

The Cross of Jesus is the Only Way

As Paul continues his letter to the Galatian Christians, he continues to address their confusion about salvation. He tells them that the esteemed leaders in Jerusalem affirmed Paul's message of salvation and his calling to preach to the Gentiles. He reiterates that Jewish customs like circumcision are not required for salvation. Then he publicly confronts the apostle Peter for his hypocritical behavior which had become a stumbling block for new believers. Studying Galatians 2 underscores the importance of Paul's emphatic message that the cross of Jesus is the only way to salvation. Join us to explore the struggle the apostles faced as the Christian faith spread, and along the way find the courage to embody the truth of salvation in your relationships and daily life.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Why is it important for Christians to understand that there is only one way to receive salvation?
- What is accountability? What is necessary to assure accountability?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Cross of Jesus is the Only Way](#)

READ [Galatians 2](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 2, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss Paul's rebuke of Peter in Galatians 2:11-14. Reread Galatians 2:11-14, then read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Paul's explanation of how he becomes all things to all people—for the sake of the gospel. Compare and contrast these two passages. What is the difference between Peter and Paul in these two passages? Why is Paul right to rebuke Peter and yet also right to become "all things to all people" (1 Cor. 9:22)?
- At the end of segment 2, Scott reminds us that "even for the apostles, even after the Holy Spirit came on them, they didn't instantly have crystal clarity on absolutely everything." Do you find that truth comforting? Why or why not?
- Do you think Christians today ever try to hold others to the standards of God's law that we ourselves can't keep? Why or why not? If so, why do you think we tend to do that?
- While reflecting on Galatians 2:21, Scott says, "Basically, Paul is saying: Look, if there were another road that led to salvation, any road at all, then Jesus died for nothing." Why is this so important for the Galatians to understand, and now for us to realize?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[John 10:14-18](#), [Matthew 28:16-20](#), [Acts 1:7-9](#), [Acts 10](#), [Acts 15:7-11](#), [John 14:5-14](#), [John 12:27-36](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on Darrell and Scott's closing conversation:

Darrell: "The cross in and of itself had to be the only way...there is no Easter Sunday without Good Friday."

Scott: "It is a message we want to embody so fully that we make others want to get in on that, too. We never want to talk in such a way that makes it look like we are drawing the circle of salvation smaller instead of larger."

Reflect on their words. What thoughts or feelings is the Holy Spirit stirring in you? Talk to God in prayer about those thoughts and feelings.

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