

Living in Line with the Gospel

Gal 2:11-16

When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹² Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter 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?” ¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ ¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (NIV)

Context.

Paul - took Gospel to Gentiles. Antioch.

1) Peter wasn't living in line with the Gospel!

Peter - apostle, taught by Jesus Himself, filled with Holy Spirit - yet not living in line with the truth of the Gospel.

That is to be one of the great aims of our lives - to bring them in line with the truth of the Gospel.

2) The word of truth - the Good News of your salvation!

Eph 1:13 - the word of truth, the Good News of your salvation.

Truth in the Bible isn't just what is right as opposed to what is wrong i.e as in telling the truth but it also refers to what is real, what has substance.

So, the truth is, the reality is the Good News/Gospel of your salvation. It might not seem real at times, it may seem like you fail more than you succeed but the Good News tells us all about Jesus and what He has done for us.

From the moment we get saved, we are to start bringing our lives into line with the truth of the Gospel - things like being in Christ, being new creations - it needs to be lived out!

3) Walking worthy

Php 1:27 tells us that **above all things** we should **conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ**.

What does that mean - to live worthy?

What it doesn't mean - we aren't worthy and can never make ourselves worthy of such a sacrifice!

The word worthy here means to **weigh the same as**. It means that I am to live a life that weighs the same as the Gospel, **that I am to live a life in proportion to who Jesus is and what He has done for me, that my life should match up with the wonders of the truth of the Gospel.**

Just imagine if you met David Beckham in Asda. He invites you to his house and says he'll pick you up tomorrow in his car.

What would you expect?

What car?

House?

T.V? Etc?

You would expect him to be living in accordance with the riches and fame that he has.

In just the same way, we are to live in line with the great salvation Jesus has won for us!

If our concept of salvation is just getting forgiven then our corresponding lives will be centered around a cycle of sin - sorrow - forgiveness.

But if we start to understand the word of truth, the good news of our salvation then we start to live in accordance with that!

Story - people fleeing North Korea - stop in no-mans land & never press on to Seoul. Same with many Christians!

So, look at the glories, the blessings the sheer value and immensity of the Gospel - does my life measure up?

Have I been living a life this past week that ties in with the claims of the Gospel and the One who is the Gospel?

If one were to read the book of Romans what kind of life would they expect to see as a result of that? Does my life match up with that?

Does my life match up with the heights of Romans 5, 6 & 8?

4) Application.

This is a whole life thing. The Gospel/Good News applies to all of life - becoming a Christian, staying a Christian, being made more like Jesus, prayer, church life, being filled with the Holy Spirit, marriage, family, work, sickness....

What I want to do today tho' is lay a foundation for your life that radically affects all of the above.

If we get this point right, we can flourish in prayer, worship, contributing to church life, have confidence before God for our daily lives.

Legalism

Context of the passage from Galatians:

Gospel went to Gentiles/non-Jews.

Paul & Peter taught that we are saved by trusting in Jesus - not submitting ourselves to O.T law.

Peter visited the church in Antioch - a racially mixed church.

Peter (a Jew) had no problem mixing with & eating with non-Jews (horror!).

However, some Christians (Circumcision party) came to visit. They taught that in order to be saved/justified we must submit to the O.T law.

Peter crumbled and refused to mix with the non-Jews.

Paul rebuked him publicly.

Why?

Justification

- Justification means being right with God. It is a legal word.
- Not just "not guilty" - more than! Not "just as if I'd never sinned".
- More! Just as if I'd kept all the law!

Jesus lived the life I should have lived and died the death I should have died.

2Cor 5:21

Righteousness has been given to us.

Justification means:

- ✓ Forgiveness from God
- ✓ Right standing with God
- ✓ Acceptance by God

Accepted! You need to rest in that!

What therefore is legalism?

Legalism isn't a matter of being obedient, praying, fasting etc.

If I suggest to read your Bible every day and to fast every month am I being legalistic? No!

Legalism comes when we try to base our forgiveness, right-standing & acceptance on what we do rather than on what Jesus has done.

That is what Paul so sharply rebuked Peter - he struck at the foundation of WHY Peter was doing what he was doing.

A debtor to mercy alone.... How it changed my life!

Live like an accepted person!

I started by saying how we are to bring our lives into line with the truth of the Gospel, how we are to walk worthily - to live lives that weigh up with the truths of the Good news of who Jesus is and what He has done.

I want to finish by applying just one facet - but the foundational facet to it all - live like a justified person this week. If that sounds too religious then I'll put it like this - live like an accepted person this week. Each one of us needs to hear those words from God - accepted.

I'm not on about obedience, holiness or anything else this week - I'm laying the essential foundation - acceptance by a holy God.

- ★ Pray like an accepted person - give e.g
- ★ Worship like an accepted person
- ★ Work like an accepted person - out of gratitude not slavish fear
- ★ Rest like an accepted person.