

## Galatians 2:11-21

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### Criss-Crossed Christianity

#### I. Intro: Family Photo #1

- A. A quick introduction: my name is Arron Moon. I pastor a CC in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and I'm here with my family, Vicky, and my two girls, Julianna and Jenavieve. We are actually here this time in the US because my son, Arron Jr is graduating from Liberty University. I also have a daughter, Jocelyn, attending Liberty.
- B. I'm so privileged to be with you and to be able to come and report back or to testify of all the Lord has been doing in Southeast Asia. It has been truly amazing to see the Holy Spirit move and work and draw people to His church weekly. Paul shows us this example in **Acts 14:27**.
  - 1. **Upon arriving in Antioch, they called the church together and reported everything God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, too. Acts 14:27**
- C. Many people have asked me how do you plant a church or what is the methodology for being a missionary and I'll be honest I don't have the answers but I know the Lord does and it's about being faithful and taking the next step. I'd like to quote Chuck Smith in my word for today Bible.
  - 1. **"The church must depend on the Spirit for guidance, strength, and help, rather than on human ingenuity"-Chuck Smith**
- D. Chuck Smith often shared that true church growth and spiritual success come not through human effort but through reliance on the Holy Spirit. He often cited **Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."** **Pic of the church #2**
- E. We have been so blessed just to be a part of what God has been doing in Southeast Asia. We would've never planned it this way or set out expecting what's taken place weekly. We see people walking into the church, who have never set foot in a church. They never have had a Bible in their hands. And I asked them how they got there, and they simply said they don't even know or understand. They just know that they needed to come and learn more about Jesus. I just talked to Jonny, who is leading the church while I'm gone, and he said he wouldn't believe what happened this Sunday.

1. This very thing happens almost weekly, along with them getting saved and getting baptized and then going and sharing with their families who Jesus is and what he's done for them.
- F. We have been blessed to witness many come to know Jesus. At one point, we had baptisms for almost 6 weeks straight, every Sunday. One of the sweetest memories was of a man who came to our church for months, never saying much, and then came up one time saying he wanted to be baptized. Then, a month or two later, his wife started coming, and his daughter, an adult daughter, I could see the Holy Spirit moving. I waited not long after that, and the daughter had to leave to go back to work. She ended up getting a job in Australia, even though she was from the country north of us. After she left, the mom accepted Christ.
1. Here's a **picture #3** of her being baptized and then just a few weeks later. We heard the testimony that her daughter, after leaving here, went to Australia and knew she needed to find another church. She found a church that accepted Christ, and on the fourth of next month, she's flying back to Chiang Mai when I get to baptize her with her parents.
- G. Another baptism. **Show Photo #4:** a mother and son got baptized together, and I'll never forget her face as she came up out of the water. And seeing her son's face as he saw her being baptized and then was baptized, it was one of the most precious moments I've seen in ministry.
- H. Recently, **show photos** we had at a vacation Bible school. It was amazing with 150 kids, pure controlled chaos. I can report that many kids came to know the Lord, but even in this, I just want to share one testimony about a lady who was serving from a country north of us. She was translating for 60-70% of our church, which is from a very large, closed country north of us.
1. After serving in the VBS, she's told us that she felt so bold and so confident in her ability to share the Good News that she called up her family from the north and shared with them who Jesus was.
  2. And her father accepted Christ, which got her so excited. She called her sister, and she accepted Christ. Then, three of her nieces accepted Christ. What an amazing testimony of how God is moving.
  3. schools
- I. I just want to thank you all for your prayers and your support. Please continue to pray for us for provision for the work that God has given us the opportunity and privilege to be a part of.

- J. Today I want to share from Galatians 2, passages that were instrumental in my coming to Christ and today show me, remind me how to walk as a Christian.

## II. Review:

- A. A quick review: Galatians, a letter written by Paul to the churches in Galatia, because he had heard that they had been turning from the true Gospel, that salvation is through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
- B. Paul had gone to Jerusalem, to meet with the church leaders concerning the Gospel he was preaching. Paul was seeking confirmation that he had been teaching in unity with the church.
- C. There were some false teachers who came into the churches that were teaching that one had to convert to Judaism, and then they could become Christians. Paul was seeking counsel in dealing with this false teaching.
- D. Today, we must always be in the Word, so we will know the Truth, so we don't fall into false teachings, that come into the churches.

## III. Sermon: Let's dig into the passages in Galatians 2:11-21 beginning with **verses 11-13**

- A. Paul after sharing that the church was in agreement with him, turns to talk about Peter's trip to the church that Paul was serving at in Antioch. Remember Peter was known and appointed by Jesus as a leader within the church.
- B. At some point Peter had traveled north to visit the church, likely after hearing of the testimony of the move of the Holy Spirit, perhaps referenced in Acts 9, this a common practice still today, when a ministry is growing the church will send someone to visit to bring encouragement, and to see how support them.
- C. Again remember Peter was appointed by God and was the leader of the early church, yet Paul is saying that he has confronted him face to face because he has done something very wrong.
- D. I thought about this and wondered did Peter know that Paul wrote this about him, did he approve this letter, at the time. Would I be Ok with this? Someone using my mistake to teach others, publicly?
- E. Paul outlines what Peter had done, saying upon his arrival that he joined with the Gentiles believers, as he had done before remember in Acts,

1. the Samaritan's, as Peter and John prayed, laying hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit, and then the vision, and the visit to Cornelius.
  2. **Acts 10:28 says (NLT) 28 Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean"**
- F. God had revealed to Peter that salvation is for all who come faith in Him, and that It not up to us to decide what is pure or unclean, remember in
1. **Acts 10:15 (NLT) 15 But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."**
- G. I would say it's clear Peter knew the truth, but we learn in these passages today that Peter upon his arrival in Antioch ate with the Gentiles, but when some came that were close to James, Jesus' brother another prominent church leader, he then changed his behavior. Interesting these friends of James, who claimed to represent James, James later denied them in (Acts 15:24).
- H. Paul states Peter did this in fear of what these others would say or do! I find this interesting and relatable that Peter would do this. It would seem according to Paul that Peter acted in fear of what others would think in a manner that wasn't according to the truth of God's Word.
1. **Proverbs 29:25 says (NLT) 25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.**
- I. I have done this, knowing what was right but acting or not saying something because of fear of what said important people would think or do.
- J. The big problem here in today's passages is not only who Peter is to others, but what he has done goes against the Gospel, and what God had revealed even personally to Peter.
- K. Those around Peter looked to him for leadership, to stand for the truth, and Peter had, in fear of man, failed in this matter.
1. Maybe these men were smarter than him, highly educated, older, and had higher social status, and Peter felt intimidated, but he stumbled because he feared criticism from man!
- IV. As most aways there are results to our actions, and words, let's **read Vs. 14**

- A. This sad and common even today, what happens when church don't stand for the truth of God's Word, those around them then follow in false teaching, because the leader was too afraid to speak the truth of God's Word.
- B. Why are so many preachers afraid to teach the truth of God Word today such as:
  - 1. what the Bible says about sin, sexuality, gender, roles with the church, giving, hell, the prosperity gospel, permissive grace, social justice, new age, moralism, and the exclusivity of Christ!
- C. Often we don't share the truth, not because we don't know it, but because of fear of what others may say or do, which can lead others astray!
- D. Paul comes out bold in rebuking Peter publicly, and I questioned was this right to call out Peter in front of the others?
- E. When is appropriate to do this, is it Biblical according to **Matthew 18:15-16**
  - 1. **(NLT) 15 "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.**
- F. After reading these passages I believe Peters actions weren't a sin against Paul, but we see Peter and the others were not following the truth of the Gospel by adding works to what Jesus did on the cross.
- G. This was a false teaching that needed to be called out so all could know that this hypocrisy was wasn't according to the true Gospel! When a false teaching comes into the church through a person we need to call out the false teaching so that no one else is lead astray!
  - 1. I have failed at times in this because I didn't want to upset certain persons, and I was wrong. I was worried that if spoke the truth about these false teachers that some in the church would leave, I was wrong.
- H. Paul calls this out by asking questions, asking why are you doing this, and we know why, because Peter was fearful of man at time, more than God!
  - 1. Because of this there was compromise made to please man and this lead others even solid believers such Barnabas to stumble, not to lose salvation but to stumble.

- I. Do you know there even people today saying that a person, Jew and/or Gentile needs to follow Jewish traditions to please God! Or what there doing is pleasing to God!
- V. Let's read what Paul a Jewish leader has to say about this in **Vs. 15-16**
  - A. Paul began with identity, that he and Peter were Jews by birth. I've had some say to me, "I'm half Jewish," so this is why I follow certain Jewish traditions, here we have two Jewish men.
  - B. Paul then, after stating that they are Jews, said that a person is made right by faith, not by the law! That all are saved by believing and placing their faith in Jesus Christ. He adds, for clarity, that no one will ever be righteous by obeying the law! This is impossible; it is by faith alone!
- VI. Paul is going continue to address this in **Vs. 17**
  - A. A question again, Paul is teaching with asking questions, It's a good model I think. He asks, Is it sinful to walk away from the Jewish law, would this be sin?
  - B. **(Believer's Bible Commentary) If, while we are professedly depending on Christ for justification, we then go back to the law (which can only condemn us as sinners), do we act as Christians? Can we hope for Christ's approval on such a course of action that in effect makes Him a minister of sin? Paul's answer is an indignant Certainly not!**
- VII. Next we will read some passages that we all need to live out, **Vs. 18-21**.
  - A. Paul defines sin as living in a way that believes the law and our obedience to it will bring righteousness. If we attempt to revive the old covenant by bringing it back, it implies that Jesus's sacrifice wasn't sufficient. This said we are still to seek to be obedient to the Word!
    1. **(Believer's Bible Commentary) Does this mean that the believer is at liberty to break the Ten Commandments all he wants? No, he lives a holy life, not through fear of the law, but out of love to the One who died for him.**
  - B. We all have been given a new life! When we come to faith, we are freed from the law and its consequences. The law showed us our need for Jesus, and in faith, Jesus we die to the law and are reborn alive/anew in Christ. We are a different person; the old man is dead, you are born again, risen from the grave, joining in Jesus' resurrection.

C. There is so much here. We will look at some other passages to help us interpret these passages, but before this, I want to share these truths changed my walk as a Christian forever.

1. I had it backwards, or crisscrossed for half my life and always failed to live in a way that was pleasing to God and myself, and I'm sure there is someone here today trying so hard to be that person that you want to be!
2. When I heard the Good News, I heard repent and come to faith in Jesus, and your life will be changed forever. So I thought I needed to become a good person and place my faith in Jesus. I believed if I could do this, I could have joy, peace, and forgiveness.
3. I never had a problem knowing that I was a sinner. I had done many things in my past that were horrific, that I thought about daily, believing that's who I was and that I was those sins.
4. I believed I was unworthy, even that I needed to be punished for what I had done, that God would hold me accountable. I begged for forgiveness while believing the things I had done were unforgivable, that I would just have to bear the guilt for the sinful things that I had done.
5. As I faced these thoughts, I went about my life, still living a life daily that wasn't pleasing to God. Each day I would wake up and try my very best to be the man that I thought I should be, one I had made up in mind from my worldly perspective.
6. Then each evening I would go to bed knowing that I had failed, that I wasn't that husband, father, or the man that I desired to be. I was living a life of sin and knew it. I hated myself and the things I was doing, even believing this was just how it was for me, likely because of the sinful things I had done.
7. I went to church, even asking the Pastor how do I become the man that I desire? I even led a men's study, and we went through a book called the man in the mirror. I kept trying. I worked hard to stop sinning, to become the man that I thought I should be.
8. 16 years ago, after trying for 20 years, I came to a point of defeat. I had done everything I knew to do, and I was still living a life of sin. I was losing the battle. I gave up trying anymore, knowing I was unable to stop sinning, that I was powerless against sin.
9. I called out to God and came before him helpless, defeated, without hope, crying out to Him, begging Him, telling Him I had nowhere else to turn. I couldn't do this anymore. I was done fighting. I was done trying.

- a) I gave up. I remember saying, **“You are my last option. I have no other place to turn. I surrender.”**
10. Something changed that day. That day I stopped trying to change myself. I knew I was hopeless. I died to myself, knowing I couldn’t keep the law. The more I tried, the more I felt condemned because I failed each and every day!
11. That day I set everything aside and turned to Jesus. I began to live for Him. I allowed myself to be crucified with Christ. That is, I joined in what Jesus had done for me on the cross. Accepting, receiving the grace and mercy, slowly knowing I’m redeemed.
12. When we are born again, we are a new creation in Christ Jesus, that the old man is dead and buried, and that we join in the resurrection, Christ now living in us, I am no longer a sinner in the eyes of God because Jesus so loves me and gave his life for me.

### **VIII.Closing**

- A. I have shared my experience but we need to look at scripture, Lets read **Romans 6:1-11**
1. **1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. 9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.**

- B. I had it crisscrossed, backwards, for years I tried to defeat sin in my life, and failed. When I surrendered, died to myself, and came before God knowing I was powerless, giving every thing to Him, offering myself as living sacrifice. Jesus then began through living in me, began to transform me into the man He desired.
- C. **Romans 7:24-25 says; 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.**
- D. We read today that Peter stumbled in his walk, but through fellowship with other believers, he was brought back into walking in the true, the only Gospel! We are justified by faith, and through faith, Christ lives in us and sanctifies us daily for His purposes. **Are you Crucified with Christ?**
- E. Don't come to God trying to clean up first—come surrendered. And don't expect others to clean up before they belong to Christ. Let the Holy Spirit do the work.

#### **IX. Lessons:**

- A. Peter got it crisscrossed (vv. 11–13) saying “You have to follow the rules to belong.” We also shouldn't expect people to “get right” before they're welcomed.
- B. Paul then called Peter out (v. 14) seeing that Peter's actions didn't match the Gospel. The truth of the gospel is: come as you are, grace is hard to give at times.
- C. We're made right by faith (vv. 15–16) We need to surrender, and let others do the same.
- D. Christ Lives in Us (vv. 17–21) Paul says, I've been crucified with Christ... Christ lives in me. This isn't about trying harder—it's about living in Him. Let the Holy Spirit change you—and give others the space and time for that same grace.
- E. We get it crisscrossed when we expect people to clean up first. We get it crisscrossed when we add rules instead of resting in grace. Let the cross be enough. Let the Holy Spirit do the work.

#### **X. Closing Prayer:**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

- A. Lord, help us not to crisscross the gospel. Thank you that we can come just as we are. Teach us to live surrendered, and to love others with that same grace. Holy Spirit, work in us. Change us from the inside out. In Jesus' name, amen.
1. If you've been trying to clean yourself up—surrender. If you've expected others to meet your standards—release it. Let grace do the work. Don't live a crisscrossed Christianity—live a surrendered one.