

## Galatians Lecture 3 Notes

### Galatians 2:8–21

**Do I have the courage to confront error and the courage to live by faith in Jesus Christ alone?**

### Galatians 2:8–10

(for He who was at work for Peter in *his* apostleship to the circumcised was at work for me also to the Gentiles), and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might* go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. *They* only *asked* us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

### Galatians 2:11–12

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of some men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and separate himself, fearing those from the circumcision.

**Fear of people will always weaken faith in Christ.**

### Galatians 2:13–14

The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

**This is how dangerous hypocrisy is: It spreads. It doesn't stay contained. It distorts the gospel message.**

**Legalism says:**

- **“A real Christian doesn’t do this”**
- **“A real Christian does this”**

**The Measuring Tape vs. The Cross**

The measuring tape says: “Measure up.”

The cross says: “It is finished.”

**The measuring tape produces pride or shame. The cross produces humility, freedom, and love.**

**Which one are you using to evaluate your life?**

**Galatians 2:14b–15**

How is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? “We are Jews by nature and not sinners from the Gentiles;

**Peter knew the truth. He knew that both Jews and Gentiles are saved the same way.**

**Galatians 2:16**

nevertheless, knowing that a person is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law; since by works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

**The Core Doctrine: Justification by Faith**

**A person is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.**

## **What does justified mean?**

- **Declared righteous**
- **Made right with God**
- **Given a right standing before Him**

### **Galatians 2:17–19**

But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Far from it! For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a wrongdoer. For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live for God.

**The law was meant to expose sin.**

**Your righteousness is Jesus Christ.**

### **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**Courage to Live by Faith**

**Because it takes courage to live by faith.**

It takes courage to:

- Trust God when you feel anxious
- Believe His love when you feel unworthy
- Rest in grace when everything in you wants to perform

### **Galatians 2:21**

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

**Grace is grace plus nothing.**

### **Three Courage Questions**

- 1. Do I have the courage to confront error in love?**
- 2. Do I have the courage to reject legalism?**
- 3. Do I have the courage to live fully by faith in Christ?**

**You have been crucified with Christ. You are a new creation. You are not defined by your past, your failures, or your performance. You are defined by Jesus Christ alone.**