

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

**Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = Salvation?**

April 2012

## **Lesson #6 - Galatians – JUSTIFICATION OR GRACE?**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Describe a time in the past that you avoided certain people for the sake of your spiritual life.

### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Gal 2:14-21

*Note: To justify (Vv. 15-17) is a legal term meaning the person on trial is declared not guilty and deserves all the privileges of one who has not broken the law. In the minds of most Jews, Gentiles were sinners by nature because they had no law to guide them in right living and in pleasing God. Peter's response to Paul's rebuke is not recorded, but it must have served its purpose. Peter spoke well of Paul in 2 Pet 3:16-18.*

1. What did Paul say to those who are Jews by birth?
2. How is a person justified before God?
3. In the Christian life, what dies and what begins to live? How is this possible?
4. How does a Christian avoid becoming a lawbreaker? V. 18
5. How would you explain verse 16 to a non-Christian, particularly one with high moral standards? Pr 14:12
6. How might justification by faith lead some to claim that "Christ promotes sin"? (v. 17)

*Note: Paul answers this accusation with an emphatic, "No!" Grace leads to freedom from sin's slavery to obey God, not license to disobey him.<sup>1</sup>*

7. What is the value and theological place of work? James 2:14-19
8. How does Christ live out his life through Christians? (v. 20)
9. How had Peter set aside God's grace? (v. 21)
10. If you can be in right standing with God by your own effort, why did Christ die?
11. Practically speaking, what does it mean to live for God? Rom 6:8

### **APPLICATION**

- God's acceptance of us should affect our attitude toward other Christians. To what group of Christians with different races, backgrounds and traditions do you need to be more open?

*"Sin" is not just an act or a behavior; it is a state of being. Our predicament is not that we "sin" but that we are "sinners". Dogs bark. Bees sting. Fish swim. Roosters crow. Sinners sin. The power of sin and death has been defeated at the cross when Jesus was raised from the dead. So we too, by our identification with the death of Christ and His resurrection are able to live rightly. We are not only declared to be right, we can live right. But we do not do it on our own. We are like a glove. A glove cannot do anything by itself. It needs a hand to fill it. When the glove has a hand inside, it can do all sorts of things. What we need is the Lord to fill us with His power. Then we will be able to do all things through Christ, who is living in us. (Phil 4:13) We are able to do this because we are permeated with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit should impact every aspect of our lives. Paul Decker, Randall Memorial Baptist Church, Williamsville, NY*

*Jesus' mission on earth was not to utter some new call for redoubled effort to keep the Law. Jesus' mission, and the heart of the Gospel—was to issue an invitation to life. It is tremendously dangerous to let our own focus shift from life to the Law.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Anders, M. (1999). Vol. 8: Galatians-Colossians. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (23). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher's commentary* (900). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.