



GALATIANS

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FIGHTING for  
the GOSPEL

A Verse-by-Verse Study

## Galatians 2: 14b (NIV)

*When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"*



Why did Paul confront Peter  
in front of everyone?

## Galatians 2: 15-16 (NIV)

***We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.***



Is Paul saying that the Jews are better than those sinful Gentiles?

## Galatians 2: 15-16 (NIV)

*“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not **justified** by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.*

## Galatians 2: 15-16 (NIV)

*So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be **justified** by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be **justified**.*



What does it mean to be justified?

# Justified

Greek: dikaióo

- To declare righteous
- To be cleared of all charges
- To acquit



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Turn to:  
Titus 3: 4-7

## Titus 3: 4-7 (NIV)

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.*

## Titus 3: 4-7 (NIV)

*He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

## Titus 3: 4-7 (NIV)

*so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*



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Turn to:  
2 Corinthians 5: 17-19

## 2 Corinthians 5: 17-19 (NIV)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:*

## 2 Corinthians 5: 17-19 (NIV)

*that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

# Justification

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When we become Christians **this happens immediately upon salvation**. We are washed in the blood of Christ and are made right or justified in the eyes of God because of Christ's sacrifice.

# Sanctification

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A process of becoming more like Christ as time passes. Christians develop a godlier thought and behavior over time compared to before they became Christians.

## Galatians 2: 15-16 (NLT)

*Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law.*

## Galatians 2: 15-16 (NLT)

*And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be **made right** with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be **made right** with God by obeying the law.”*



What point is Paul making to Peter in front of this crowd?

## Galatians 2: 17 (NIV)

*“But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin?  
Absolutely not!*”

## Galatians 2: 18 (NIV)

*If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.*



What did Paul destroy?



What point is Paul making here?

Why would Paul go  
backwards and rebuild  
Judaism knowing that the  
Law cannot save a man!

## Galatians 2: 19 (NIV)

*“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.*”

Without the Law we do  
not know who we are  
because the law exposes  
two things.

1. God's perfect holiness
2. Our gross sinfulness



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Turn to:  
Romans 7: 7-10

## Romans 7: 7-10 (NIV)

*What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.*

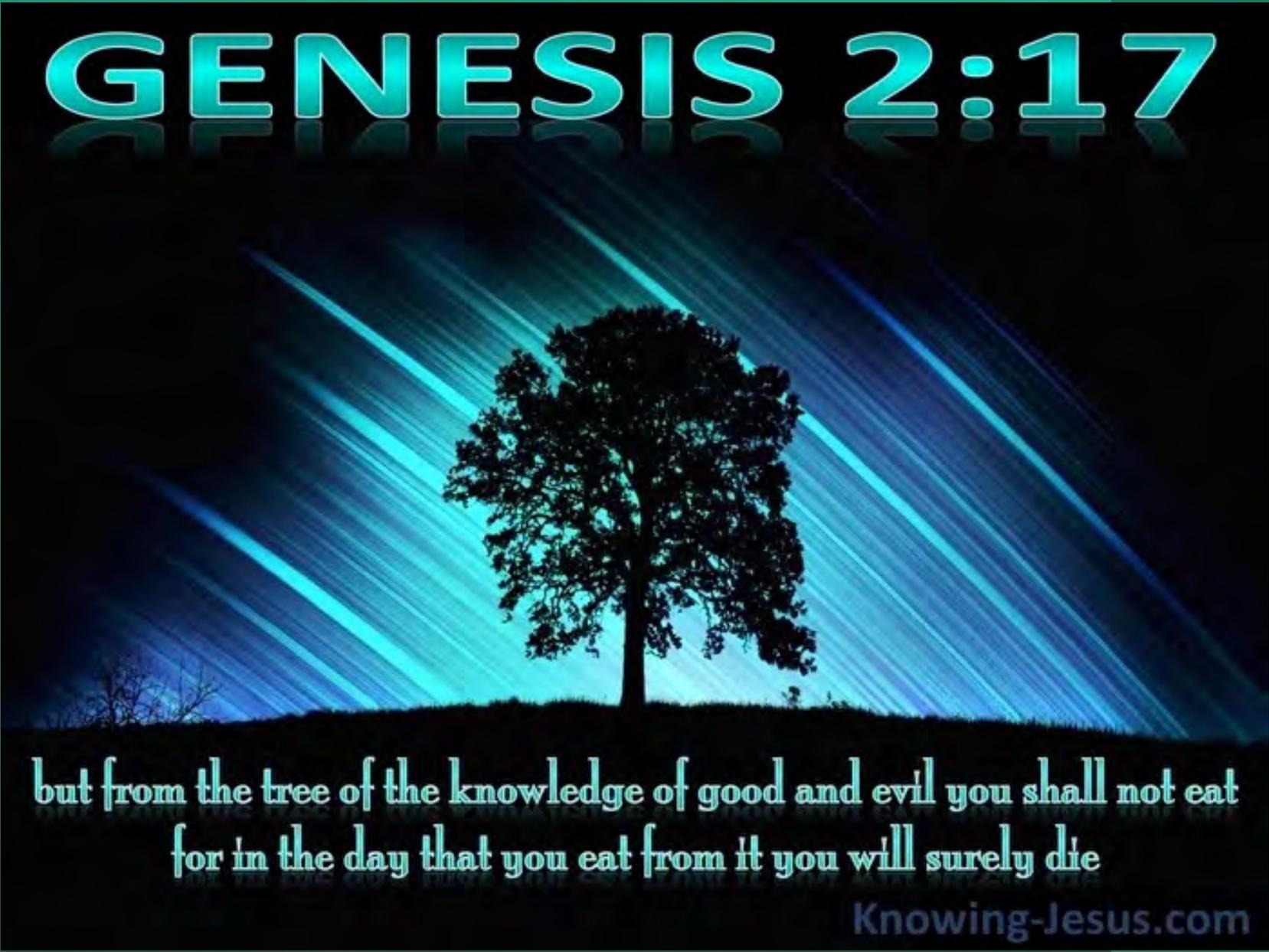
## Romans 7: 7-10 (NIV)

*For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting.*



Why does God's Law cause us  
to sin?

# GENESIS 2:17

The image features a central silhouette of a tree on a hill. The background is a dark blue gradient with numerous bright, diagonal light streaks in shades of cyan and white, creating a sense of motion or a starry sky. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat  
for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die

[Knowing-Jesus.com](http://Knowing-Jesus.com)

## Romans 7: 7-10 (NIV)

*For apart from the law, sin was dead. Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.*



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Turn to:  
Romans 3: 20-24

## Romans 3: 20-24 (NIV)

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*

## Romans 3: 20-24 (NIV)

*But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.*

## Romans 3: 20-24 (NIV)

*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,*

## Romans 3: 20-24 (NIV)

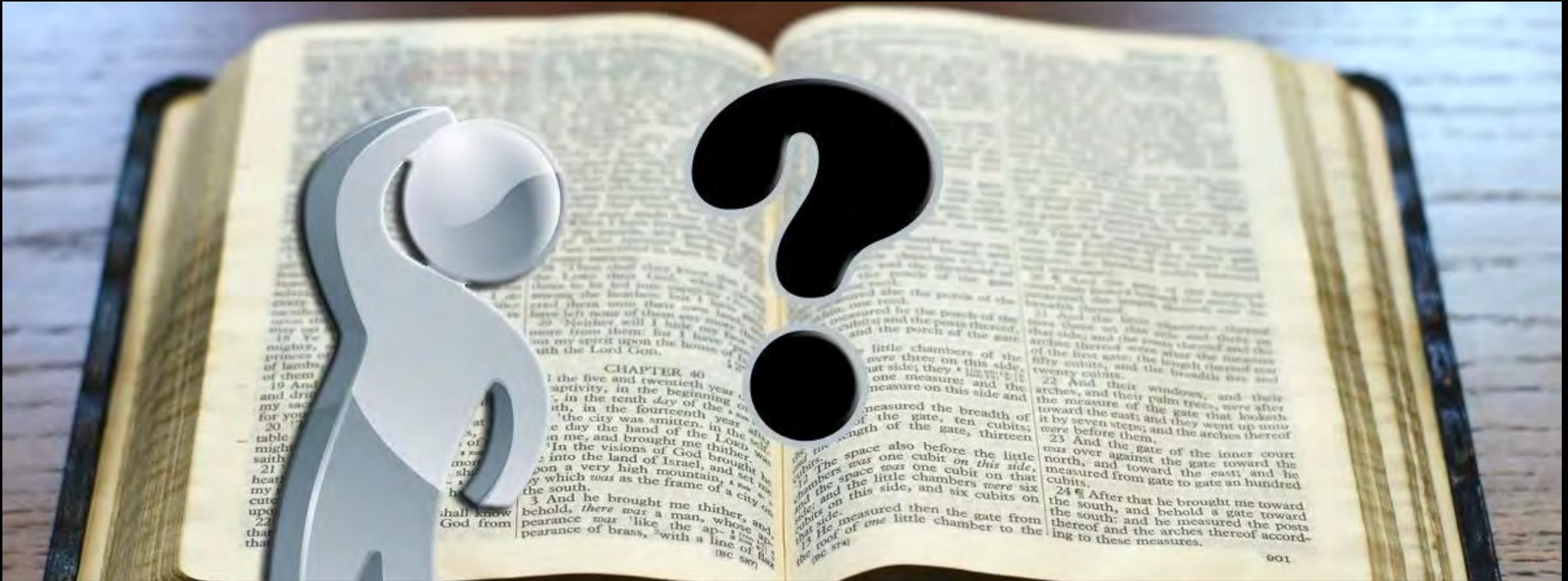
*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

## Galatians 2: 17 (NIV)

*“But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin?  
Absolutely not!*

Paul is now addressing the concern  
that justification by faith would  
lead to a freedom to sin.

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Why does grace and justification by faith not lead to sin?

## Galatians 2: 19 (NIV)

*“For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.”*

## Galatians 2: 20 (NIV)

**I have been crucified with  
Christ and I no longer live, but  
Christ lives in me. The life I now live  
in the body, I live by faith in the Son  
of God, who loved me and gave  
himself for me.**



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Turn to:  
Romans 6:1-9

## Romans 6: 1-9 (NIV)

*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*

## Romans 6: 1-9 (NIV)

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

## Romans 6: 1-9 (NIV)

*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin*

## Romans 6: 1-9 (NIV)

*because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.*

## Galatians 2: 20 (NIV)

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

## Galatians 2: 21 (NIV)

*I do not set aside the grace of God,  
for if righteousness could be  
gained through the law, Christ  
died for nothing!"*



Why would Christ have died for nothing if righteousness could be gained through the Law?



Christ would have died for  
nothing if \_\_\_\_\_?

## Galatians 3: 1 (NIV)

**You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.**

# Foolish

Greek: anoetos

- Mentally lazy
- Willingly dull or sloppy at thinking
- Becoming careless or reckless with your mind
- Slow at thought



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Turn to:  
Hebrews 5: 11-12

## Hebrews 5: 11-12 (NIV)

*We have much to say about this,  
but it is hard to make it clear to  
you because you no longer try to  
understand.*

## Hebrews 5: 11-12 (NIV)

*In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*

## Galatians 3: 1 (NIV)

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.*

# Bewitched

Greek: baskaino

- To fascinate (by false representations).
- To cloud what you once knew so well.
- To lead away others into error.



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Turn to:  
2 Timothy 4: 3

## 2 Timothy 4: 3 (NIV)

*For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

## Galatians 3: 1 (NIV)

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.*

# Portrayed

Greek: prographo

- To display in public.
- To make a graphic presentation that is unmistakable.

Paul is saying that he is a  
public billboard or  
graphic presentation of  
Jesus Christ and Him  
crucified!

The Greek word for crucified is used in the perfect passive participle which means that the crucifixion happened once, but the power of the cross continues on forever!



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Turn to:  
1 Corinthians 2: 1-2

## 1 Corinthians 2: 1-2 (NIV)

*And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.*

## 1 Corinthians 2: 1-2 (NIV)

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

## Galatians 3: 1 (NIV)

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.*



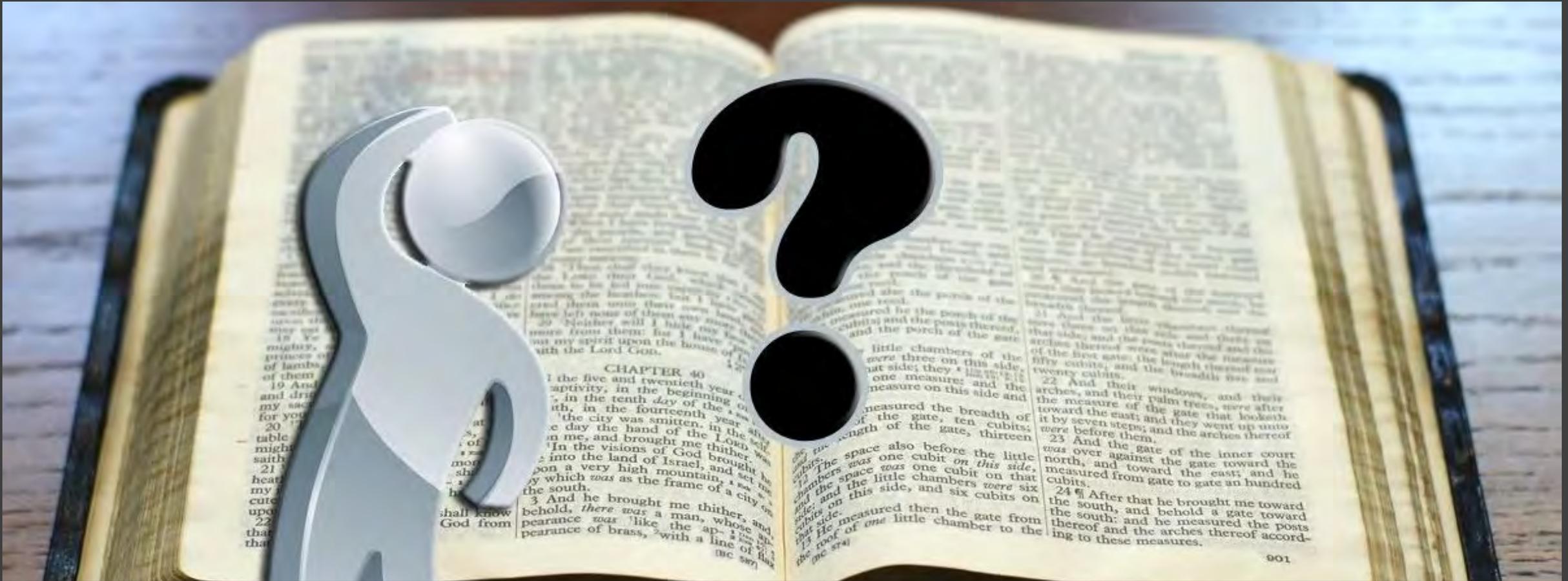
What wrong direction was this Church being led into?

## Galatians 3: 2 (NIV)

*I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?*

## Galatians 3: 3 (NIV)

*Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?*



What were the Galatians doing?

## Galatians 3: 3 (NIV)

*Are you so foolish? After  
beginning by means of the Spirit,  
are you now trying to finish by  
means of the flesh?*



Do you ever find yourself  
doing the same thing?



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Turn to:  
Ephesians 3: 20

## Ephesians 3: 20 (NIV)

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*



What happens when the Holy Spirit is at work inside of you?

## Galatians 3: 4 (NIV)

*Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain?*

## Galatians 3: 5 (NIV)

*So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?*



What is the answer to Paul's question?



What is a sign that you are relying on yourself and your works instead of the Power of the Holy Spirit?



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Turn to:  
Matthew 6: 25-32

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”*

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*



What is the answer to that last question Jesus asked?

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*”

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?*

## Matthew 6: 25-32 (NIV)

*So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

## Galatians 3: 6 (NIV)

*So also Abraham “believed God,  
and it was credited to him as  
righteousness.”*



What is the significance of the statement that righteousness was credited to him?

# Credited

Greek: logizomai

- To credit
- To charge with
- To conclude
- To make a  
determination

God is not making  
Abraham righteous; God  
is crediting Abraham with  
righteousness which  
then changes his status  
with God.



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Turn to:  
Hebrews 12: 1-2

## Hebrews 12: 1-2 (NIV)

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,*

## Hebrews 12: 1-2 (NIV)

*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## Galatians 3: 7 (NIV)

*Understand, then, that those who  
have faith are children of  
Abraham.*



What does this mean?

Faith is what  
characterizes us as  
God's chosen people,  
not our bloodline!

## Galatians 3: 8 (NIV)

*Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."*

## Galatians 3: 9 (NIV)

*So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*