

Galatians

Grounded in Jesus

Recap

Jesus + () = Go ~~X~~ oel

Recap

How Gospel Centred is Your Life?

Is forgiveness (Jesus) enough?

Are you bored in your faith journey?

Would your story point others to Jesus?



Your Gospel is what you are known for

How Christians forgot Jesus' Jewishness, and why they should recover it, Jonathan Merrit

Saying “Jesus was Jewish” sounds so obvious to most Christians that it doesn't seem worth the energy to exhale. **Yet, many Christians never give the idea a second thought,** which is why it needs reasserting despite its obviousness.

When so-called Gentiles began to dominate the Jesus movement, and when they then read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' conflict with “the Jews,” **they found it possible to imagine that Jesus was one of them—a kind of Gentile, who not not really Jewish at all.** They forgot, that is, not only that Jesus was fully and completely Jewish, but also that the Gospel texts about Jesus were themselves Jewish accounts, told in a Jewish way.

Then some of the **believers** who belonged to the **party of the Pharisees** stood up and said, “The **Gentiles** must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.” **Acts 15:6**

The book of Galatians is the struggle between the Jewish past and the Gentile future

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16

The Judiazers

In the Apostle Paul's day there was a group called **the Judaizers who got many things right**. They believed in the value of the law, the resurrection from the dead, the need for faith in Christ, that Jesus was the Messiah and that he was divine. On the surface they were as orthodox as they come.

The Judiazers

In his book *Christianity and Liberalism* Gresham Machen analyzed the theology of the Judaizers and suggested that for all their **so-called orthodoxy** there was something amiss in their **logic of salvation**. Machen showed that both Paul and the Judaizers had the same elements in what constitutes salvation, but that the application of the **order** of them was radically different.

The Judiazers

Paul said that a person:

- (1) first places faith in Christ,
- (2) then is justified before God,
- (3) then immediately proceeds to keep God's law.

The Judaizers said that a person:

- (1) first places faith in Christ,
- (2) then keeps the law of God the best they can, and then
- (3) are justified

Galatians 2:1-10

false believers had infiltrated our ranks

I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. vs 2

Gospel check

Galatians 2:1-10

false believers had infiltrated our ranks

This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. 4-5

Wolves in sheeps clothing

Galatians 2:1-10

false believers had infiltrated our ranks

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **2 Corinthians 11:22-23**

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. **Colossians 2:16-17**

Galatians 2:1-10

false believers had infiltrated our ranks

For such people are **false** apostles, **deceitful** workers, **masquerading** as apostles of Christ. **2 Corinthians 11:13**

they claim to know God, **but by their actions they deny him**. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. **Titus 1:16**

having a **form of godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. **2 Timothy 3:5**

But there were also **false prophets** among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you. **2 Peter 2:1**

Watch out for **false prophets**. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **Matthew 7:15**

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world. **1 John 4:1**

Galatians 2:11-21

not acting in line with the truth

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. vs 11

When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?” vs 14

Galatians 2:11-21
not acting in line with the truth

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. vs 19-21

Galatians 2:11-21

not acting in line with the truth

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. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing! vs 19-21

Chapter Two Summary

You wish you were a Galatian

**We have negotiated with God
downwards towards our comfort zones**

Not everyone is true

Our fruit reveals our commitment

Our preferences aren't the Gospel

**We must make a distinction between
what we prefer and what God wants**