

GALATIANS 2:11-21

October 20, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: GALATIANS 2:11-21

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? ¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in[a] Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ "But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

FIRST THOUGHTS

What is the relationship between law and grace? Perhaps the current story of recently convicted police officer Amber Guyger demonstrates our desire for both law and grace. Amber Guyger was convicted of tragically killing Botham Jean when she accidentally walked into his apartment thinking it was her own. Perceiving him as an intruder, the off-duty police officer shot and killed him. She was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison (with possibility of parole after 5). At her sentencing, the younger brother of the victim said this, "I think giving your life to Christ would be the best thing Botham would want for you." He then asked permission to hug her. After the trial, the judge, Tammy Kemp, also offered Amber a hug and a Bible telling her to read it. The story has provoked strong positive reactions for the grace that the brother and judge offered Amber. The story has also provoked strong negative reactions questioning if the sentence was really justice for the victim. This story reveals that all humans have a strong appreciation for grace and a strong desire for justice.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

CONFRONTED BY TRUTH

> Read Galatians 2:11-14

- What is your definition of a hypocrite? How were Peter's actions hypocritical and inconsistent with the gospel?
- If left unchecked, what effect would Peter's actions have had on the church? On the spread of the gospel?
- Why do you think Paul confronted Peter publicly about this?
- How can a bias get in the way of us sharing the gospel? What are some biases you have seen affect who we share the gospel with?

JUSTIFIED BY GRACE

> Read Galatians 2:15-18

- What does it mean to be "justified with God"? How are we as sinners justified before God?
- What are some of the "works of the law" we do to try to make us right with God? How do they fall short and pull us away from grace?
- How do people often respond to knowing they are unable to earn salvation?

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

> Read Galatians 2:19-21

- What does it mean to die to the law? Why do we have to die to the law in order to live for God?
- What does Paul mean he has been crucified with Christ? What part of our lives needs to be crucified with Christ?
- Verse 20 presents this paradox—in one sense we are dead (crucified with Christ) but we still live on by faith in Christ. How should these two truths (being dead and yet living) affect your daily life?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

True grace is what God showed us in sacrificing Jesus for our sins. True grace is what daily helps us to live in God's presence. When we have experienced true grace, it changes the way we treat others. True grace impacts every area of our lives.

Personal Challenge: How do you need to be affected by grace this week?

- I have never trusted Christ. I've been trying to earn favor with God by doing right things. I need to trust the grace of God demonstrated in Christ to save me.
- I am trying to follow Christ in my own strength instead of in his grace. My relationship with God seems only based on my own efforts and not his grace. I need to repent of this approach and rest in Jesus' grace.
- I struggle to treat others with grace. I let my own biases and background affect the way view other people who are different than me. I need to remember how God has treated me and let that be the model for my relationships with others.

Pray: Place the group in pairs. Direct each pair to pray for each other to be people who live for Christ!

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Galatians 3:1-14.
- Who am I praying for that needs to know the life-changing gospel that Jesus died for them?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

20th — Job 6-8; Acts 12 | **21st** — Job 9-10; Acts 13-14 | **22nd** — Job 11-12; Acts 15-16 | **23rd** — Job 13-14; Acts 17-18 | **24th** — Job 15; Acts 19-20 | **25th** — Job 16; Acts 21-23 | **26th** — Job 17; Acts 24-26

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.