

Lesson 2

June 21, 2009

SAN TAN HEIGHTS CHURCH SBC

A Fight For Grace A Gospel Worth Defending Legalism Vs. Grace Galatians 2

Paul deals with several issues in Galatians 2. I would like for you to read it through to your family and then dialogue about what you understand Paul to be teaching.

Here is the background of this Letter from Paul to the Galatians. You can also read Acts 13 and 14, which is in reference to the mission journey Paul is on while authoring the Book of Galatians.

In Galatians 1, Paul defends the **source** of the Gospel and in Galatians 2; Paul is defending the **nature** of the Gospel. This is extremely important for us to understand. The Jewish religious leaders were not accepting Gentiles to be born again believers. Paul is extremely upset with this wrong theology. Let me explain; Legalism has with it a long list of do's and deeds. Do's and deeds that one must follow in order to keep their salvation. Legalism believes that the supreme force behind your salvation is you.

Legalism will give you just enough religion to keep you going, but not enough religion to nourish you and leads to starvation.

Spurgeon writes, "The more rules I lay down for myself, the more sins I commit."

I believe that a daily morning prayer is awesome and very much needed, but to specify exact subjects and prescribed words for that prayer leads to bondage.

Discussion Question:

1. Are we going to Heaven by keeping a list of rules?
2. Are we keeping ourselves right with God by keeping a list of rules?
3. Read Romans 8:3-5.

Paul also teaches about **Justification**.

Let me give you a definition of Justification: Justification is an act by God declaring sinners righteous and comes by salvation.

Read Galatians 2:19-20. This is one of my favorite Scriptures.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord, we are crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Praise the Lord.

What can you and your families do to help others see grace through you instead of legalism? Legalism produces fear, fear replaces joy.

Are you happy?

God loves you and so do I,

Pastor Billy

