LESSON 7

SUBJECT: Works and Faith

BACKGROUND: Galatians 2:11-21

MEMORY VERSE: 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 2:20b NIV

LESSON AIM: To help believers see the danger of legalism and trust that salvation comes not from the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

I. CONFRONTATION WITH PETER: GALATIANS 2:11-14

1. Where did Paul and Peter (Cephas) have a confrontation? Locate. Galatians 2:11a

2. Why did Paul challenge and rebuke Peter? Galatians 2:11b-12a

3. Who is the James mentioned in Galatians 2:12? Galatians 1:19

4. Why did Peter have this lapse? Galatians 2:12b

5. What things cause Christians today to fall back from what they have professed?

6. When had Peter previously been criticized for associating with Gentiles? Do you think this challenge had an affect on Peter’s later decision that Paul criticized? Acts 11:2-3

7. Who had been influenced by Peter’s act? How does Paul describe their action? Galatians 2:13


9. If Peter had not been corrected what do you think could have happened in the church?

10. What were Peter and other Christian Jews not following? Galatians 2:14a

11. Did Paul challenge Peter publicly or privately? Why do you think he use this approach? Galatians 2:14b

12. What did Paul attempt to get Peter to see? Galatians 2:14c

II. JUSTIFIED BY FAITH: GALATIANS 2:15-18

13. How had Paul and Peter become Jews? What had they avoided? Galatians 2:15

14. Define the biblical term “justification”. Use a Bible Dictionary. (In the doctrine of salvation, the declaration that the human has been restored to a state of righteousness in God’s sight. The Concise Dictionary of Christian Theology.)
15. How is a person justified? Galatians 2:16

16. How has Christ accomplished our justification? 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 4:25

17. Who were the Judaizers? Acts 15:1 Use a Bible Dictionary. (Judaizers were early converts to Christianity who tried to force believers from non-Jewish backgrounds to adopt Jewish customs as a condition of salvation. Evidence of this movement within the early church first emerged about A.D. 49, when "certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved'' (Acts 15:1). The apostle Paul denounced this idea, insisting that only one thing is necessary for salvation: faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:1-29). In the letter to the Galatians, Paul continued this same argument, insisting that the believer is justified by faith alone. To become a new person in Christ is to be set free from the requirements of the Jewish law: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation" (Galatians 6:15). Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

18. What were the Judaizers accusing such Christians as Paul and Peter of because they ate with Gentiles? Galatians 2:17

19. Who did Paul say could not be the blame for our sins? Galatians 2:17

20. Both Peter and Paul had helped to destroy the effort to make Gentiles first become Jews before becoming Christians. If either of them attempted to build again such things what would they be guilty of committing? Galatians 2:18

21. Why did Paul say he had to die to the law? Galatians 2:19; Romans 7:16

22. How are we to identify with Christ who died for our sins on the cross? If we do, what will happen? Galatians 2:20a

23. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ?
   Romans 6:6, 10
   Luke 9:23

24. How are we to live through our crucified and risen Christ? Galatians 2:20b

25. What were the Judaizers trying to frustrate with their actions that Paul refuse to participate? Galatians 2:21

26. If we attempt to gain salvation by the law, what are we saying about Christ's death? Galatians 2:21b

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION
27. What false gospel were the Galatian Christians entering?

28. How did Peter show a hypocritical behavior?

29. How did the Judaizers attempt to pervert the gospel of grace?

30. How did Peter compromise the gospel of grace?

31. How did Paul defend the gospel of grace?

32. According to this lesson from what bondage are we delivered?