

Walking in God's Grace—Week Three, Day One

Read Galatians 2:6-10

⁶As for those who seemed to be important--whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance--those men added nothing to my message. ⁷On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews. ⁸For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

1. In v.6 Paul said he met with men who '*seemed to be* _____' and back in v.2 he said they '*seemed to be leaders*'. He is talking about James, Peter and John. In v.9 he says '*those reputed to be* _____'. It may seem a little disrespectful right off to sound so skeptical of these three apostles, but hang with us here...
2. v.6 states an important concept we find in Scripture: "*God does not judge by external appearance*". Write out 1 Samuel 16:7:
3. With all these verses in mind, why do you think Paul used phrases like '*men who seemed to be*' or '*those reputed to be*' before he actually met with them and found out what gospel message they subscribed to?
4. Can you think of a situation when you wrongly accepted someone's message just because they '*seemed to be a leader*', '*seemed to be important*'. What can we learn from this passage to apply to our life?
5. Paul found out a couple things about these leaders in the Jerusalem church:
 - a) v.6 those men '*added* _____ *to his message*'; (in other words, like him, they would not put any further requirements on Christian believers—like becoming a Jew first in order to be saved.)
 - b) They saw that Paul had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel message to the _____.
 - c) v.9 they recognized the _____ of God upon Paul and Barnabas' preaching.
6. When Paul says "*they recognized the Grace given to me*" what does he mean?
7. Can you identify an area of your life that God has given you His Grace to accomplish a task, ministry, etc.?



Walking in God's Grace—Week Three, Day Two

Read Galatians 2:11 – 15

¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" ¹⁵"We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' ¹⁶know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Apparently, some time after the events of the previous verses Peter came to Antioch.

1. Let's identify Peter's actions before and after a visit from James and men from Jerusalem:

BEFORE their arrival, Peter would eat with _____
AFTER their arrival he began to _____ and from the _____
THE REASON for this change was _____

2. Have you ever found yourself adjusting your actions to prove to someone how spiritual you are? OR how you really do meet *their* expectations? OR because you were 'afraid' of their disapproval? Jot it down for sharing. Have you learned from these situations?
3. Peter's actions had an influence on who: _____. Even _____ was led into this hypocrisy. WOW! We totally underestimate how influential our actions can be. Do you think that, being a leader, Peter had a greater responsibility toward his actions or do you think all are equal?
4. Make a short list of who would be affected by your actions right now at this point in your life? Who is watching?
5. Paul is not the least bit afraid to confront Peter and set him straight. In Paul's rebuke we see once again the issue that inspired this letter: "...how is it, then that you force Gentiles to _____" (v. 14)
6. Finally, Paul re-states truth again in v. 16

Man is not justified by _____

Man is justified by _____



Walking in God's Grace—Week Three, Day Three

Read Galatians 2:16 - 2:21

¹⁶So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

1. The important term justification (justified) is used in this letter 6 times. Chronologically, as the New Testament was written, this was probably the first time this word was used. Look up 'justify' in a dictionary and write it here:

2. Take some time and think of a metaphor, an illustration, or a story that you could use to explain to a child or to someone who had never heard the word. (You may want to read Romans 3:21-24 while you are thinking). Write it out to share with your group.

Justification is not simply "forgiveness," because a person could be forgiven and then go out and sin and become guilty. Once you have been "justified by faith" you can never be held guilty before God.

—Warren Wiersbe

Paul says 'I have been crucified with Christ', in other words, Jesus' death (the punishment for Paul's sins) had been believed and received and applied to Paul. Here are some interesting personal questions:

- A. Have I been saved by the grace of God? Or am I trusting in my morality, my good deeds, even my religious activities like going to church or baptism?
- B. Am I trying to mix law and grace? (mixing doing and believing)
Law says I must **do** something to please God
Grace says God is pleased when I **believe** His son already did something.
- C. Am I rejoicing in the fact that I am justified by faith in Jesus Christ?



Walking in God's Grace—Week Three, Day Four

Read Galatians 3:1-5

¹You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴Have you suffered so much for nothing--if it really was for nothing? ⁵Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Oh boy, it comes out again—Paul is not only irritated that the Judaizers have brought confusion and false teaching; but he is irritated with the believers that they have so quickly embraced this wrong teaching.

1. Go through the above passage and circle the word “Spirit” each time you read it. Paul has not mentioned the Holy Spirit yet in this letter until now. Let’s follow his line of reasoning...

V. 2 “Did you receive the Spirit by _____?”

V. 3 “After beginning with the Spirit, are you now _____?”

V. 4 “Does God give you his Spirit...because you _____ or because you _____ what you heard?”

J.C. Phillips translation says “*Oh you dear idiots of Galatians...surely you can't be so idiotic!*” Oh my! Strong language! But I can hear the heart of Paul, as if to say, “*This makes no sense at all! You received the Spirit of God when you heard the gospel that I preached to you! I told you nothing about becoming a Jew and keeping the Jewish law—you saw the power of God's Spirit working miracles among you—you KNEW that you had become a child of God by the testimony of God's Spirit within you; and NOW you believe that there is something a person must do to be saved? This makes NO sense!*”

2. Look up Colossians 2:8 and write it out:

3. List some hollow and deceptive philosophies of the world that could be classified as “bewitching” (which according to Vines Dictionary can mean ‘fascinating’)

4. Go back up to Col. 2:8 and underline the first three words. What will you do in your family to obey this passage and be proactive against these fascinating intruders?

