

~ THEY WALKED NOT UPRIGHTLY....

## GALATIANS 2:14 – 20

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is poised to challenge and tear down most people's Christian beliefs by presenting a proper exposition of Paul's statements in this epistle to the Galatians. Our previous report brought us the personal experience Paul had with the Lord Jesus Christ in the desert of Arabia. We saw his conversion and, as far as Paul is concerned, that was the origin of the Gospel. We also saw how Paul's revelation to go up to Jerusalem and join the other apostle's confirmed the oneness and solidarity of the Gospel message. When they all compared notes, they discovered they were, miraculously, preaching the same grace of God, and communicating identical Gospel facts to the Gentiles and Jews.

Also in our last report, we caught Simon Peter inadvertently condoning legalism; I think Peter actually enjoyed a good pork roast that evening, or something like that, for the first time. But then came the brethren from the church in Jerusalem, and they were austere and no-nonsense legalistic men. So, Simon Peter beat a path away from Paul at the Gentile table as fast as he could, and sat down sheepishly at the kosher table. Even with all of that drama, I'll be the first to admit: there should be this type of real conviction in a Christian's conduct. We should take great care to avoid offending anyone else with what we eat and do. However, Peter's actions and conduct was placing everyone back under the law — and causing divisions. That's a rather important distinction in conduct to understand and identify in real-time, friends....

***14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?***

~ There is an inherent and unavoidable inconsistency in the legalistic system known as Judaism. If Peter had liberty to live as a Gentile believer, then why should the Gentile be required to live as a Jew? When Peter

withdrew to the Jewish table, his actions meant exactly that. Denying the liberty we have in Christ is to reject the *entire* Word of God. I think Peter got a rude wake-up call this night, personally. Interestingly, this next verse is where Paul begins a statement regarding justification by faith....

***15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,***

~ The word “*Gentile*” and “*sinner*” were synonymous at the time in which we are studying. This rebuke clearly sets forth the folly of “*law-keeping*,” and displays how foolish it is to proclaim you have perfected the keeping thereof. You’re not going to find the legalist preaching, teaching, explaining, or even discussing this section of Scriptures, friends. This is an area of the Bible that can’t be misinterpreted, misrepresented, or misunderstood. Even the most liberal theologian understands this message. The moment you add one iota of *anything* to the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have made it one hundred eighty degrees the opposite of its true and genuine purpose.

Attempting to bring a Gentile under the Mosaic System of Levitical Law never works. We’re called to a *MUCH* higher plane of living than the law. The Jews had the law for nearly fifteen hundred years, and they were never able to keep it. The law never saved one single Israelite, either. The Gentile was not able to keep the law; most of them didn’t even know the law. It would have been a total failure and disaster for a Jew to tell the Gentile to keep a law that they themselves didn’t keep....

***16 Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

~ We can definitely know if we are saved or not, my friends. Verse sixteen is speaking of mankind in general; except when Paul says “*we*” because that means *Israelites*. This speaks of the solidarity of the human race and the common humanity we all share alike. This is true of everyone with regards to *ANY* legal system in any other religion, too, by the way. We’re not talking about color, social strata, gender or intellectual ability – we’re

all on equal ground as sinners as we stand at the cross of Christ; and His death and resurrection is the only thing that makes Christianity any different from a religious cult. I consider myself a reasonable expert on most cults and religions, and they all say, “*DO SOMETHING FOR ME!*” Christianity, God Himself, says, “*I have done it ALL for you!*” We are justified by faith.

If you say one must be baptized by water to be saved – or that we must join a certain church – or that we must have had a certain experience – then you are contradicting Paul; so Paul says, “*...you are damned.*” That was chapter one verse eight and nine, by the way. Now, on that note, let me add something and, friends, read these next several paragraphs *VERY, VERY* carefully! Paul said, “*...wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit*” - first Corinthians chapter twelve verse three.

When we accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and we trusted Him to lead us, we received everything required for eternal salvation at that moment. If you teach that we didn’t receive everything, and we need to be seeking that thing we lack, then you deprecate the work of Christ on the cross — and you deny His perfect plan of salvation — and you call Him accursed. That makes *Y-O-U* accursed. You may want to look into that. When Jesus went back to Heaven, He sat down at the right Hand of God; and the reason He “*sat down*” is because everything was finished. I suggest we all pause and pray about this — and turn it all over in our minds a few times, my beloved.

Any teaching other than what Paul is teaching us from the Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through our Spiritual Safari is a damnable heresy – period. We can’t emit good intentions, nor can we give out good advice apart from these foundations of absolute truth; because that would be impossible. When the Spirit of God comes to you, He will take these things of Christ and show them unto you. The Holy Spirit doesn’t speak of Himself. The Holy Spirit *ONLY* speaks of Christ and the things of Christ. When we trusted Him, and turned to Him for forgiveness, we received everything we will ever need in this life — and the next — and throughout

eternity. Christ is the Head of the Church today — forevermore — He is our All in ALL — the beginning, the end, the A-Men — and everything else....

***17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.***

~ Verse seventeen is a difficult verse to understand. “Justified” in the Greek sense of the word ‘*declaro*’ — means to declare a person right or correct. It also means to make one right. We are declared to be right by our faith and redemption in Christ. That means a condemned sinner before God who has come up for judgment receives forgiveness. It doesn’t simply mean forgiveness of sins — subtraction of unrighteousness — but it also includes the *ADDITION* of righteousness in Christ. The Jew had to forsake the law and take his place as a sinner in order to be saved by grace through faith in Christ. When Paul says, “....by the works of the flesh shall no flesh be justified....” he could not have been more dogmatic than that. Simon Peter said, “....now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they....”

***18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.***

***19 For I through the law am dead to law, that I might live unto God.***

***20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

~ Even worse, if we place ourselves back under the Mosaic Law, we make ourselves transgressors of the law. Believers are free from the law! When Christ died for us, we also died with Him. That makes us naturally free from the law. Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with an extremely misunderstood verse twenty. Our next report will develop this completely. Frankly, most people are as ignorant of this verse as a goat grazing grass out on a hillside; few verses are as misapplied and misquoted

as verse twenty. There's no mistake what the Gospel is; and there's no mistaking that many self-professing Christians are not saved — because they are not justified by faith.

Verse twenty is true of *every* believer. This does *NOT* say that we are to seek to be crucified with Christ. This means we *ALREADY HAVE* been crucified with Him two thousand years ago. If we are a child of God, we are dead to the law, my friends. Unfortunately, many people still try to live, and function, being bound by the law they know they cannot and do not keep. If that is your problem, then I urge you to read Galatians all the way through in one sitting — after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment — and then continue forward with us on safari, as we take the entire Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles ~

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