

# The Gospel Truth!

## Galatians 2:14-16

East Berlin Community Church  
Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook  
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### Introduction

- 9-11 and the war against radical Islamic terrorists
- What is at stake? Our freedom and Sharia Law
- Paul is fighting for the truth of the gospel
  - Defending himself against the attacks of false teachers
  - Defending the gospel truth amidst Peter's hypocrisy
- Center of Controversy: How is a believing Gentile to live?
- Galatians 2:15-21 addressed to Peter and the Jews
- Three major questions raised
  - Justification (2:15-16)—*How is a man justified before God?*
  - Culpability (2:17-18)—*Is Jesus responsible for Peter's sin?*
  - Source of life (2:19-21)—*By keeping the Law or by faith?*

### The Gospel Truth! Galatians 2:15-16

#### A. General Statement: Justification by faith apart from the Law.

1. Addressed to the Privileged Jews—2:15
  - a. Jews as the "chosen"; Gentiles as "sinners"
  - b. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory—Rom. 3:9-12
2. Meaning of "justification"
  - a. "To be declared righteous", "to acquit"—legal term
    - 1) How can God be just, and at the same time justify sinners?—Romans 3:21-28
    - 2) Not by the works of the law!—Romans 3:19; 7:7, 12
    - 3) By faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us.
      - a) Begins with God's grace—Romans 3:24
      - b) Jesus Christ died as our substitute.
      - c) The Great Exchange—2 Corinthians 5:21
      - d) The penalty for our sins: PAID IN FULL!!
      - e) Verdict: NO Condemnation—Romans 8:1
  - b. Does not mean "to make righteous"
  - c. Does not mean "Just As If I Never Sinned"

#### B. Personal Experience: How was Peter and Paul saved? By the works of the law or by faith in Jesus Christ?

1. Peter's salvation experience—gradual understanding of Christ as the Son of God leading Peter to embrace Jesus as his Savior and Lord.
2. Paul's salvation experience—renouncing his legalistic past to trust Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Philippians 3:4-11

#### C. Universal Truth: Salvation always by God's grace through faith plus nothing. Psalm 143:2, 8