

# “Galatians 2:1-21”

## All Scripture is KJV: Galatians 2 :1-21

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

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

Galatians addresses the issues of following after Jesus for salvation and not following 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 book of Galatians, in the 6 chapters there are 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 follow Jewish customs, feast 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.

- ✚ And let me add this. 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.
- Yet people will use this statement of being against the Jews as being anti-Semitic. But here is nothing anti-Semitic here, because people are forgetting that “Jews” are not an ethnic people but simply refers to the religion that they are practicing. Because the Jews are from all nations around the world and convert to Judaism and then become a Jew. Just like becoming a “Baptist” for example.

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.

1. Paul said that in verse 17, that at first he did not go up to Jerusalem where the other Apostles were, but rather he went into Arabia and returned again into Damascus.
2. So basically Paul journeyed around the south east of Jerusalem from Damascus to Arabia and back again on his first journey.

Before we get into Galatians 2, I would just like to give you some background into the movements of Paul or if you like his missionary journey.

Unlike so many other people Paul was a true missionary in the sense of the real word. He was always active in the ministry for the Lord, and was always about declaring the gospel message to anyone that he encountered on his way.

- ❖ Yet many pastors today who say that they have gone to the missions field have not even begun to do the works that Paul did in the space of three years, and they have been at it for most of their lives.
- ✚ From the scriptures we can see that Paul was greatly used of God, and it is no wonder that God gave the mission of writing most of the NT to Paul because he was so faithful and did not just sit around on his missionary laurel and declare that he was going to do a great work for God.
- ❖ The truth of the matter is that so many missionaries would rather chase after that one soul to get it saved, and so spend a lot of their time fellowshipping that person and wasting their time when truly there are many others that also need salvation.

Yes one soul is important to the Lord, but so is two or twenty or a hundred.

1. But spending so much time on just one person detracts from the great commission that the Lord gave to all of us.
  2. The Lord did not say to us, you must only go and minister to the Jews, or only go to a particular nation.
  3. No.....he said go to all nations. Because every person deserves the gospel message....not just the Jews who have already rejected Jesus.
  4. But if we knock on a door during soul winning and a Jew or atheist answers give him the gospel just the same.
  5. But to single out a single people group or nation is not biblical if that is all that you are going to do.
- ❖ So what I want to show you all this morning is how Paul was used of the Lord.
  - ❖ Remember as he said in Galatians Chapter 1 in verses 18-24, how he went up to Jerusalem see Peter and James.
  - ❖ Well during his time there with them I don't know if you noticed what he said. He said I saw Peter and James but the other Apostles I never saw them.

<sup>18</sup> Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

<sup>20</sup> Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. <sup>21</sup> Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; <sup>22</sup> And was unknown by face unto the

churches of Judaea which were in Christ: <sup>23</sup> But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. <sup>24</sup> And they glorified God in me.

- One has to wonder why that was the case? Where were the other Apostles.
- Well now a little later in Paul's missions which is after another 14 years he decides to take a journey back to Jerusalem because there was a dispute amongst the people concerning salvation. He was not persuaded but the people wanted him to go and consult with the other Apostles who were still in Jerusalem.
- Remember at this point Paul is addressing the Galatians church's but has to put that on hold as he is sent to Jerusalem to enquire what the other Apostles thought of the matter. This is what we read in Acts 15.
- And that's where we pick up the scriptures again here in Galatians 2.
- Where he is referring back to the trip in Jerusalem and what happened there.

### **Galatians 2: 1-10 King James Version (KJV)**

**1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.**

**2 And I went up by revelation,** and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, **but privately to them which were of reputation,** lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

1. Paul just wanted to say.....I just want to make sure that for the past 17 years I have been preaching the gospel, and I just want to make sure I have not been preaching the wrong thing That's what he means by **“lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain”**.
2. As he goes to Jerusalem and meets with the other Apostles he speaks of this conversation he had with them as also he said in Acts 15. **Them of reputation.**
3. The gospel which Paul preached to the Gentiles was the same gospel he preached to the Jews. **“communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles”**. This is what he told the other Apostles.
4. So the Word of the Lord did not change from person to person. Salvation was the same way for Jew or Gentile.

**3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:**

1. Here you have these false believers, those of the reputation the “Jews” trying to bring in some other kind of salvation method. Paul communicated this to the other Apostles in Jerusalem, how the Jews were adding circumcision onto salvation.
2. “Meaning” they also wanted Titus to be circumcised, because he was a Greek, but he never did get circumcised.
3. We see in Acts 16:1-3 that **Paul against his wishes did circumcise Timothy** later on because his mother was a Jewess and his father was a Greek. And in order for Timothy to be allowed to go with Paul he had to be circumcised as directed by his mother who was a Jew. In this story we see that Paul gave in to man's will in

order for him to be able to take Timothy with him. It did not make it right but he did nonetheless circumcise Timothy to please his mother and the other Jews.

**Acts 16:3**<sup>3</sup> Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

4. So as we get back to our scriptures in Galatians 2:4 we see the reason why the church at Galatia had so many issues concerning salvation. And Paul was asked by the Galatians churches to carry this matter to Jerusalem to speak to the other Apostles about this matter.
5. Paul went to Jerusalem, not to see if he was right, because he knew salvation was by faith alone and grace alone, but he went up to Jerusalem because the churches asked him to go and check with the other Apostles.

**4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:**

1. Here's the reason and the problem all in one. In the churches at Galatia and in churches today.
2. The churches in Galatia had allowed "false brethren" (not Christians, but unsaved people) into their church. These people had come into the churches with the sole intention to disrupt the existing fellowship in order "that they might bring us into bondage:
3. So this was a "planned attack" on the churches.
4. Even today there is a "planned attack" on the churches by the "Hebrew Roots Movement" to try and bring the churches of God back into bondage again of the rituals observed by the Jews religion.
5. This is what Jesus referred to as "in vain do the worship me teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" –

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

6. So here is the reason why Paul is stepping into the churches at Galatia, so that he can correct the false doctrine of these Jewdiasters.
7. So going up to Jerusalem 14 years later must have been a great experience for Paul, to teach and confirming souls where ever he went in Jerusalem.
8. But now he is back in Galatia, trying to sort out this mess that people had got themselves into with this false doctrine.
9. So when Paul is confronted by the Jewdiasters in Galatia he says the following to them.
10. In verse 5 he opens with a sarcastic comment in respect of their false doctrine that the Jewdiasters were trying to bring in to the church. He says this.....

**5 To whom we gave place by subjection (a weakness), no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.**

1. Never did he compromise.....is the emphasis here by Paul.

2. No, not for an hour, is his reply. He never for one instant..... he is saying did he ever accept what they had to say.
3. The gospel is what was going to be preached and that was the end of it.

<sup>6</sup> **But of these who seemed to be somewhat**, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) **for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference (discussion) added nothing to me:**

1. But Paul acknowledges the fact that these people who “seemed” to be something important, he said it made no difference to him who they were, or where they had come from or what they had agreed upon.....he was not interested in them or their doctrine or what they had to say.
  - ❖ I wish churches today would stand up for the word of God, instead of bowing to every whim and fancy to please the people and society.
  - ❖ Like don't preach against the gays because it is very offending for them.....or don't preach against the Jews because it's not nice.....
  - ❖ Well go and tell that to the Lord.....who hates the sodomites and hates the Christ rejecting Jew.
  - ❖ This is exactly why Galatians has been written....it's written to rebuke those who want to please man rather than to please God.
2. Paul's reaction was, even though these people who came in great numbers “in conference” ....it did not matter or persuade him to change anything concerning the scriptures or salvation.
3. Let me remind you what Paul said in Galatians 1:10. **for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**
4. Don't just think that you can sit on the fence and try and please everyone. You have to choose either God or them.

<sup>7</sup> **But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;**

1. But, instead.....when **the Jews saw** that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto Paul, and the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter, **they were thinking that Paul was the Gentile apostle and Peter was the Apostle to the Jews.** – that's what they thought.
2. But Paul, says.....no.....the same that wrought effectually in Peter is the same that worked mightily in me.....speaking of the Holy spirit.
3. Neither Paul nor Peter was specifically given the task by the Holy Spirit to minister to these two people groups only.
4. It was the perception that the Jews had in mind not what God had given.
5. Because remember that when Jesus was dishing out the marching orders to the disciples way back in his earthly ministry even as we saw in the book of John, and also in the Book of Matthew where Jesus said to all of them including Peter who was there at the time.....Matthew 28:19-20...

<sup>19</sup> **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I**

have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

6. So by Jesus' own admission the disciples and Apostle were to go to "All Nations"
  7. Not just.....hey you are for the Jews....and you for the gentiles.....and you for the church.
  8. No.....they were all given the same command..... the same as we have today.....to go to all nations.
  9. Not just to minister to one people Group, as many do....when they say.....God has sent me to the Jews to love them and minister to them.....
  - 10.No..... God has sent you and me as well as the Apostle Paul and Peter and all those other Apostles to minister to "all nations".
- That's why when you even look at Acts 10:1 you will find Peter ministering to the Italian who was not a Jew. Because if Peter was only ministering to the circumcision then why was he ministering to the uncircumcision?

**Acts 10:1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

<sup>14</sup> But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.<sup>15</sup> And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

<sup>17</sup> Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, <sup>18</sup> And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

<sup>19</sup> While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. <sup>20</sup> Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. <sup>21</sup> Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? <sup>22</sup> And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

<sup>35</sup> But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. <sup>36</sup> The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

1. It is important to know and realize that God treats all people equally who come to him for salvation.

2. God does not respect any other person group above another.
3. That is why to say that Paul is the Apostle to the gentiles is not correct; it is a lie and false doctrine, and to say that Peter is the Apostle to the Jews is also a lie.
4. Because God has sent everyone to all nations to preach and teach the gospel message.

<sup>8</sup> (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

<sup>9</sup> And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

<sup>10</sup> Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

- Now you have to understand what's happening here. So let look at the Book of Acts 15.

You cannot understand Galatians properly unless you have read the book of Acts. Specifically Acts 9, 10 and acts 15 and 16.

- ❖ The book of Acts chapters 9,10,15, and 16, outlines exactly the time period of the missions of the Apostle, and the surrounding circumstances of the churches' in Galatia.

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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.**

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

<sup>9</sup> And put **no difference between us and them**, **purifying their hearts by faith.**

<sup>10</sup> **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?

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

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> And after they had held their peace, **James answered, saying**, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

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

<sup>15</sup> And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> **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:**

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

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

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

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

<sup>22</sup> **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:

<sup>23</sup> **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.



<sup>24</sup> 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:

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

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

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

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

<sup>29</sup> 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.

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

<sup>31</sup> Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

Next week.....

PRAYER.....CLOSE