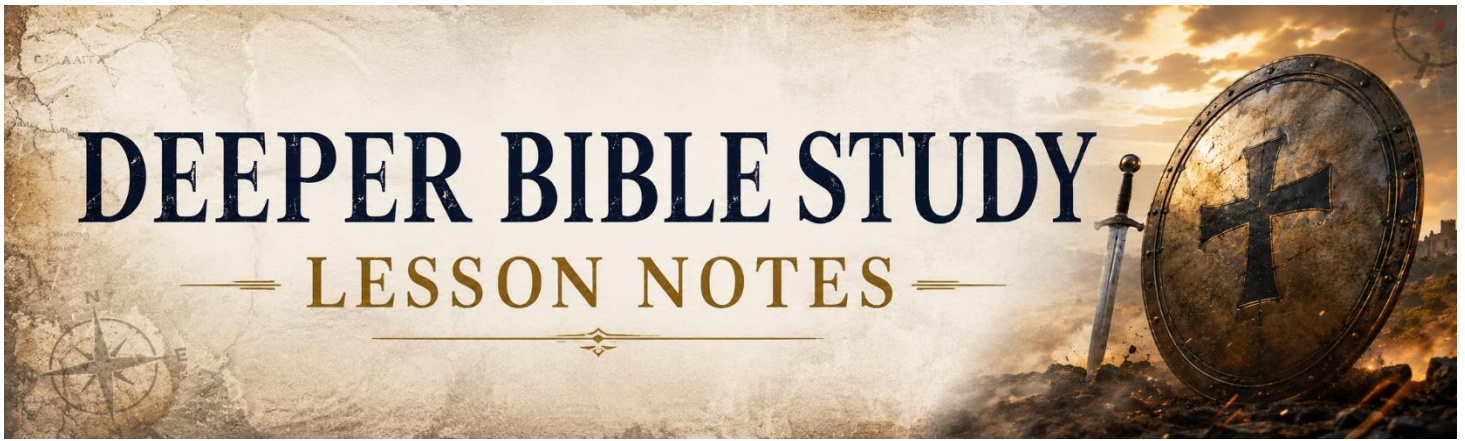




CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST (GALATIANS 2:15-21) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT WITH GOD?

- Our default setting is LAW.
 - Almost nobody answers that question with “because Jesus died and I believed Him.”
- There are only 2 ways to try to get right with God... You _____ it or you _____ it.

NOT 1 PERSON. NOT EVER.

Galatians 2:15-16 (NLT)... You and I are Jews by birth, not “sinners” like the Gentiles. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. 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.

- “Sinners” was the Jewish shorthand for Gentiles — outsiders, not in covenant.
 - Paul throws their own language back at them: we had every religious advantage there was... and it still could not make us right with God.
- “MADE RIGHT WITH GOD” IS COURTROOM LANGUAGE.
 - **DIKAIOS** (*de-ki-o*) = to declare righteous. To hand down a verdict.
 - First time Paul uses the word in the letter. It’s a _____ word, not a moral improvement word.
 - God is not coaching us into _____ righteous. He is declaring us righteous.
- Paul says the same thing 3 times in one verse.
 - He is not being repetitive. He is being unmistakable.

- **HE BUILDS THE CASE WITH 3 WITNESSES...**

- 1. “We know” — the apostles.
- 2. “We have believed” — their own experience.
- 3. “No one will ever” — the Word.

Psalm 143:2 (NLT)... Don't put Your servant on trial, for no one is innocent before You.

- The law-keepers are being answered by the Psalms.

Not 1 person, not ever, not anywhere, not under any circumstance.

- *Romans 3:20 (NLT)... For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.*

- **SO WHAT DOES “FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST” REALLY MEAN?**

- In the Greek, vs 16 literally reads that we believed **INTO** Christ Jesus.
- Not believed **about** Him... Believed _____ Him.
 - *James 2:19 (NLT)... You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.*
 - The devil believes... and he is **not** saved.
- **Real faith is not acknowledging the facts about Jesus — it is running to Him for refuge and calling on Him for mercy.**

- **“IF THE LAW CAN'T SAVE ME, WHY DID GOD GIVE IT?”**

- The law was not given as a **LADDER** to climb.
- It was given as a _____ to look into.
 - A mirror shows you the dirt on your face all day long... but it has never once washed it off.
 - **The law is a good thing... but it makes a terrible savior.**

Romans 3:20 (NLT)... The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

 - That is the law's job... It is only by His grace that we are saved.

SO DOES GRACE MAKE ME CARELESS?

Galatians 2:17-18 (NLT)... But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down.

- The oldest accusation against grace: “If you tell people they’re saved by grace and not by rules, they’ll do whatever they want.”
 - Paul’s answer is 2 words: **ABSOLUTELY NOT.**
- Paul flips the accusation around...

- They said grace makes you a sinner... **Paul says going back to the _____ is what makes you a sinner.**

- **AND HERE IS WHY IT IS SO SERIOUS...**

- Rebuilding the law as the way to God looks at Jesus on the cross — taking the punishment you deserved, absorbing the wrath of God in your place — and says: “That’s beautiful... but it isn’t enough.”

- **GRACE DOES NOT PRODUCE CARELESSNESS. GRACE PRODUCES LOVE, GRATITUDE, AND DEVOTION.**

- Rules can change your _____ for a season. Only love changes your **desires**.
 - *Titus 2:11-12 (NLT)... For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures.*
 - Grace is not **permission** to sin. Grace is _____ not to.

THE LAW KILLED ME SO THAT I COULD LIVE

Galatians 2:19 (NLT)... For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law — I stopped trying to meet all its requirements — so that I might live for God.

- **The law did not die.** There is nothing wrong with the law — it reflects the holy character of God.
- **Paul is what died.** Paul died to the law.

- **HOW HE DIED TO IT — THROUGH THE LAW ITSELF.**

- For years Paul thought God accepted him because of his performance.
- **Then one day he understood what the law was really revealing: God was after the heart — not just outward behavior. (*Matthew 5:21-28*)**
- **So the law stopped being Paul’s résumé and became his death certificate.**
 - It exposed what he could never fix on his own — **his heart**.

- **THE PURPOSE — SO THAT I MIGHT LIVE FOR GOD.**

- Dying to the law is not lawlessness. It is the end of the law as a **means of righteousness**.

- Martin Luther pictured the believer talking back to the law like it was a person standing in the room...
 - *Shout at me and accuse me all you want... I'm deaf to you now. Go talk to my flesh if you want... but leave my conscience alone. My conscience answers to Christ and to a better law — grace.*
 - *Romans 8:1 (NLT)... So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Galatians 2:20 (NLT)... My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- **SUSTAUROO** (*sos-tow-ro*) = to be co-crucified. Crucified **together with** someone.
 - It is in the **perfect tense** — a completed action with continuing results.
 - I **have been** crucified... and I _____ **crucified**.
- **WHEN THIS HAPPENED.**
 - Just as I was _____ **Adam** when he sinned... I was _____ **Christ** when He died.
 - *Romans 5:19 (KJV)... For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*
 - *1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*
- **WHAT DID GOD DO WITH OUR OLD SELF?**
 - He _____ it.
- **THE GREAT EXCHANGE** — Paul handed Jesus his old try-to-be-right-by-the-law life, and it was crucified. Jesus handed Paul **His** life in return.
 - Paul does not **own** his life anymore. He just **manages** the new one Jesus gave him.
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)... For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*
 - He took what was yours so you could carry what is His. That is the whole gospel in one transaction.

- **THE 4 MOVEMENTS IN THIS VERSE...**

1. It is no longer I who live — the old man is off the throne.

2. Christ lives in me — there is Somebody else in the house now... sitting on the throne.

3. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God — daily life runs on faith, not self-empowered effort.

- Romans 7:18 (NLT)... And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.
 - But that is not the end of the story. Paul asks, "Who will deliver me?" — and the answer is _____.
- The Christian life is not trying harder in your own strength. It is learning to fight through the power of the Spirit.
 - Philippians 2:5 (KJV)... Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

- 4. Who loved me and gave himself for me — it is not just theological. It is personal.

DON'T TREAT GRACE AS MEANINGLESS

Galatians 2:21 (NLT)... I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

- **ATHETEO** (*ath-te-o*) = to set aside, to nullify, to treat as void.
 - It is the word used for breaking a covenant or throwing out a will.
 - Every system of self-righteousness nullifies the cross — no matter how sincere the person is.

- **THE LOGIC...**

- If I can get right with God by my performance... then Calvary was unnecessary.

- **REMEMBER GETHSEMANE...**

Matthew 26:39 (NLT)... My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.

- Jesus asked the Father if there was any other way... and He went to the cross anyway.
- Which means: there was no other way.

- **WHAT GRACE ACTUALLY IS...**

- Grace is God _____ the standard on our behalf.
- Grace does not help you get there. Grace does it all.

- **WHAT ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO PAY FOR THAT JESUS ALREADY PURCHASED?**

HOW THE STORY ACTUALLY ENDED

- Later, in Jerusalem, in front of James and Paul and Barnabas and the Apostles — Peter stood up and said this out loud...
 - *Acts 15:10-11 (NLT)... So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.*
 - That is Antioch coming back out of Peter's mouth in public.
 - He didn't just receive the correction... He started preaching it.
- **LOOK WHO THAT ONE UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATION WAS GOOD FOR...**
 - Paul — because he stayed true.
 - Peter — because he came out more convinced than before.
 - Barnabas — because he got straightened out.
 - The men from James — because a line got drawn and they had to decide.
 - The Gentile believers — because their freedom got defended in public.
 - Us — because we are sitting here 2,000 years later reading it.