

## JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Galatians 2:15-21

Living the Gospel, 8

Ben Connelly

### Setting the stage... (recap of 1:1-2:14)

#### How can we be saved? (2:15-16)

v.15: NOT by OUR HERITAGE

v.16: NOT by OBSERVING THE LAW

v.16: ONLY by FAITH IN CHRIST

This is the doctrine of JUSTIFICATION

#### Does grace encourage sinfulness? (v.17-19)

v.17: the claim – IF YOU DISREGARD THE LAW, YOU SIN

v.17: the implication – CHRIST PROMOTES SIN

v.17: the truth – CHRIST FREES US FROM OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW!

v.18-19: the reality – THE LAW CANNOT SAVE, BUT ONLY CONDEMNS

v.19: the point – WE ABANDON THE LAW, & ARE JUSTIFIED BY GOD

#### How then shall we live? (v.20)

- DIE TO YOUR PREVIOUS SELF-FOCUSED DESIRES
- BE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD TODAY
- LIVE WITH PASSIONATE FAITH IN CHRIST
- SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST, DISPLAYED IN HIS DEATH

#### What is the center of our faith? (v.21)

THE GRACE OF GOD, DISPLAYED IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST, BY WHICH WE MAY BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS

#### Quotes:

"Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight." – Wayne Grudem

"If anybody insists that justification is by works, and that he can earn his salvation by his own efforts, he is undermining the foundations of the Christian religion. He is nullifying the grace of God (because if salvation is by works, it is not by grace) and he is making Christ's death superfluous (because if salvation is our own work, then Christ's work was unnecessary)... " – John Stott