



# MIND

session page

## Prepositional Problems

Galatians 2:15-21 | Session 8.24

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have several English translations of this passage available (Note: we use [this site](#) for our Bible passages, but [this one offers](#) some very promising tools as well.).
- Have an English dictionary available.
- Have a flipchart or board and markers available.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

### Context

Begin by asking questions like:

- What do you think we mean when we use the word "saved" and why?
- How does someone come to be "saved," as you understand it?
- What is a more important factor in becoming "saved:" what you do or what you believe?
- We might truly claim to believe we are saved ... but in what ways do our actions sometimes tell a different story?

## Content

Read [Galatians 2:15-21](#), then watch the Bible Background Video and Tell the group:

*Remember what's going on in these Galatian churches: Paul is fighting against the idea that these non-Jewish believers must first live by the Jewish law (including circumcision and dietary restrictions) if they want to be Christians.*

Ask:

- What does the English word "justify" mean?
- What kinds of things do we justify and why?
- What does it mean to be justified or "made right" with God?
- According to Paul, how are we justified?
- Compare some different translations for verse 16 – how do each of them translate the phrase, "faith of/in Christ," and what do you think that means?
- Why do you think Paul feels that no one can be justified before God through following the Law?
- What might it mean to die "through the Law" or "to the Law" and why has this happened?
- What do you think Paul is really saying in verse 20 and why?

## Closure

Continue by using the chart/board and markers to come up with a chart or drawing that demonstrates the believer's old and new relationships to the Law, listing, from memory, in one column the Old Testament requirements for "righteousness," and in the other how this obligation might be viewed in light of this scripture. After the group has run out of ideas, ask:

- What is our relationship, as believers, to the Law, according to Paul, and how do you feel about that?
- This passage has a lot of theological terms and arguments... but what is the simple Good News it proclaims?
- Despite our insistence that our salvation comes through faith in (or of) Jesus, we often act as if our works were all we need. Why do you think people still cling to the idea of justification through their actions?

- In what ways do we understand this issue, when we take both Paul's words here and [James 2:14-26](#) into account?
- What responsibilities might these two passages, viewed together, place upon us and why?
- In what ways might our understandings of this issue affect the way we witness to others who may struggle with their faith?

Close with prayer.

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