

# “Galatians 2:11-21”

## All Scripture is KJV: Galatians 2:11-21

### INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Today we continue with the preaching series on the **Book of Galatians 2**.

Galatians addresses following after Jesus for salvation and not after the Jewish Laws and fables for salvation. In the Epistle written to the Galatians Paul addresses many issues relating to salvation. He refutes and exposes the false way of salvation. He exposes the Jews for their lies and rebukes them for trying to get Christians to return to the way of the moral law which was never able to save.

- **All though the 6 Chapters of Galatians, there is three themes that run like a golden thread through each and every chapter.**
  1. False- Works based salvation - Salvation is by faith alone.
  2. Exposes the Jews for their lies about the law saving. Jewdiasers, trying to get Christians to follows Jewish customs, feasts days etc..
  3. People trying to please people rather than pleasing God.

Galatians is a letter of stern rebuke, to anyone who thinks that reentering into Judaism can somehow make them more spiritual, and turn them into a Christian believer. There is no such thing as a Christian Jew, or a Jewish Christian. You are either a Jew or a Christian. Because each one of them is a religion.

- Because the word Jew refers to a religion, it does not refer to an ethnic people.

In Mark 7 we see Jesus scolding and rebuking the Jews even to a greater degree.

[Mark 7:8](#) For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

[Mark 7:9](#) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own **tradition**.

[Mark 7:13](#) Making the word of God of none effect through your **tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

- ❖ So according to Jesus they knew full well that they were rejecting God.

[Matthew 15:9](#) But **in vain they do worship me**, teaching **for doctrines the commandments of men**.

1. So here is the reason why Paul is stepping into the churches at Galatia, so that he can correct the false doctrine of these Jewdiasers. So going up to Jerusalem 14 years later must have been a great experience for Paul, to teach and confirm souls where ever he went on his way into Jerusalem.

Lets read Acts 15.....

## Acts 15 King James Version (KJV)

1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 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?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

<sup>33</sup> And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

<sup>34</sup> Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

<sup>35</sup> Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

<sup>36</sup> And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.

<sup>37</sup> And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

<sup>38</sup> But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

<sup>39</sup> And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

<sup>40</sup> And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

<sup>41</sup> And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

So now as we have a better understanding of the circumstances around the book Galatians we can begin to piece together what was taking place in Paul's day.

**This week.....we continue from verse 11 to 21. (part 3 of preaching)**

**Galatians 2: 11-21.**

**<sup>11</sup> But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.**

1. Paul waits for the opportunity to confront Peter about his conduct towards the Gentiles.
- ❖ And in the next verse we see why Paul stood up and confronted Peter.
2. Notice that Paul went to Peter personally and confronted him because he was to be blamed,
3. And what was he to be blamed for?.....see verse 12.

**<sup>12</sup> For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.**

1. Remember this is Peter who God called and gave a vision to Peter in Acts 10 about calling nothing unclean which God has cleansed.
2. But here is Peter already forgetting what God had called him to do.

3. Was Peter a horrible person? No.....it was just Peter in his flesh who did not do what God had told him to do?
4. But does it make Peter a horrible person? No....it makes him human.

❖ How many times have you not done what God has specifically told you to do? How about your part to carry out the great commission?.....how rebellious have you been towards God, and not done what he has told you to do?

✓ You want know one of the reasons why we are still a small church? And its got nothing to do with doctrine at all?

1. One of the main reasons why we are still a small church is because we have failed God in carrying out his most important command to every believer .....and that command is to go out and reach the lost.
2. To go out and spread that great commission.....that's the main reason why we are still small I believe.

✓ Small is great if you are doing everything that God has said you must do?

3. But if it is small because you have not gone out to witness in the highways and hedges then don't get mad at God because our church is still small.
4. Instead of getting mad and upset about the size of your church....why don't you go out and do some witnessing.....compelling them to come in. (Luke 14:23)

- **But truth be told.....how many of us are in fact doing that on a daily! Basis.**
- **Not - .....I did it a while ago and now I am waiting to see the results.....**

✚ **It's quite simple – If you love God you will witness. If you don't you won't.**

In this verse 12, we see why Paul had to confront Peter. It was not something trivial, but it was something major, which affected the doctrine which God had himself delivered unto Peter earlier in Acts 10.

1. Remember in the book of Acts 10 how God showed to Peter that whatever God had cleansed was not to be called unclean. Speaking about the Gentiles in this case to whom the gospel had been given.
2. Well here in verse 12, we see that Peter ignored God in what he had said to him.
3. As a result Paul had to confront Peter about that situation of what God has cleansed is not to be looked upon as common or unclean.

- **In Galatians 2: 12 we see Peter withdrawing himself from the Gentiles. Having just had a meal with them.**

1. When Peter sees James coming to him with other Jews he quickly withdraws himself from the gentiles.
2. This also results in the other Jews who were with him also withdrawing themselves from the gentiles.

3. This is so infectious that even Barnabas withdraws himself when they all see the Jews coming with James.
  - ✚ A double standard was being applied here by Peter, and for this Paul rebuked him now at Antioch.
4. I am fascinated at just how God, used the meals he let down from heaven as an example of what is “clean and not common” and here this very meal at which Peter is involved with the Gentiles, the illustration takes on its true meaning of trying to remove yourself from a meal in which God has “called clean” and the people he is with God has also called “clean”.
5. But yet Peter is calling it all “Un-clean”

Look again at the scriptures where God states to Peter.....in a vision.

**Acts 10:14** But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is **common** or unclean.

**Acts 10:15** And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou **common**.

**Acts 10:28** And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man **common or unclean**.

**Acts 11:1-5** <sup>1</sup> And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, <sup>3</sup> Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. <sup>4</sup> But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, <sup>5</sup> I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:

**Acts 11:8**

But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing **common** or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

**Acts 11:9**

But the voice answered me again from heaven, **What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**

1. In these passages of scripture we can clearly see that Peter was told by God to have no preference for any nation to witness to.
2. But here you find in Acts 10 and 11 the clear instruction to Peter which he totally ignored in Galatians 2:13. Our very next verse.

**<sup>13</sup> And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.**

1. We see here the other Jews who were with Peter, who Peter was ministering to at the gentiles meal,....also got up and withdrew themselves from the gentiles.
2. Also insomuch that Barnabas also withdrew himself.

- ✓ Was this right? No.....but it became infectious because the leader had succumbed to false doctrine.....so did the people he was ministering to,....and so did Barnabas who knew what was right.....yet he did that which was wrong....because he followed Peters actions and not Gods.

3. This is a classic case of man following man.....and not God.
4. And it's also a classic case of man trying to please man.....and not pleasing God.

**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?**

1. Peter was being reprimanded by Paul for not following after God, but trying to please man.
2. In this case Peter was trying to please the Jews, and trying to remain their friend, by compromising the gospel. – this was not to be tolerated.

- ✓ The gospel can never and should never be compromised. At any cost.

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

1. A sarcastic comment by Paul.
2. As if to say to Peter, you who are a Jew by nature.....in regards to having known what the Lord said in the OT.....you should have known better compared to the “pagan” gentiles who knew nothing about God in the first place.

**16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the 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.**

1. A man is not justified by the Law.
2. Paul said I am justified by faith in Jesus Christ. (Book of Romans).
3. Paul said that just as he and Peter were justified by faith in Jesus Christ as they believed. – The Law brought no salvation.
4. But by the Law no flesh shall be justified.
5. He was reminding Peter that salvation is by faith, not by befriending the Jews and their traditions.

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

**Romans 3:28** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

**Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

**Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- The Jews today don't believe in the NT, nor do they believe the OT anymore.
- Jesus even said that to them.

**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.**

1. Paul is using this illustration against the Jews. Because the Jews said that they did not need Jesus Christ to be saved. This is what John Haggee preachers.
2. So Paul is asking the question that a Jew would normally ask.
3. The Jew would say that they don't need Christ because they have Abraham as their father.
4. Well Jesus as well as Paul calls the Jews liars. Because they do not have Abraham as their father. (John 8:42)
5. And if they did have Abraham as their father then they would be saved in Jesus Christ. Because that is what the scripture teachers.
6. The Jews do not believe that at all.

**Genesis 12:2-3 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

**Romans 1:3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the **seed of David** according to the flesh;

**Romans 4:12-14 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. <sup>13</sup> **For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.** <sup>14</sup> For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

✚ Again the whole story of Abrahams faith.....

**Romans 4 King James Version (KJV)**

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. <sup>3</sup> **For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

<sup>4</sup> Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. <sup>5</sup> But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. <sup>6</sup> Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, <sup>7</sup> Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will

not impute sin. <sup>9</sup> Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

<sup>11</sup> And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

<sup>12</sup> And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>14</sup> For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

<sup>15</sup> Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

<sup>17</sup> (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

<sup>18</sup> Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

<sup>19</sup> And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

<sup>20</sup> He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

✚ And so again.....

**Romans 9:7** Neither, because they are the **seed** of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy **seed** be called.

**Romans 9:8**

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the **seed**.

✚ Again.....more verses proving Gods chosen are in Christ. Not the Jews.

**Galatians 3:16**

**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

**Galatians 3:19**

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, **till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;** and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

**Galatians 3:29**

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

✚ Again the seed which is Christ.....

**Hebrews 2:15-17 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

<sup>16</sup> For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the seed of Abraham.** <sup>17</sup> Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

<sup>18</sup> For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

<sup>19</sup> For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

PRAYER.....CLOSE