

**Galatians 2:14 – 21**

New International Version (NIV)

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

6 <sup>15</sup> “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles  
 7 <sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of  
 8 the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have  
 9 put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified  
 10 by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law,  
 11 because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

12 <sup>17</sup> “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews  
 13 find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that  
 14 mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! <sup>18</sup> If I  
 15 rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a  
 16 lawbreaker.

17 <sup>19</sup> “For through the law I died to the law so that I might  
 18 live for God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I  
 19 no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live  
 20 in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved  
 21 me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the  
 22 grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained  
 23 through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

**Observation (What does it say?):**

List what Paul says about the two concepts:

-A-	-B-
Faith in Christ	Works of Law

- What else do you see in this passage?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- What “law” is Paul thinking of?
- Why would anyone choose Column B?
- What is Paul’s logic in v. 17?
- What other questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What “law(s)” have you seen “slipped in” (Gal 2:4, ESV) to the Christian life?
- What “law(s)” have the most effect on your Christian life?
- How do we experience the freedom of grace without “promoting sin” (v. 17)?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**