



GALATIANS

DEEPLY ROOTED FREEDOM

GALATIANS 2:15-16

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever had to write a thesis statement? In high school you probably had an English teacher who told you that your essay needed a thesis statement. And while you may have hated that idea at the time, your teacher was right! A thesis statement is just a sentence that tells you what you are writing about so that your reader knows what you are about to say. And this passage in Galatians is really Paul's thesis statement. This is what the whole book is about, even more than that, this is what the gospel is about! We are justified by God through faith in Jesus. And while there is certainly more to say, that is the center of the gospel message. How is it that God can forgive sin? How is it that by trusting in Jesus we are saved? Paul wants his readers to understand the importance that salvation is by faith, not by anything we can accomplish and everything in his letter is really about that.

READ THE TEXT: GALATIANS 2:15-16

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. This passage is best understood as part of Paul's speech to Peter (see vs 11-14), what was the conflict between them? How does Paul's response to Peter help us understand the gospel better?
2. What is Paul's main point in verse 16? How many times does he use the words "faith/believe" "justify" or "works of the law"? How do you define those words?

a. *Leader's Guide:*

- i. *Justification – declared righteous before God*
- ii. *Faith – trust in what we cannot see*
- iii. *Works of the law – doing the actions that the Old Testament law required*

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How does the reality of our justification before God help us when we sin?
6. How does the truth that the gospel is not by “works” help us share our faith? Do we really believe that no one is excluded?
7. What are areas where we are tempted compromise the gospel to be more like others?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God**.

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*