

Focus passage: Galatians 2:15-21

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; **16** yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! **18** For if I rebuild what I tore down, 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. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

What stands out to you from this passage?

If we were saved by our own works, how would you feel about the status of your justification?

Why do you think that some among the church were pushing for a salvation that was based, at least in some way, upon our works?

If justification is not based on what we do or into what ethnicity we were born (Jew or Gentile), does that leave room for boasting or prejudice?

*In the preceding verses, **Galatians 2:11-14**, Paul challenges Peter (Cephas) in regards to racial prejudice, as Peter was acting in a way that favored the Jews over the Gentiles. How does Paul confront Peter? Peter was “out of step with” or “not in line” with what?*

Rather than works or race, where is our justification found?

What role do works then play? Does what we do matter any more?

*If we could be saved by works, then Jesus died for no reason. But if works could never save us, Jesus’ death for us is the only hope we have. **Read and discuss Romans 3:21-31** for more on this topic and more on the relation of grace to our inability to boast in ourselves or our ethnicity.*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

