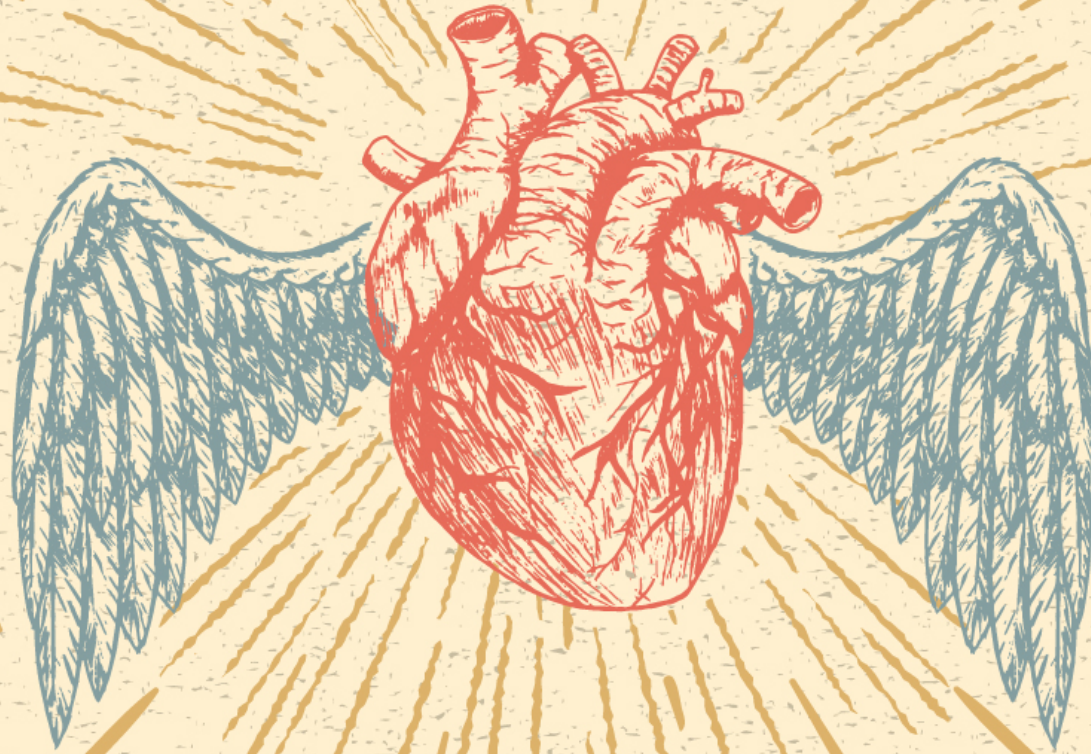


Week 4 | Galatians 2:15-21

GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL



GUIDANCE IN STUDYING SCRIPTURE:

1. PLAN

"I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." Psalm 16:8

Notice the intentionality of the phrase, "I have set." This is active engagement. You have to make a *plan* for reading the Bible or you will fall back into indifference. Program your automatic coffee pot, lay out your Bible, journal and pen and set your alarm clock. You will also need a Bible reading plan; at the end of this study guide there is a reference page with multiple plans you can choose from.

Quick tip: Do everything in your power to not look at your phone the first thing in the morning because then you immediately become preoccupied with the cares of this world.

2. PLEAD

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain." Psalm 119:36

Pray this verse every morning or others of your choosing before reading because our hearts are not inclined to want to focus on Scripture. We want to check our email, the weather and Instagram. *Plead* with the Lord to give you the desire to read His word. Plead with Him to open the eyes of your heart so you can behold His glory in the text. (Psalm 119:18)

3. PLOD

"I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." (Psalm 119:15-16)

"Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." (2 Timothy 2:7)

This may be the most difficult aspect for us. We are a people of instant gratification and the Word of God cannot be treated as such. We need to be trained to *plod* through the Bible; that is, read it slowly, carefully, and methodically.

We are called to be transformed by the renewal of our *mind* (Romans 12:2). Sometimes we can tend to gravitate toward the emotional highs of Bible reading. What happens when the affections run out and we are in a valley? Like a fish out of water we flounder, not knowing what to read, all the time wondering what happened to our emotional high with the Lord.

4. PRIZE

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth." (Psalm 119:103)

Do not be passive as you read the Bible. Look carefully for verses and passages of scripture to *prize*. Look for the treasure hidden in each passage of scripture and then write it down, meditate on it, let your heart enjoy the spiritual truth that you find. Job 23:12 states, *"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food."*

Quick tip: as you read, you are always on the lookout for anything in the text that gives you reason to trust and love Jesus as your greatest treasure.

5. PRAISE

"In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:10-11)

When you are finished reading, look back over what you have written down (if you do decide to journal) and respond to the Lord in *praise* about the truth you have discovered.



WEEK 4 — GALATIANS 2:15-21

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

¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

QUESTIONS

1. How does verse 15 seem to relate to verse 16? In other words, what is the point of Paul saying what he does in verse 15 about being “Jews by birth”? (hint: what does “Jewishness” have to do with the issue?).
2. What words and phrases are repeated in verse 16?
3. The word “justify” means to “*declare* righteous.” It is when a judge *declares* someone to be righteous and innocent before the law. According to verse 16, what two *means* of justification are utterly opposed to each other?
4. What is Paul’s reason for seeking to be justified through faith in Christ?



5. In verses 17-18 Paul is responding to the objection that if Jews—God’s OT chosen people—seek to be justified by faith apart from obeying the law and are still sinners, then Christ is supporting sin! How does he respond to this objection in verses 19-20? How would you put it in your own words?
6. Verse 19 can be a confusing verse. Look up Romans 7:4 and try to explain what he would mean in verse 19? How does this make sense of his very next sentence in verse 20, “I have been crucified with Christ”?
7. How does the gospel in verse 20 address the objection that if obedience to the law is not necessary to be justified before God then no one will live obediently? In other words, how does the gospel empower us *even more* than the law in seeking to please God?
8. In what way does verse 20 give evidence of personal and intimate affection from God in the gospel? Hint: look for specific language Paul uses.
9. According to verse 21, what is Paul’s final reason for teaching that righteousness cannot and *ought to not be* obtained through strict obedience to God’s law (“works of the law”)?
10. How does the gospel free you to passionately and resolutely live in obedience to God without seeking to earn the love and grace He’s already given you? How is verse 20 the *essential* ingredient to living in the freedom of the gospel?

