

## “The Only Answer is Jesus”, Galatians 2:15-21 – August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- For today’s teaching, I want to talk about how Jesus is the only answer to all of the problems we face in our lives as Christians.
- This because, in our text, the Apostle Paul deals with a serious problem in the churches by simply bringing them back to Jesus.
- More specifically, the returning to being justified by faith in Christ as opposed to trying to be justified by obedience to the law.

- Paul just rebuked Peter for his hypocrisy in pretending to live according to the law, while at the same time eating with Gentiles.
- The problem with this was that Peter acted as if he was still justified by keeping the law, and not by his faith in Jesus Christ.
- In other words, Peter was giving people the impression that God accepts and blesses us by adhering to rules and regulations.

- Sadly, we as Christians today are a lot like Peter was back then, in the sense that we believe we have to be good and do good.
- If we ever hope for God to accept us and bless our lives, we have to keep a strict list of do’s and don’ts to be good Christians.
- If our righteousness and justification were gained in this way, then as Paul rhetorically asks in verse 21 Jesus died for nothing.

I’m hoping you’ll kindly indulge me as I personalize the text by inserting my name with the hopes offering a better explanation for the purpose of our personal application. “JD, even if you were born as a Jew, and not an Arab as a Gentile, you have to know that you’re not justified by a bunch of do’s and don’ts. The only way to be justified is by putting your faith in Jesus Christ. The reason being is, that by putting your faith in Jesus you’ll be justified because of Jesus. It can’t and won’t come by any rules or regulations, which you couldn’t keep anyway, and even if you could, you would never be justified because of it. The problem is, we all still struggle with sin, but that doesn’t mean that Jesus approves of it, rather, it means that Jesus has settled the matter of our being accepted by God in spite of it, because you’re only justified in Christ. So, JD why are you still trying to rebuild a list of dos and don’ts that you know were already tore down? All you end up doing is proving that you can’t live up to them. The truth of the matter is, you are dead to it because you were put to death by breaking it. So what’s the answer then? The answer is that you’re dead to the law so you can now live to, and live for God. Here’s why, you were crucified with Christ Who now lives in you and enables you to live for Christ. You no longer live in your own power and strength to keep rules and regulations, because now the life you live is in Christ Who lives in you. In other words, your new life in Jesus is lived by faith in the one Who loves you and gave His life for you. Please stop dismissing the grace of God by thinking that you just need to try harder to live a righteous Christian life because whenever you do that, you’re essentially saying that Jesus didn’t need to come and die on the cross to pay for all your sins.”

- Question: if Jesus answers life’s biggest problem of sin and death as the Savior, why wouldn’t He be the answer to everything?
- Perhaps better asked this way, If Jesus is the answer for eternal life then why isn’t He the answer to all my problems in this life?
- Wouldn’t it stand to reason that Jesus is the answer to all my problems whether they be marital, financial, parental, or relational.

- While I am keenly aware this may seem like an oversimplification, I would submit that Jesus is the answer to all our problems.
- I’ll take it a step further and suggest scripture is replete with why Jesus is the only answer, and even how Jesus is the answer.
- I would like to share with you only one of many scriptures that explains why, then another scripture that explains to us the how.

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

John 16:5–7 (NKJV) — 5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.