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## The Minister Proclaimed The Gospel To Those Who Had Drifted Away

Study 4: Galatians 2:11-21

—Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

### 1. Paul confronted Peter

- a. Peter's failure
  - 1) He was a follower of men, of the crowd
  - 2) He proved to be a man of prejudice & legalism
- b. The result of Peter's failure: Others were led away—even the leader, Barnabas

### 2. A believer cannot have double standards

- a. Cannot have an unrighteous walk: Not true to the gospel
- b. Cannot have a hypocritical walk: Living one way while telling others to live another way

### 3. A believer is justified by faith alone

- a. Observing, doing the

### D. The Minister Proclaimed the Gospel to Those Who Had Drifted Away, 2:11-21

11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

16 Knowing that a man is not justi-

fied by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

works of the law does not justify a man

- a. The faith of Christ & faith in Christ alone justifies a man
- b. No one is ever justified by observing the law

### 4. A believer is not misled by Christ

- a. God forbid such a thought
- b. A person makes himself a sinner

### 5. A believer is justified by living for God

- a. By dying, counting oneself dead to the law
- b. By being crucified with Christ
- c. By allowing Christ to live His life in & through his body
- d. By not setting aside the grace of God: The grace seen in Jesus Christ, who is God's righteousness

### Section II

#### THE PROOF OF GOD'S MESSENGER AND MESSAGE Galatians 1:10-2:21

**Study 4:** THE MINISTER PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WHO HAD DRIFTED AWAY

**Text:** Galatians 2:11-21

**Aim:** To build strong barriers in order to prevent backsliding.

**Memory Verse:** "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Ga.2:20).

#### INTRODUCTION:

There is a little bit of the “Prodigal Son” in all of us. Unless we are firmly grasping our Father’s hand, we are prone to drift away. Like everyone else, we as believers can become mesmerized by the lures of the world that beckon us. And the longer we listen to the pleas, attractive and appealing as they sound, the less we desire to remain in a place that is safe.

This is a passage packed full of truth and meaning for all men, but especially for the believer. It is a passage that deals with backsliders, with righteousness and self-righteousness, works and faith, the law and God’s grace. It is a passage that needs to be proclaimed to the world. It is the message of the gospel proclaimed to those who drift away.

#### OUTLINE:

1. Paul confronted Peter (vv.11-13).
2. A believer cannot have double standards (v.14).
3. A believer is justified by faith alone (vv.15-16).
4. A believer is not misled by Christ (vv.17-18).
5. A believer is justified by living for God (vv.19-21).

#### 1. PAUL CONFRONTED PETER (vv.11-13).

What happened is simply explained. Paul and Barnabas were ministers of the Antioch church, and they had apparently invited Peter to visit them, or else Peter had taken it upon himself to conduct some services in Antioch (see Ac.11:25-26). Antioch was not only a great church, but it was the first great Gentile church and the very first church to send missionaries forth. It was comprised mainly of Gentile believers (see Ac.11:20-21; 13:1-3). When Peter began his ministry in Antioch, he joined right in with the Gentiles, fellowshiping, eating, and sharing with them. However, some Judaizers or religionists came to Antioch and began to visit the church. They were astounded to find Peter fellowshiping and eating so freely with Gentiles, even though they were Christians. Remember: the Judaizers believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, but they thought it was only an addition to the existing religion (Judaism). They said that if people wished to be saved...

- they had to undergo the ritual of circumcision
- they had to subject themselves to the law of Moses
- they had to adopt the ritual and ceremonies of the existing religion
- they had to practice the rules and regulations of religion, for example, observe strict food laws which prohibited the eating of pork and meat bought in the marketplace
- they had to separate themselves and have no fellowship with Gentiles who had not been circumcised nor subjected themselves to the law of Moses and the rules and regulations of religion

When the Judaizers saw Peter, the great Jewish apostle, eating with Gentiles who had not done these things, they apparently jumped all over him. They even used James’ name to support their position. Of course, James did not support their position or false teaching (see Ac.15:24). However, Peter weakened under their attack and withdrew

himself from close fellowship with the Gentiles. When Peter withdrew, the inevitable happened: the church split. The church became tragically divided just as any church does when a leader becomes a man-pleaser and begins to follow critics and cliques.

Note how severe the split was: Peter and the other Jews separated themselves from the Gentiles. And note another fact: their argument was so strong that the senior minister, Barnabas, was even led to join their ranks. Paul stood alone among the leaders to fight for the truth of the gospel.

Another way to look at Peter’s failure is to look at the three gross sins he committed. (See Ga.2:14 for discussion.)

#### 2. A BELIEVER CANNOT HAVE DOUBLE STANDARDS (v.14).

In common language, Peter was two-faced; he was a man-pleaser. He ate with the Gentile Christians, but when some Judaizers arrived, he separated himself completely from the Gentiles. He feared what the

#### QUESTIONS:

1. Does anyone love you enough to confront you if you are going astray? Are you able to receive correction from him?
2. Do you love anyone enough to confront him if he is going astray? Is he able to receive correction from you?
3. Everyone has to face peer pressure. In what areas of your life do you feel the pressure to conform to the world and its pressures? What can be done to avoid giving in to these pressuring situations?
4. How does trusting God allow you to accept others who are different?

Judaizers would think. His failure was *threefold*.

- ⇒ He was hypocritical. He said one thing (Ga.2:9) but lived something else (Ga.2:11-12).
- ⇒ He followed the crowd simply because they put pressure upon him—even when he knew better.
- ⇒ He esteemed some persons better than others (Ga.2:12).

1. Peter was walking an unrighteous path, not living according to the truth of the gospel. The gospel declares that God loves and receives *all men*. But Peter was separating himself from those who *followed Christ differently* than he and the mother church at Jerusalem.
2. Peter was walking a hypocritical path, living one way while telling others to live another way. When the Judaizers were not around to see him, he fellowshiped with the Gentiles; but when the strict religionists arrived, he began to be more strict and follow their strict life-style. Note: he even began to compel the Gentiles to undergo the ritual of circumcision and submit to the law of Moses in order to be accepted into the true

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### APPLICATION:

The fact that Peter could be led astray is a strong warning to every believer.

⇒ We must guard against an unrighteous walk, against not being true to the gospel.

**“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ep.4:14).**

⇒ We must guard against a hypocritical walk, against living one way while telling others to live another way.

**“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Mt.7:3).**

**“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Lk.6:46).**

### ILLUSTRATION:

Are you an honest person? If you were given an “honesty test,” would you pass or fail? The Lord gave Peter an honesty test in the area of relationships...and he failed, proving to be hypocritical. The Christian believer is charged to be honest in his relationships with others.

*In Moody Monthly...George Sweeting writes about the desperate need for honesty in our culture. He refers to Dr. Madison Sarratt, who taught mathematics at Vanderbilt University for many years. Before giving a test, the professor would admonish his class something like this: “Today I am giving two examinations, one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both. If you must fail one, fail trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can’t pass trig. But there are no good people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty” (Paul Lee Tan. Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times, p.560.)*

**3. A BELIEVER IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE (vv.15-16).** Note that Paul now identifies himself with the Jews, for he was a Jew by nature, that is, by birth. Note also the reference to the Gentiles as “sinners.” The meaning is rank sinners. The Jews considered themselves to be religionists and considered the Gentiles to be rank sinners. What Paul was saying is this: *all Jews (religionists) who had believed in Christ* had confessed the very same thing the rank sinners had confessed: a person is justified by faith alone and not by the works of the law.

By coming to Christ, the Jewish religionists were confessing that their religion, ritual, works, and law were not able to save them.

### QUESTIONS:

1. You have heard it said, “Don’t do as I do; do as I say.” What expectations do you place on others that you refuse to apply to your own life?
2. Can you identify any reasons why some believers act differently when they get around other people? Do you act differently? Or is your life consistent no matter who you are around?
3. What are some ways you can keep from being hypocritical?

They needed something more, much more; therefore, they had turned to Christ. Note three crucial points.

1. *A person is not justified and made acceptable to God by works nor by law.* Why? Because man is short of God’s glory; he is imperfect, incomplete, and less than what he should be. Yet everything that lives in God’s presence must be perfect and complete, full to the ultimate degree, for God is the very embodiment of perfection, completeness, and fullness. Therefore man, who is imperfect and incomplete, cannot stand or live in God’s presence.

However, a question needs to be asked: Is there a work that man can do or a law that he can keep that will make him perfect? God says, “No!” For everything that an imperfect being does is imperfect and incomplete. An imperfect being cannot do anything perfectly good, and certainly not good enough to make him perfect. An imperfect man is short of God’s perfection; therefore, no matter what man does, he is short of what he should be. He could always be better and do better.

Hence, man is not saved by works nor by law. If our salvation is dependent upon some works that we can do, then we are hopelessly lost. For what work can we do that will make us a perfect and eternal creature? No man can make us perfect and eternal and cause us to live forever in a perfect and righteous world—and we know it. What can any person do to make his loved one live forever—to be perfected and made eternal? There is no work that we can do or law that we can keep to save ourselves from unrighteousness and death. If we are to be justified before God, accepted as perfect and complete, it will not be by the works of the law.

**“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Ro.3:19-20).**

What then is our hope? How can we become justified, made perfect and complete before God? God says there is only one way. Note the middle of the verse: we must believe “in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ” (v.16).

2. *A person is justified by the faith of Christ alone* (see A CLOSER LOOK, Justification—discussed later in this study).
3. *No person is ever justified by works nor by law* (see A CLOSER LOOK, Faith vs. Works—discussed later in this study).

### ILLUSTRATION:

Many a man has tried to make it over to the other side (from earth to heaven) without trusting Christ. Every one of them, without exception, has failed.

The Bible says that we are justified by faith in Christ alone. Remember, justification means that God counts our faith in Christ as righteousness, counts us acceptable to Him.

*Years ago a strong wire was stretched across Niagara River, just above the roaring falls. It was announced that a tightrope walker would walk on that suspended wire from the American to the Canadian side. The thrilling moment for the death-defying fete arrived. Great crowds watched with wide-eyed wonderment as the*

man performed, with calm deliberateness, the awesome stunt. The people cheered wildly!

Then the performer did an even more daring thing. He began to push a wheelbarrow with a grooved wheel across the suspended wire. At the conclusion of this breath-taking performance, thunderous applause went up. The performer observed a boy whose wonderment was clearly discernible on his bright face. Asked the man, "My boy, do you believe that I could put you in this wheelbarrow and push you over the falls?" "Oh, yes," said the boy quickly. "Then, get in the wheelbarrow," said the man. Instantly the boy dashed away! In reality he did not believe that the tightrope walker could take him safely across the falls. (Walter B. Knight. *Knight's Treasury of 2,000 Illustrations*, p.117.)

Have you come to the place in your life where you trust Christ enough to get into the wheelbarrow?

### A CLOSER LOOK:

(2:16) **Justification:** to count someone righteous. It means to reckon, to credit, to account, to judge, to treat, to look upon as righteous. It does not mean to *make* a man righteous. All Greek verbs which end in "oun" mean not to make someone something, but merely to count, to judge, to treat someone as something.

There are three major points to note about justification.

1. Why justification is necessary.
  - a. Justification is necessary because of the sin and alienation of man. Man has rebelled against God and taken his life into his own hands. Man lives as he desires...
    - fulfilling the lust of the eyes and of the flesh
    - clinging to the pride of life and to the things of the world

### QUESTIONS:

1. What justifies you in the sight of God?
2. Is perfection in your own strength possible? Why or why not? What does God expect out of you if you cannot perfect yourself?
3. In what practical ways does God challenge you to trust Him even when you do not know the outcome?
4. Why is it sometimes hard to trust God?

Man has become sinful and ungodly, an enemy of God, pushing God out of his life and wanting little if anything to do with God. Man has separated and alienated himself from God.

- b. Justification is necessary because of the anger and wrath of God. "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Ps.7:11). Sin has aroused God's anger and wrath. God is angry over man's...

Man has turned his back upon God, pushing God away and having little to do with Him. Man has not made God the center of his life; man has broken his relationship with God (discussed later in this study). Therefore, the greatest need in man's life is to discover the answer to the question: How can the relationship between man and God be restored?

2. Why God justifies a man. God justifies a man because of His Son Jesus Christ. When a man believes in Jesus Christ, God takes that man's faith and counts it as righteousness. The man is not righteous, but God considers and credits the man's faith as righteousness. Why is God willing to do this?

- a. God is willing to justify man because He loves man that much. God loves man so much that He sent His Son into the world to sacrifice Him in order to justify man (Jn.3:16; Ro.5:8).

- rebellion • ungodliness • sin
- hostility • unrighteousness • desertion

- b. God is willing to justify man because of what His Son Jesus Christ has done for man.

⇒ Jesus Christ came into the world to secure (or to become) the Ideal righteousness for man. He came to earth to live a sinless and perfect life. As Man He never broke the law of God; He never went contrary to the will of God, not even once. Therefore, He stood before God and before the world as the Ideal Man, the Perfect Man, the Representative Man, the Perfect Righteousness that could stand for the righteousness of every man.

⇒ Jesus Christ came into the world to die for man. As the Ideal Man He could take all the sins of the world upon Himself and die for every man. His death could stand for every man. He exchanged places with man by becoming the sinner (2 Co.5:19). He bore the wrath of God against sin, bearing the condemnation for every man. Again, He was able to do this because He was the Ideal Man, and as the Ideal Man His death could stand for the death of every man.

⇒ Jesus Christ came into the world to arise from the dead and thereby to conquer death for man. As the Ideal Man His resurrection and exaltation into the presence of God could stand for every man's desperate need to conquer death and to be acceptable to God. His resurrected life could stand for the resurrected life of the believer.

Now, as stated above, when a man believes in Jesus Christ—really believes—God takes that man's belief and...

- counts it as the righteousness (perfection) of Christ. The man is counted as righteous in Christ.
- counts it as the death of Christ. The man is counted as having already died in Christ, as having already paid the penalty for sin in the death of Christ.
- counts it as the resurrection of Christ. The man is counted as already having been resurrected in Christ.

Very simply, God loves His Son Jesus Christ so much that He honors any man who honors His Son by believing on Him. He honors the man by taking the man's faith and counting (crediting) it as righteousness and by giving him the glorious privilege of living with Christ forever in the presence of God.

3. How God justifies a man. The word justify is a legal word taken from the courts. It pictures man on trial before God. Man is seen as having committed the most heinous of crimes; he has rebelled

against God and broken his relationship with God. How can he restore that relationship? Within human courts if a man is acquitted, he is declared innocent, but this is not true within the Divine Court. When a man appears before God, he is anything but innocent; he is utterly guilty and condemned accordingly.

But when a man sincerely trusts Christ, then God takes that man's faith and counts it as righteousness. By such God counts the man—judges him, treats him—as if he were innocent. The man is not made innocent; he is guilty. He knows it and God knows it, but God treats him as innocent. "God justifies the ungodly"—an incredible mercy, a wondrous grace.

How do we know this? How can we know for sure that God is like this? Because Jesus said so. He said that God loves us. We are sinners, yes; but Christ said that we are very, very dear to God.

**"And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Ge.15:6).**

**"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ro.5:1).**

### A CLOSER LOOK:

(2:16) **Faith vs. Works—Self-Righteousness:** Why is it that a man can never be justified nor secure righteousness by works and law? Why is it that a man can never approach God by works and law?

1. There are two ways that a man can try to secure righteousness and approach God.
  - a. A man can try to work to secure righteousness; he can do all he can to keep the law of God and to please God. But note: a man can do this...
    - only if he can keep the law perfectly, never breaking it once and never violating it a single time...
    - only if he can make sure that every single thing he ever does or thinks is perfectly good and righteous and pure...
    - only if he can please God in every act, word, and thought, never displeasing God in anything.

Only if a man can do this can he secure righteousness by works and law. But what man can be perfect and good and

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why is justification necessary?
2. Why is God so willing to justify you?
3. There are a lot of 'good people' in the world. Is that sufficient reason to be called righteous by God? Why or why not?

righteous and pure in every single act, word, and thought? It is absolutely impossible to secure righteousness by works and law. A person may try to approach God through works and law, but he can never achieve perfection—not the perfect righteousness and holiness required to see God.

**"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (He.12:14).**

- b. A man can believe that Jesus Christ is God's gift of righteousness to the world—that God so loved the world...

- that He gave His Son to live a perfect life upon earth in order to secure the Perfect and Ideal Righteousness for man.
- that He gave His Son to take the unrighteousness of man upon Himself and to die for man, that is, to bear the judgment of unrighteousness for man.
- that he gave His Son to arise from the dead for man in order to conquer death and to give man a new and perfect life that is eternal.

⇒ A man can believe that God loves him and takes his faith in Christ and counts it as righteousness.

⇒ A man can believe that God loves him and accepts him because he honors His Son Jesus Christ—honors Jesus Christ by believing and following Him.

⇒ A man can believe that God loves His Son so much that He will take any man who honors His Son and do anything for him. If the man believes in Jesus Christ for righteousness, then God will count the man righteous.

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph.2:8-9).**

2. Note another point: the two ways that men try to approach God are completely different from each other. Faith and works are incompatible. Faith is always the opposite of works.
  - ⇒ If a man works to keep the law in order to be righteous, then he can offer to God only *self-righteousness*, only the righteousness of the works *he has done*.
  - ⇒ If a man trusts the righteousness of Jesus Christ *for his righteousness*, then he can offer the righteousness of Christ to God. He can come to God in the righteousness of Christ.

God always accepts the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ. For any man who truly trusts the righteousness of Christ—who truly gives Christ all he is and has—God accepts that man's trust as righteousness. The man is not righteous, but God takes his trust in Christ and accepts it as righteousness.

3. Note still another fact: a man who *believes God for righteousness* approaches God entirely differently than the man who approaches God in his own self-righteousness.
  - a. The man who approaches God in his own righteousness...
    - presents his self-righteousness to God *by himself*.
    - depends upon his own righteousness.
    - trust his own righteousness.
    - believes in his own righteousness.
    - declares that he has the strength and power to take himself righteous and acceptable to God.
  - b. The man who approaches God in the righteousness of Jesus

Christ...

- presents his love and trust in the righteousness of Jesus Christ as his righteousness. (God could never turn down a person who loved and trusted His Son with all his heart.
- rejects dependence upon himself and depends upon the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- gives up trusting his own righteousness and trusts the righteousness of Christ.
- no longer believes in his own righteousness, but believes in Christ for righteousness.
- declares that he does not have the power to make himself righteous and acceptable to God; he trusts the power of God to make him righteous and acceptable.

Note what this is saying: a man either believes he has the power to save himself and to keep himself from dying or else he believes that God has the power to save him. A man either trusts his own power for salvation and life or else he trusts God's power. If he believes that he has the power to save himself, then he works to make himself righteous and to live forever. If he believes that God alone has the power to save him, then he trusts God for righteousness and life.

In conclusion, no one is ever justified by works or by law. We may try to secure righteousness by works and law, but it is always self-righteousness, and self-righteousness always ends up with self: in the grave—dead, having passed the way of all flesh—short of God's glory and perfection and disqualified from ever living with God. Self-righteousness is never acceptable to God; works and law can never justify a man and make him perfect.

However, we can secure righteousness by faith. We can trust God as a child trusts his father. We can trust that God loves us enough to count our love and trust for His Son as righteousness.

*FAITH IN CHRIST IS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT MAKES A PERSON ACCEPTABLE TO GOD*

**“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Ro.10:4).**

4. Note one other fact: righteousness by works honors and makes man supreme and preeminent, the center and core of life. Righteousness by faith honors God and makes God supreme and preeminent, the center and core of life. God is the One to be obeyed out of a heart of love, adoration, and appreciation for what He has done (Ro.2:29).

#### **4. A BELIEVER IS NOT MISLED BY CHRIST (vv.17-18).**

The question is, “Could Christ be making us sinners by our trusting that we are justified by faith in Him alone?” Some argued that Paul was making Christ a minister of sin. Their reasoning went like this: when men turned away from the law to trust Christ for righteousness, Christ caused them to sin, for Christ made it easy for them to transgress the law. They said that Christ tore down the law, for He led men

away from the law. He removed the restraints and barriers of the law; therefore, men became transgressors by rejecting the law.

Paul simply says two things about this argument. First, God forbid! Second, the man who tries to keep the law makes himself a sinner, for it is the law that condemns him (Ga.3:19).

The believer, of course, rejects the righteousness which comes by law, for the law gives him no righteousness. It only shows him where his failures are. The law condemns his conscience and makes him feel miserable and broken. However, the law has its place in the plan of God just as much as faith does. Very simply, when a man sees what God has done for him, he is driven to please God. The believer sees Christ bearing the guilt and punishment for his crimes (sins) and then bows in love and adoration and arises to work in appreciation for such amazing love. The believer tries to be good, not to earn or to win righteousness but to serve God out of appreciation for salvation. He does not try to put God in debt for salvation, but he thanks God for righteousness. He sees that he owes God whatever service he can perform. The genuine believer has come to know above all others that love is a much stronger force than fear. He follows Christ—does all he can to live like Christ—because he loves Christ. He loves Him because Christ has done so much for Him.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How many perfect men have lived in this world? How many have tried to be perfect but failed? Would you consider yourself to be in this category? Have you struggled to be righteous enough to please God and earn your salvation by yourself?
2. Why are faith and works incompatible?
3. What would cause a man to believe that he could save himself?

**“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” (2 Co.5:14-15).**

#### **5. A BELIEVER IS JUSTIFIED BY LIVING FOR GOD (vv.19-21).**

A believer lives for God by doing four things.

1. The believer lives for God by dying to the law. The law shows a man that he is a sinner and that he comes ever so short of perfection and righteousness. The law shows man that he is to be punished and separated from the society of God forever. The law shows man that he stands no chance of ever being accepted by God—not if he has to approach God by keeping the law. He just cannot keep the law—not continually, not consistently—for he is always coming short of the law and of God's glory. The law slays man; it kills him and condemns him to death. The only hope man ever has of being acceptable to God is to die to the law—somehow, some way to be delivered out from under the law—to be removed so far away from the law that it has no bearing upon him. How can man do this? By turning away from the law and finding Someone who can stir God to count him righteous and to accept him. The first thing that a man must do in order to live for God is to die to the law and to self-righteous works.
2. The believer lives for God by being crucified with Christ (v.20). How in the world can a man be crucified with Christ when Christ died so many centuries ago? Scripture tells us how. When a man believes that Jesus Christ died for him—that Jesus Christ bore the punishment of sin for him—God takes that man's faith and...

- counts his faith as his having died in Christ.

- counts his faith as his identification with Christ in death.
- counts his faith as his having already been punished for sin in the death of Christ.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of the law in the Christian's life?
2. What motivates your love for Christ? Have you ever loved Him for the wrong reasons?
3. Contrast the law with grace. Which one of these has the greatest influence on your life now?

As Scripture says, the man is "crucified with Christ." God counts or credits the believer as having already died—as having died with Christ.

3. The believer lives for God by allowing Christ to live His life through his body. Now note: the believer is "crucified with Christ," yet he is still living upon earth. However, he is not to be the one in charge of his life. By faith he has died with Christ; therefore, he is to live with Christ. He is to allow Christ to live in and through his body, to control and to be in charge of his life.

⇒ The believer is to be so merged into Christ that it is as though Christ is walking upon the earth in his body.

⇒ The believer is to be so much in union and fellowship with Christ that it is as though he be but a branch drawing his very life and nourishment from Christ (see the Vine and the branches, Jn.15:1-6).

#### APPLICATION 1:

Jesus Christ (God's Spirit) lives in the body of the believer.

**"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (Jn.15:4-5).**

#### APPLICATION 2:

The believer is to allow Christ to live through his body.

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Ro.12:1-2).**

4. The believer lives for God by trusting the grace of God, that is, by trusting Jesus Christ who is God's righteousness. The word "frustrate" means to set aside, void, invalidate, make ineffective, and nullify. If a man sets aside the grace of God to seek righteousness by the law, then Christ died in vain. The person who preaches that a man can be good enough—that he can work enough and keep enough law—to become righteous and acceptable to God...

- voids and does away with the love and grace of God

- makes the death of Christ empty and meaningless

The only way a man can live for God is by trusting the grace and love of God, that is, by trusting the death of Jesus Christ for His righteousness.

**"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Ph.3:9).**

#### ILLUSTRATION:

Have you ever thought about what it means to live a crucified life? Imagine the following happening to a church in your community:

In the middle of a church service, Jesus Christ Himself walked right down the center isle of a large church and positioned Himself behind the pulpit. As you can imagine, there was great excitement. A pulsating electricity ran through the congregation.

On the edge of their seats, the people waited for His profound words. *"Go with Me today to the local shopping mall and witness for Me."* The assembly was a little shocked by His request. After all, their church was trying to do all the right things to bring people in. But, because it was Jesus doing the asking, they decided to do as He said and follow Him to the mall. It would be hard to witness, but they would.

The next week, Jesus came back to the church again. By this time, the congregation was feeling honored that He would take the time to visit their church. Again, they sat in their chairs, wondering what He would say. Truthfully, they expected Him to ease up after the last week's difficult challenge. *"Go with Me and comfort those who are in the prison. And then, reach out to their families by including them in your times of fellowship."* Everyone was shocked! The mall was a safe place to share with people that they would never see again (hopefully). But now, He was asking them to get close to people they had no desire to be around.

But again, because it was Jesus, they did everything that He asked them to do. It was awkward at times, but they all lived through the experience, and those who were visited seemed to really appreciate their efforts. Jesus came back to the same church for the final time the following week. By this time they had gotten used to His visits. They figured they had passed His test of faithfulness and that He would bless them and go on His way. As was His custom, He walked to the pulpit. One man in the congregation shouted out: *"Jesus, what do you want us to do for you today? We've blocked out the whole afternoon to go with you. What's it going to be today? Nursing homes, soup kitchens, visiting widows? Like I've said; we've scheduled you in for the whole afternoon."* With eyes that pierced through their shallow hearts, He said, *"Today, I want you to take up your cross, deny yourself, and follow Me up that hill and die."* *"Die?! We don't understand. How can we serve you if we die? We're doing a lot of good things down here and dying on a cross would ruin everything that we've done."*

Like these church people, many of us have missed the purpose of the cross. Crosses were not made for carrying...they were made for dying. There should be no pride in the number and weight of the crosses we carry. Their purpose is for our death to self.

#### SUMMARY:

If you have wandered away from the Good Shepherd, there is good news for you: He wants you to come back home, and He is coming to meet you with open arms. In the future, instead of backsliding away from Him, run to Him. To review the main points, remember:

1. Paul boldly confronted Peter.
2. A believer cannot have double standards.

3. A believer is justified by faith alone.
4. A believer is not misled by Christ.
5. A believer is justified by living for God.

**PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES**  
**(Reflection & Response)**

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The area that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Statement of Commitment:

2. Do you fully comprehend what it means to have the Holy Spirit living in you? What insights come to your mind as you resist daily temptations?
3. In what practical ways can you nurture and cultivate your trusting God for His grace?

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**QUESTIONS:**

1. What part of you is the hardest to put to death? Your tongue? Your thoughts? Your actions? Why does it have such a powerful grip on your life? What can you do to control it, to squelch it?

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Since writing *To Kill a Lion: Destroying the Power of Lust from the Root*, I have come to the conclusion that many sexual problems exist because people do not understand the blessing of their sexuality and therefore they fall into sexual bondage and guilt. So what do I mean?

Many people are led to believe that something is wrong with them because they are tempted sexually. What they really believe is that their sexuality is part of the "flesh" and therefore bad. This couldn't be farther from the truth. In my seminar called *Sexuality and Intimacy in Marriage*, I begin with teaching participants from the Bible that *sex is good*, that it was created by God as a blessing. It is a strong, positive, motivational force.

Here is where we must begin—accepting and enjoying that God made us sexual beings! But we must also realize that Satan always counterfeits the things of God. Sex was designed by God to be enjoyed by a man and woman who are married to each other.

Several years ago, I performed a wedding ceremony of two young people. They asked me to give them their final marriage counseling talk at the wedding in front of their guests. In my talk to them, I mentioned that part of a healthy marriage is having a healthy sexual life. I said that sex for married couples is a "celebration" of their oneness with each other. I told them that even though many people neglect this area, they must not! I also told them that "modesty" in marriage is not appropriate. God said that Adam and Eve were "naked and not ashamed." (The word "ashamed" means "modest.")

Afterwards I had the best and worst reactions to a message I ever got at a wedding. The good came from those who understood the blessing of sex to a marriage couple, but the bad came from those who somehow learned that sex was bad or inappropriate to talk about publicly. My answer to that is that the reason we have so many people in sexual bondage and guilt is because we don't teach the Godliness of

sex, and the evil of Satan's counterfeit, so therefore people are confused and express their sexual feelings in immoral ways.

Often people think that sex is bad because they have been sexually abused. Sexual abuse is one of the most damaging acts on earth to a person's life and heart. Healthy sex flourishes ONLY in an environment of love, humility, sensitivity and understanding.

If you have felt guilty for being sexual, stop now and thank God that healthy people are sexual people, but also ask God to bring your sexual desires under His control so that He can be glorified in all you do.

## To Kill a Lion

**Destroying the Power of Lust From the Root**



This is a new book by Bruce Lengeman designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is "Men cry out, I know it is wrong, but why can't I stop!" The book is for both counselors and strugglers. *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their own sexuality, and what makes it operate "out of alignment" with God's design. You'll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

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**Sin will take you further**

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**Keep you longer**

## Commitment

-by Lyn Miller

Commitment is a word packed with meaning. I used to think I understood the meaning of this word when I married my husband. But in time, I realized that commitment does not mean what you think it means when it requires something of you. Neither does it encourage your spouse to do something you don't like. It doesn't even encourage you to hurt us. And it doesn't encourage us to hurt each other. In fact, sometimes it calls for great sacrifice.

Recently, I needed to give something up that was very dear to my heart and it had to do with something that came up between my husband and I.

I am not saying that our husbands should not be sensitive to our needs and wants, likes and dislikes, dreams and goals, but when something is consistently happening between two people, it is time to give that something to God. It may only be a short term sacrifice.



Sometimes when we yield, our spouse may realize they are more important than that thing, and not feel so threatened by it, or it may be a situation that is not an issue in the future.

When we yield some of our Lord's control, He rewards us by giving it back.

Sometimes He gives us something better.

When God requires us to give something up, we don't always know whether we will get it back, however, God promises us that the water He gives us will quench our thirst. We can rest in that promise, and know that anything God gives us is the real deal and will satisfy us more than anything the world or our flesh has to offer. Oh I know, it can sometimes be hard to see past our flesh and desires. Some things are not easy to give up. Among those are relationships or addictions.

The thing I needed to give up for my husband was a relationship. I am struggling with resentment that I need to give up a perfectly good friendship just because it makes him feel insecure. This really hurts and feels unfair. But the question at hand: is it worth it to hang onto something that compromises our relationship?

To whom did I commit my life? The answer is, my husband. And that is what matters. I do not have the promise of ever being able to communicate with this person again. But I do have good memories, and I know that we are still friends even though we are not an active part of each other's lives. And though I feel sad right now, I have joy and peace because I know I made the right decision.

Commitment—the choice to be faithful to keep a promise, no matter what the cost may be. My husband is worth that commitment.

Why are there so many young people leaving their parents and the Amish culture?

- ◆ Is it because the days are evil and according to Romans 1:30 and II Tim 3:2, it will just end that way?
- ◆ Is it because young people want to know why they are required to live differently from the rest of American society and are not getting solid answers (at least in their own mind) that make sense?
- ◆ Is it because more and more Amish youth have cell phones and are able to stay connected with their friends who left before them and, in the process, get talked into leaving too?
- ◆ Is it because the Amish population continues to grow (doubling in size every 15 years). And as it grows, the number of youth leaving becomes greater too?

Chances are, all of these areas are playing a part in why more and more Amish youth are leaving their parents and culture. However, I am convinced there is one reason that has not yet been pointed out, and it is the main one. Maybe the only one in many cases. Let me explain:

In my 25 years of counseling run-away Amish youth, between the ages of 16 and 19, I have found that in every single case, the *emotional connection* between child and parent was lost early in life. And as the *emotional connection* dwindled between child and parent, the child became more and more connected to *something* or *someone* else.

What continues to trouble me more than anything: oftentimes, as the *emotional connection* between parent and child breaks down, many parents add to the turmoil by responding to their child in a negative way. By that, I mean, rather than take time to reconnect the broken relationship, the parent chooses to become more controlling and aggressive, which in turn drives the child even further away.

I believe in discipline because the Bible says so. In Proverbs 13:24, Solomon writes: *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (promptly).”* We must use the rod, but just as importantly as it is to use the rod, it is ever so important that we love and hug on our children. They need to know that dad and mom believe in them; that they are appreciated and special.

The following is a true story that happened about 10 years ago. Atlee, at the age of 18 decided he no longer wanted to be

Amish. So one night he got in contact with one of his buddies who had left previously and asked him to come and pick him up. Atlee said, “I’ve had all I can take and I’m coming free from all the authority and rules that are driving me crazy.”

The day after Atlee left, I met up with him and I said, “Atlee, I have just three questions for you:

**[Question #1]** When was the last time your parents said they loved you?

To which he replied, “never!” — “they have never told me that I am loved!”

**[Question #2]** When was the last time you received a hug from either one of your parents?

Again, Atlee replied “never! I don’t remember ever getting a hug.”

**[Question #3]** When was the last time your parents said, “Atlee, we want you to know, we really appreciate you a lot. You are a hard worker and we are very thankful for everything you do around here.”

And again, Atlee replied, “Joe, I have not once in 18 years heard any of those words.” In fact, he said, “it has been quite the opposite. My dad is always hollering at me. I can never seem to measure up, regardless of how hard I try.”

Dear reader, can you see what was happening in Atlee’s life? Do you blame him for wanting to leave his parents?

What happened in Atlee’s situation is happening in many of other homes. And oftentimes, when the son or daughter leaves the Amish, the parent’s first reaction is to blame someone else for what happened.

Either they will blame the person s/he was hanging around with, or they will blame the person who helped them leave. I don’t mean to sound cruel or mean but it’s the truth.

Maybe at this point, it would be good to remind ourselves that blaming others for our own shortcomings started with the first couple in the Garden of Eden. Remember how God came to Adam in chapter 3 of Genesis—after they had eaten the forbidden fruit—God asked, *“Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?”* and Adam replied, *“The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”*

The first thing Adam did was blame

his wife. So God turned to Eve and asked, *“What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled (deceived) me, and I did eat.”* Again, the blame was passed on to someone else.

Six thousand years have not made any difference at all when it comes to pushing the blame on others, myself included. We all stand guilty before God.

But in the context of our question, today (*Why are there so many young people*

*leaving their parents and the Amish culture?*) let’s be honest with ourselves and evaluate the relationships between us and our children. What do they look like? When was the last time you reminded them how much you appreciate, love and cherish them? If it has been more than 2 or 3 months, it has been too long. They need to hear it on a regular basis. We all need to hear it often.

My challenge to you is, regardless of what your *emotional connection* looks like with your children, don’t let this day end before you take each one aside and love on them. They need to hear it even more if they are at the beginning stages of adulthood.

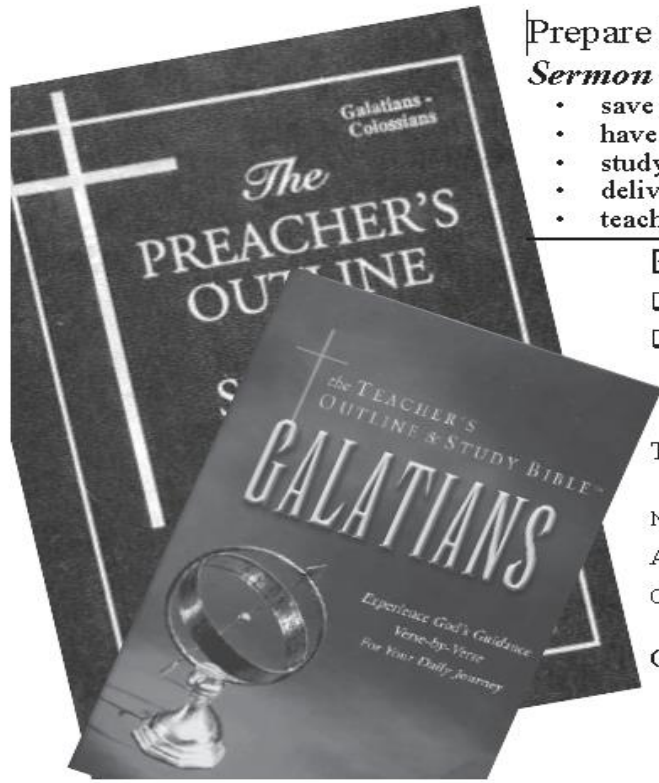
Early stages of adulthood often brings new concerns about body image and appearance. Both girls and boys who never before gave much thought to their looks may suddenly spend hours worrying and complaining—about being too short, too tall, too fat, too skinny or too pimply. They may even appear to be lazy, but don’t let any of these changes keep you from telling them how special they are.

Lastly, we would love to hear from you, concerning this topic. We’ll even print it in the next Amish Voice, if you let us. That is, if you get it to me by May 15th.

May the Lord favor you with courage, wisdom and a heart that spills over with love and appreciation for your children.

**And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. —Ephesians 6:4**

**Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. —Proverbs 18:21**



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We are never going to purify the water by painting the pump.

That's legalism, and that's a dead end to discovering who you are in Christ.

—Get in the Wheelbarrow, Cont from back cover—

of the New Testament. Many find the gospel of John the most revealing.

When Jesus Christ came, many missed the event because they failed to consider the evidence that was presented. Prophets from long ago spoke of what he would be like, but it took eyes of faith to see, just as it does today. The angels rejoiced in the presence of the shepherds on that hillside near Bethlehem that a Savior was born. Did you realize angels are concerned about you personally? That makes the Bible a personal message. *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.* (Luke 15: 10)

This statement is true of you as well as me. Jesus came to save those who call upon his name. Because all have sinned; all have need of a Savior. (Romans 3: 23)

That too requires faith since scripture makes the claim. Do you believe that any sin will meet its just reward and that the wages of sin is death? Some say, "Oh, I'm not that bad. I believe the good will outweigh the bad". Unfortunately, that's not in the Bible. If we had a chance of making it to heaven by doing good, Jesus would not have needed to give his life as a ransom. By faith we understand we have need of a savior and by faith we reach out when we are

convicted of sin. Our good works will not get us across. The first substitute most people look to is good works. Now it so happens that I love to see good works, but the Bible says they will not save any one of us.

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us... —Titus 3:5*

But what if I don't feel saved? Do I not trust? For most people, faith comes before feeling. Even though the feeling may not be there, the fact remains; God will honor his promises. Will you place your complete trust in Jesus?

**FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. —EPH 2:8-9**

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. —Acts 4:12*

How is one saved from all his sin and the fiery judgment of hell?

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. —Romans 10:13*

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# Current Resident

## Get Into the Wheelbarrow!

— by Eli Stutzman

Years ago when I was young in the faith, I became enthused about the gospel message as I understood it more and more. A young man in my Sunday school class came to me expressing how he thought I perhaps had found the **key to faith**. I pondered that because I had never thought of faith having or needing a key. The Bible says; *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (Hebrews 11: 1)



You have probably heard people speak of "blind faith". I do not believe that faith is blind. Faith has eyes as surely as we have natural eyes. Verse 6 of the same chapter says: *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

It is clear that faith is the key element in pleasing God. The Bible tells us that everything was created by the spoken word. Do you believe that? Look into the night sky and consider how far away those stars are. They look so interesting. What are they made of? They could be made of one solid diamond or

other precious stone. We have no way of knowing.

The function of the human body is largely guided by DNA, the instructions that came with you when you were born. Your unraveled DNA would go to the sun, or even Pluto, many, many times. There are about six feet of DNA in every single cell in your body. Does that not speak of a creator? No wonder it says that we are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" —Psalm 139:14.

Most of us have no problem believing in creation when we consider the evidence. The heavens and the earth speak of a creator to those who have eyes of faith. This I will call basic faith. This kind of faith is necessary before we have personal faith, but doesn't put self on the line.

Let me illustrate what personal faith looks like. In 1859 Charles Blondin walked across Niagara Falls in various modes, one which involved pushing a wheelbarrow on that rope. After a successful crossing, he stopped and addressed his audience: "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" The crowd shouted, "Yes, yes, yes! "Okay," said Blondin, "Get in the wheelbarrow!" The Blondin story is that no one did!



Now I admit that if I were there I would not have jumped into that wheelbarrow either. Faith would have to be built first. I would look him in the eye and ask if he was certain he could do it.

The least hesitation and I would be gone! Then I would ask those who knew him best if they trusted him completely and why. All the while I keep the underlying question in mind; can I place my trust in him?

If we want to increase our faith in Jesus Christ, we study His claims to see if they are true and dependable. Faith is no longer blind, it just sees beyond natural sight. All the while as we study, the question is on our mind; can I trust him fully? Your confidence in the work of Jesus Christ as it applies to you will grow as you look at the evidence. That evidence is the testimony of the writers

—Continued inside, page 11—