

No Turning Back

Galatians 2:11-21

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. 17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh 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 comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

I. The Gospel Must Be Defended Boldly (Galatians 2:11–14)

A. Spiritual compromise can mislead others

B. The truth of the gospel is worth confronting error

II. Justification Comes Through Faith Alone (Galatians 2:15–18)

A. No one is justified by works of the law

B. Returning to legalism rebuilds what Christ destroyed

III. The Christian Life Is Lived Through Christ (Galatians 2:19–21)

A. The old self has been crucified with Christ

B. The believer now lives by faith in Christ

Conclusion

The gospel is not:

- Christ plus works,
- Christ plus religion,
- or Christ plus human effort.

The gospel is Christ alone.

Because of His grace:

- we are justified by faith,
- freed from condemnation,
- and empowered to live for Him daily.

The cross not only saves us; it changes us.

Reflective Questions

1. Are there areas in my life where fear of people is causing me to compromise biblical truth?
2. Am I trusting fully in Christ's finished work, or am I trying to earn God's acceptance through performance?
3. Does my daily life reflect that Christ truly lives in me?