

## Understanding Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Gal. 2:15,16 (p. 1236)

### Intro

Sometimes we think we're doing \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually because we had a good week;  
sometimes we think we're \_\_\_\_\_ doing well spiritually because we had a bad week;  
sometimes we don't \_\_\_\_\_ about it at all.

#### I. **Even the best of us, on our best days, cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ before God...**

On the surface, Paul's letter to the Galatians doesn't seem to have \_\_\_\_\_  
to do with us, but it actually deals with an issue of \_\_\_\_\_ importance.

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning  
to a different gospel... (1:6)*

*...when Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before  
certain men came from James, he [Peter] was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back  
and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. (2:11,12)*

***We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by  
works of the law.... v.15,16***

*Paul, an apostle... and all the brothers who are with me, (1:1,2)*

To be \_\_\_\_\_ is to be declared righteous before God; it is a \_\_\_\_\_  
or declarative act in the courtroom of God.

This expression, "the works of the law", refers to the things we're \_\_\_\_\_  
to do in obedience to God's law.

***...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law.... v.16***

Paul is saying that even the best of us, on our best days, cannot be declared  
righteous on the \_\_\_\_\_ of what we do.

***We ourselves are Jews by birth...v.15***

*Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. (Ps. 143:2)*

We have a threefold \_\_\_\_\_: we have a sinful past, a sinful \_\_\_\_\_, and a sinful way of life.

*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Rom. 3:23)*

*...out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.*

*(Mt. 15:19)*

We cannot and will not \_\_\_\_\_ be declared righteous by God on the basis of how we live our lives; we are \_\_\_\_\_ justified by our works.

*How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman be pure? (Job 25:4)*

***a person is not justified by works of the law.... v.16***

*by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight... (Rom. 3:20)*

**II. Except by \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ alone.**

***...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.... v.16***

The \_\_\_\_\_ way to be declared righteous by God is through faith in Jesus Christ; justification is \_\_\_\_\_ based on our ability to live a good life.

*...[Abraham] believed the Lord, and [the Lord] counted it to him as righteousness. (Gen. 15:6)*

As a Christian, your \_\_\_\_\_ before God is not based on how well you're doing; justification is by \_\_\_\_\_ alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_.

*...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift... (Rom. 3:23,24)*

Put \_\_\_\_\_ your weight on Jesus; if you know that you can't be righteous before God based on your works, then trust \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.

***...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law... so we...have believed in Christ...v.16***

Stop trusting in your works because your works will \_\_\_\_\_ you; be \_\_\_\_\_ in trusting entirely and only in Jesus.

***...we know that a person is...justified...through faith in Jesus Christ, so we...have believed in Christ...v.16***

For the person trusting in Jesus Christ, your standing before God is based entirely on the \_\_\_\_\_ works of Jesus.

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

*‘The Lord is our righteousness.’ (Jer. 23:6)*

We are not declared righteous on the basis of our own (\_\_\_\_\_) works; we are justified by Christ's perfect works on our \_\_\_\_\_.

This so-called “dangerous” teaching is the \_\_\_\_\_ way to be right with God and it's the only way to \_\_\_\_\_ the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

*Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ... Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (Gal. 3:2,3)*

The Christian life is begun entirely by faith, and it is \_\_\_\_\_ by faith; we live out of the power of our \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

*...the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God... (Gal. 2:20)*

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#### **I. Even the best of us, on our best days, cannot be righteous before God...**

On the surface, Paul's letter to the Galatians doesn't seem to have anything to do with us, but it actually deals with an issue of fundamental importance.

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To be justified is to be declared righteous before God; it is a forensic or declarative act in the courtroom of God.

This expression, "the works of the law", refers to the things we're supposed to do in obedience to God's law.

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We cannot and will not ever be declared righteous by God on the basis of how we live our lives; we are not justified by our works.

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## **II. Except by faith in Jesus Christ alone.**

***...we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.... v.16***

The only way to be declared righteous by God is through faith in Jesus Christ; justification is not based on our ability to live a good life.

*...[Abraham] believed the Lord, and [the Lord] counted it to him as righteousness. (Gen. 15:6)*

As a Christian, your standing before God is not based on how well you're doing; justification is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

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Put all your weight on Jesus; if you know that you can't be righteous before God based on your works, then trust entirely in Jesus.

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