



Galatians Lesson 2 Chapter 2

Paul begins his letter to the Galatians with his usual greeting extending grace and peace in the name of Christ to the recipients. Paul had visited and established churches in many of the cities of Galatia during his first and second missionary journeys. They had received the gospel and were growing in Christ for a time after he left them (Gal. 3:1-5). But now, as was the case in many of the churches, the Judaizers had come in and put pressure on them to adhere to the requirements of the Law in order to sustain the salvation they had received in Christ. Their message was that the blood of Christ wasn't sufficient, and that Paul didn't have the authority as a true apostle to establish that doctrine. Due to that pressure, many were going back to the requirements of the Law in order to be saved. Paul strongly rebukes them and makes it clear that returning to the Law

would be a direct rejection of grace, and a denial of the miraculous work that the Holy Spirit had begun to do in their lives. After making such strong claims in chapter 1, Paul addresses the questions about his authority as an apostle. He identifies his relationship to the apostles and leaders in Jerusalem, and his specific call to the Gentiles. They understood that his message was salvation through faith in Christ alone without adherence to the Law. This was the true Gospel and applied to both Jew and Gentile. Though he didn't feel it was required for his authority, he had the backing of the other apostles including Peter, James, and John. God had called Paul for a specific mission, and the opinions of man were not going to deter him from that call. He would spend the rest of his life battling for the truth of that message.

READ CHAPTER 2

1. Chapter 2 begins with Paul's timeline of events after his conversion. List the times and events that he mentions from Galatians 1:18-2:1.

7. *What happened between Paul and Peter (Cephas) in Antioch directly after Paul's visit to Jerusalem? Vs. 11-13 How would this event also validate Paul's standing as an apostle?*

8. *Apparently even the Apostles of Christ are still struggling with the idea that Gentiles are included in the body of Christ. In your own words, how does Paul explain this hypocrisy? Vs. 14*

9. *Paul states that there is a distinction between Jew and Gentile but not in regard to salvation. Why do Jews not have a different position before God in justification than Gentiles? Vs. 15-16*

10. *What question does Paul ask that identifies the problem some might have with justification by faith and not by the Law, and how does he answer his own question in vs. 18-19?*

11. *Galatians 2:20-21 is a very strong and pointed response to the reality of justification by faith. Restate those verses in your own words, and explain what they mean practically in your life on a daily basis.*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
