

# The Gospel in Reverse

## Chapter 2

### Audio Lesson: New Testament #56



Objective: To understand the Gospel, that we are not saved by obeying the law but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.



*Know that a man is not justified by observing 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 Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified...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. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!*

– Galatians 2:16, 20-21

In chapter 2 of Galatians, Paul tells the story of when he visited Peter and the believers in Antioch. The Jewish Christians there observed Jewish food restrictions even though they knew they did not have to do so to be saved. Peter and some of the other Jewish church leaders chose to eat with the Gentiles.

One day, while they were eating, some Jewish men came in. These men were false teachers because they had been telling Gentiles that they must become Jewish before they could be saved. When Peter saw them, he quickly separated himself from the Gentiles, because he allowed himself to be intimidated by the false teachers.

When Paul saw what happened, he became angry at Peter and confronted him in front of everyone. Paul reminded Peter that a person is not saved by observing the law but by faith in Christ. The purpose of the law was to show us our need for a Savior. We cannot save ourselves through our own efforts. We must be miraculously born again by the Holy Spirit to be saved, by grace through faith.

Paul concludes this section with this great statement: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” Christ died so we might live, and now we must “die” to our sinful nature so Christ might live His life through us. That is the Gospel in reverse.

1. True or False: The purpose of the law is to help us be good.
2. True or False: Paul was upset with Peter and confronted him in front of the church at Antioch.
3. True or False: If we could be saved through the law, then Christ died for nothing.
4. True or False: Prayer is telling God what we want Him to do.



*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

5. What did the Jewish and Gentile believers in Antioch do?
  - a. They argued constantly.
  - b. They lived immoral lives.
  - c. They ate at separate tables.
  - d. They argued about what to eat.
  
6. Why did Peter move back to the Jewish table?
  - a. There was not a seat for him.
  - b. He did not like the food the Gentiles had prepared.
  - c. Jewish teachers of the law had come to visit.
  - d. Paul told him to move.
  
7. What did Paul explain to Peter and everyone at the church in Galatia that day? (Choose all that apply)
  - a. We must follow strict dietary laws in order to be saved.
  - b. We are saved by faith in Christ.
  - c. Christians have been crucified with Christ.
  - d. Christians no longer live but Christ lives in them.
  
8. If you belong to Christ, who are you? (Choose all that apply)
  - a. A child of Abraham
  - b. A spiritual Jew
  - c. A slave to the law
  - d. An heir according to the promise
  
9. When Abraham's son Ishmael was born, what did it show? (Choose all that apply)
  - a. It was a work of the flesh.
  - b. It showed a lack of faith in God.
  - c. It was a work of the spirit.
  - d. It showed impatience with God.

10. When Abraham and Sarah had their son Isaac, what did it show? (Choose all that apply)
- a. It was a work of the Spirit of God.
  - b. God is faithful.
  - c. Abraham had faith in God's promise.
  - d. Abraham and Sarah were not that old.



Have you ever failed to trust God and taken control of a situation like Abraham and Sarah did? What were the consequences? What can you do to make sure you trust God next time?

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What do you think it means to be crucified with Christ? How can you live in Christ?

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Praise God for this study. Thank Him that we can learn how to live the Christian life from His Word and by studying the lives of people in the Bible. Thank God for Jesus Christ, who died to set us free from the law, and that salvation does not depend on what we do but on what Christ did for us. Ask God to help you trust Him and wait patiently for Him to work in your life.



## Going Deeper

1. What is the significance of the fact that Paul calls the reality of Abraham's two sons an "allegory?" \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How do you define, describe and apply what I call "The Gospel in Reverse?" (Consider 2:20)

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3. How do you define, describe and apply what Paul labels as an "Allegory of the Flesh?" (Abraham's son Ishmael) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How do you define, describe and apply an "Allegory of the Spirit?" (Abraham's son Isaac)

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5. Summarize and apply why Paul was so angry with Peter, which parallels why he was angry with the Galatians. (Consider chapter 2:11 to the end of that chapter) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Summarize and apply the argument Paul directed to Peter in 2: 11-21. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Summarize and apply the three experiences of Paul recorded in Acts 9, 2 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 1 and 2. (His conversion on the road to Damascus, his experience of being caught up into the third heaven, and his experience of being in the desert of Arabia for three years with the risen Christ.) \_\_\_\_\_

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