

Galatians Chapter 2: “No Other Gospel Meeting Guide

Note: Questions were either taken from or adapted from “No Other Gospel, The Book of Galatians” study guide from Citadel Square Church and *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace 13-Lesson Study* by Jon Nielsen and Philip Graham Ryken

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Galatians 2:1-10 together.

Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God’s Word together.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives as pilgrims traveling to our true home.

Galatians 2:1-10 (ESV)

"Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ²I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. ³But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. ⁴Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—⁵to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. ⁶And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. ⁷On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸(for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), ⁹and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."

Open: When you recount your history do you include lots of details or just a grand overview? Why? (Give an example)

Study:

- 1) In Galatians 2:1-2, we read that Paul went to meet face to face with the Jerusalem apostles to settle an issue. Why was it essential that he did that? Why was Titus an important test case for the interactions and confrontations he had there (2:3)?
- 2) Who are these “false brothers” (Galatians 2:4-5), and how are they recognized? Who should be on alert to protect the local church from these types of individuals? And what should be the response to the false brothers?
- 3) As Paul goes on to describe his visit to Jerusalem, how does he describe the influence of the Judaizers that he confronted there (2:4-5)? How does Paul describe his ultimate victory in the midst of the Jewish believers in Jerusalem (2:7-10)?
- 4) Paul emphasizes the importance that neither his gospel or apostolic credentials depended on the approval of men, even these influential men. What does that say about Paul? And more importantly, what does that say about the gospel?

Apply:

- 5) God entrusts Peter and Paul to take the gospel to specific groups of people (Galatians 2:7). To whom has God entrusted you to share the gospel with? What are some ways in which you can reorient your life toward this calling?
- 6) The themes of unity and partnership are vital components of fruitful gospel ministry. How are they significant themes in Galatians 2:9 and for us today at SGC?
- 7) How does the gospel help you see yourself more accurately? How does proper perspective on our own desperate need for God cause us to have compassion for the poor?

PRAY:

- Take some time thanking God that your salvation is a gift based on His work and not your own.
- Ask God for power to be a person marked by faithful gospel proclamation (in word and in deed).
- Ask God to strengthen you to stand courageously against teachings, influences, and impulses within your own heart that would do damage to the free gospel of grace.
- Take time to pray for greater compassion for the poor.

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Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

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Read Galatians 2:11-14 together.

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Galatians 1:11-14 (ESV)

“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to this face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas, was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, ‘If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?’”

Open: Conflict with others is never pleasant, but is there such a thing as “good conflict”? Why or why not?

Study:

- 1) How were Peter’s actions not in line with the truth of the gospel? What impact did Peter’s hypocrisy have on others?
- 2) What do you notice about Paul’s recollection of his confrontation with Peter (2:11-14)? Is this conflict between two apostles surprising to you? Why or why not?
- 3) If you could pick one theme verse for this passage after your initial reading, what would it be? Why?
- 4) Why do you think that Paul confronted Peter so publicly and directly?

Apply:

- 5) How does the fear of man cause you to get out of step with the gospel? Can you think of a time when you shrank back from what you knew to be true because of a particular circumstance or the people around you?
- 6) Why is it difficult to confront a brother or sister in Christ who is out of line with the gospel or living in hypocrisy? What are some specific principles of biblical confrontation from this passage that can help guide you?

PRAY:

- Take some time thanking God for the ways he has worked in your life (even bringing you to faith in Christ).
- Ask God to continue to reveal to you any ways that you are living out of step with the gospel.
- Where you need to repent and renounce sin, ask for grace to truly believe in God's acceptance and forgiveness.

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Read Galatians 2:15-21 together.

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Galatians 2:15-21 (ESV)

“We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet 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.

¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰I 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. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”

Open: When you think about any accomplishments in your life (running a business, keeping a garden, raising perfect kids (haha), salesperson of the month, etc.), what reasons do you give for them? Why?

Study:

- 1) In what areas of life are we sometimes asked to justify ourselves to others? Why is the impulse to earn favor, or prove ourselves to others (and to God), so deeply ingrained in our hearts?

- 2) In Galatians 2:25-26, what is Paul's definition of justification? What other verses can you think of that show that justification is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by works?
- 3) In your own words, what does it mean to be justified?
- 4) How are we justified in God's sight? Does that change the law in any way?
- 5) In Galatians 2:20, what does Paul mean that he has been crucified with Christ? Why is this participation so central for Paul?
- 6) In context, what is it that "nullifies the grace of God"?
- 7) What is Christ's relationship to the Law in Galatians 2:17-21 and in Matthew 5:17?

Apply:

"The glory of the gospel is that God had declared Christians to be rightly related to him in spite of their sin. But our greatest temptation and mistake is to try to smuggle character into his work of grace. How easily we fall into the trap of assuming that we remain justified only so long as there are grounds in our character for our justification. But Paul's teaching is that nothing we do ever contributes to our justification. So powerful was his emphasis on this that men accused him of teaching that it did not matter how they lived if God justified them. If God justifies us as we are, what is the point of holiness? There is still a sense in which this is a test of whether we offer the world the grace of God in the gospel. Does it make men say: 'You are offering grace that is so free it doesn't make any difference how you live'? This was precisely the objection the Pharisees had to Jesus' teaching!" (Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction*, pages 82-83)

- 8) While we know and believe in justification by faith alone, in what ways are you tempted to trust in your works instead of in Christ alone?
- 9) What areas of your life are challenging to live by faith right now? Where are you tempted to find your validation?
- 10) What are the old areas of your life that have a tendency "to rebuild" themselves? What does that say about our life apart from Christ?
- 11) How do you find ways to depart from grace?
- 12) What step of faith is God calling you to in light of this passage of Scripture?

PRAY:

- Take some time thanking God for the ways he has worked in your life (even bringing you to faith in Christ).
- Ask God to graciously remind you throughout the day that your justification before Him is always and forever of grace.
- Ask God for the strength to walk by faith rather than resorting to old ways.