

Justification by Faith  
Galatians 2:15-16

## How can man be justified?

### I. By Birth

- We ourselves are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’
  - The Circumcision Group was very \_\_\_\_\_
  - We are \_\_\_\_\_ and you are unclean
  - We are circumcised and you are uncircumcised
  - We eat kosher food with Jews and you eat \_\_\_\_\_ food sacrificed to idols with Gentile sinners
- Do you think you are born as a “\_\_\_\_\_ person”?
  - Rich Yong Ruler “*Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*” (Mark 10:17)  
Jesus said, “*Why do you call me good? No one is good except God \_\_\_\_\_.*”
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ premise: man is basically good
  - We are sinners by nature and by \_\_\_\_\_  
“*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” (Romans 3:23)  
“*There is none righteous, no \_\_\_\_\_.*” (Romans 3:10)

### II. By Observing the Law

- “*Works of the law*” means **any human \_\_\_\_\_ to be justified by God by obeying a moral law**
  - The law cannot save you! The law \_\_\_\_\_ your sin.
  - You are a sinner and it’s impossible for you to do any \_\_\_\_\_ work.
  - You are an evil tree, and therefore all that you think, speak, or do, is \_\_\_\_\_ God.  
Jesus says, “*Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?*”  
You cannot therefore deserve grace by your works.  
Since you are a \_\_\_\_\_ tree, you can only produce \_\_\_\_\_ fruit, that is to say, sins.  
“*For everything that does not come from faith is sin.*” (Romans 14:23)

“*A person is not justified by \_\_\_\_\_ of the law but through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ...because by works of the law no one will be justified.*” (Galatians 2:16)

- The circumcision group were Jewish teachers who believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, but you also have to obey the works of the law. (Cleanliness laws, dietary laws, circumcised)

#### Two Different Orders

1. Ordinary Religious approach says: You obey in order to be \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Gospel order says: You’re saved, loved and fully accepted by God; therefore you \_\_\_\_\_

Both include obedience to God but the \_\_\_\_\_ is radically different

- In the religious order, your obedience is anxious and selfish
  - You’ll always be \_\_\_\_\_ because you’re never quite sure whether you are good enough
  - Your good works are motivated by love for yourself, rather than love for God and others
  - It’s a \_\_\_\_\_ because you have to obey even though you don’t want to

Most people that go to \_\_\_\_\_ have the order of the circumcision group!

*I believe, and then I have to obey, and then I’ll be saved*

They know nothing of the radically different motivation of the \_\_\_\_\_ that comes when you obey selflessly out of fullness of heart, and out of a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ the One who loved you and saved you.

- The Gospel order makes all the difference!

### III. By Faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:16)

- Justification by faith is a huge \_\_\_\_\_ to us proud, rich Americans
- Everything else in life is earned (it's law-wage)
- The gift of God's righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_
- It's achieved by grace \_\_\_\_\_, through faith \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ \_\_\_\_\_!
- Jesus' perfect righteousness is imputed to your account and your \_\_\_\_\_ is imputed to him on the cross

- **Martin Luther struggled with the truth of Justification by Faith!**

Everything changed when he finally understood Romans 1:17

*“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”*

This \_\_\_\_\_ grasps Christ's righteousness and appropriates it for itself in the believer's heart.

Once Luther understood this truth, it changed him and became the cry of the Protestant Reformation!

“A Christian is not one who has no sin, but one to whom God imputes not his sin, through faith in Christ. That is why we so often repeat and beat into your minds, the forgiveness of sins and imputation of righteousness for Christ's sake. Therefore, when the law accuses him and terrifies him, he looks up to Christ, and when he has apprehended Him by faith, he has present with him the Conqueror of the law, sin, death and the devil: and Christ reigns and rules over them, so that they cannot hurt the Christian.”

(Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*, 96)

- **This is the \_\_\_\_\_ we have in Christ**

Jesus Christ is the “unspeakable gift.”

*Through faith in Christ* all things are given to us: grace, peace, forgiveness of sins, and everlasting life

Paul was fighting this \_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel of Grace against the false teachers!

*“If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed”*

(Galatians 1:9)

These false teachers were preaching that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ enough, that Jesus' death alone was insufficient to win salvation. And so a Jesus-plus movement began:

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ circumcision
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ observance of the cleanliness laws

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING!!

### Salvation is by grace alone!

- It is not achieved, it's \_\_\_\_\_!
- There is \_\_\_\_\_ you can do to earn it!
- It's too humbling! All you need is \_\_\_\_\_
- The gospel is for the humble and poor in spirit
- Are you \_\_\_\_\_ enough to receive it by faith in Jesus Christ?