# The **Nature** of Justification

- **Justification:** The **act** of God whereby He **declares** the **believing** sinner **righteous** in Jesus Christ.
- God **declares** the sinner righteous;  
God does not **make** the sinner righteous.
- God justifies **sinners**, not **good people**.



# The **Nature** of Justification

- **Justification:** The **act** of God whereby He **declares** the **believing** sinner **righteous** in Jesus Christ.
- An **act**, not a **process**
- An **instant** transaction

# The **Nature** of Justification

Different from **Forgiveness:**

The Fruit of Justification

Different from **Atonement:**

The Basis of Justification

We are **Justified by Faith**

The **Nature** of Justification by Faith

The **Basis** of Justification by Faith

# The **Basis** of Justification

Notice the word “**by**”

“By” introduces the means of justification

Notice the **contrast**

## Galatians 2:15-21

We *who are* Jews **by** nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified **by** the works of the law, but **by** the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified **by** the faith of Christ, and not **by** the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified **by** Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by** the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* **by** the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

## Acts 13:38-39

Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren,  
that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:  
And by him all that believe are justified from all things,  
from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

# The **Basis** of Justification

Notice the word “**by**”

“By” introduces the means of justification

Notice the **contrast**

The contrast identifies the means of justification

# The **Basis** of Justification

**Not!**

“By the works of the **law**”

**But!**

“By the **faith** of Christ”



**A plumbline  
does not change a crooked wall.**

**It only tells us  
that the wall is crooked.**



**A plumbline  
does not change a crooked wall.**

**“For by the works of the law  
shall no flesh be justified.”**

Galatians 2:16c



**“Works? Works?**

**A man get to heaven by works?  
I would as soon think of climbing  
to the moon on a rope of sand!”**

*George Whitefield (final message)*

We are **Justified by Faith**

The **Nature** of Justification by Faith

The **Basis** of Justification by Faith

The **Proof** of Justification by Faith

# The **P**roof of Justification

“If righteousness comes by the **law**”

Then ...

The **grace of God is frustrated!**

**Christ is dead in vain!**

**“The Law says,  
DO.  
Grace says,  
DONE.”**

*Warren Wiersbe*

# Galatians 2:15-21

We are **Justified by Faith** (15-16, 21)

We are **Dead to the Law** (17-19a)



**“Peter, you and I did not find  
salvation through the law;  
we found it through faith in Christ.  
But now, after being saved,  
you go back into the Law!”**

*Warren Wiersbe*



We are **Dead to the Law**

We are **dead** to the **Law** —

and the **Law** was the **murderer!**

# Galatians 2:15-21

We are **Justified by Faith** (15-16, 21)

We are **Dead to the Law** (17-18)

We are **Alive in Christ** (19b-20)



We are **Alive in Christ**

**Crucified**, but Alive!

**Dead**, but **Christ** alive in me!

Alive in the **flesh**, but living by **faith**

**More  
to Come!**

**“I believe that the root  
of every schism and heresy  
from which the Christian church has suffered  
has been the effort  
to earn salvation rather than to receive it.”**

*John Ruskin*



# Hymn #371

**“Once for All”**

Heer, dat niet meer ik  
Maar Chris - tus leev' in  
Heer, dat niet meer ik  
Maar Chris - tus leev' in  
Heer, dat niet meer ik  
Maar Chris - tus leev' in  
Heer, dat niet meer ik  
Maar Chris - tus leev' in