

Galatians Chapter 2

by Chip Brogden

The sermon explores the question of whether a Christian is under the law or under grace, using the book of Galatians as a guide, and emphasizes the importance of hearing from God directly and not relying on the approval of others.

Duration: 32:06

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Galatians 1:15-17, Galatians 2:2

Topics: "Expositional"

Description

In this video, Chip Brogden continues his study in the Book of Galatians. He emphasizes the question of whether a Christian is under the law or under grace. He explains that the gospel preached by Paul is not from man, but a revelation of Jesus Christ. Chip highlights the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding and teaching believers, and how the new law of the Spirit is at work in conforming believers to the image of Christ.

Transcript

Hi everyone, this is Chip Brogden welcoming you to another edition of our webcast. We're streaming online at www.watchman.net and we are continuing our study this week in the book of Galatians. So, if you would take your Bible and join me in the book of Galatians, chapter 1. Last week we came up just short of the end of chapter 1, so we're going to pick up where we left off and hopefully make it all the way through to the end of chapter 2 this week.

I'm excited to be doing this study, I'm looking forward to it. We just are getting into the depth of Galatians and the question before us is, Is a Christian under the law or under grace? And it's a valid question. I get lots of inquiries on a weekly basis along the lines of keeping the Old Testament law, the Ten Commandments or the Holy Days and the Feasts and tithing and all of these elements of the Old Testament law and the question is, Are they applicable to Christians today who are saved by grace and living according to the Spirit? Well, that's not a new dilemma, that's not a new issue at all.

It's something that has been debated and argued and asked about ever since the beginning of the church here and Paul gives us a foundation thankfully in the Word that shows us how we are to respond and relate to the Old Testament law, the Mosaic law, the books of Moses. And so, what we are endeavoring to show here and what Paul is trying to teach to the Galatians is that we are saved by grace and that Christ, not only has He fulfilled the law but He has gone beyond even what the law requires and the work of Christ

is a work that is done in us bringing us into conformity to Him and it is not the outward regulation of our behavior or our activities Do we eat or do we not eat?

Where do we go? How do we dress?

Religion is mainly concerned with the outward appearance of things but in this new covenant where Jesus is our high priest and He lives within us He is more interested on the inside so He works with us from the inside out but it's real tempting I suppose when you're in an atmosphere of religious works and in an atmosphere where the outward appearance seems to be more important that people tend to put themselves into bondage and I would say they tend to put themselves into unnecessary bondage and that's exactly what happened to the Galatians Now of course you know the Galatians were not Jews they came to faith in Christ and they were Gentiles and again the background of this letter the occasion under which Paul is writing this letter to them these people had become Christians they had come

to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and as soon as they were just getting started in their Christian walks some Jews from Jerusalem came up and paid them a visit and said pretty much we are glad that you've received Jesus we've received Jesus also we believe He is the Messiah and He is the Son of God we're happy that you believe and now that you're believers in Jesus here are these lists of rules and regulations from the Mosaic Law the commandments of Moses and it would really make us happy if you would begin to obey these laws and these commandments and in fact what we'd like you to do is to go ahead and be circumcised and become Jewish in addition to the faith that you're proclaiming in Christ Now that may not sound like a very big problem but Paul saw it as falling away from the

simplicity of Christ and remember in verse 6 of chapter 1 he says I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel and this is exactly the same pattern we see repeating over and over again in the lives of Christians who have come to the Lord who are trusting in the Lord for salvation and yet there is that pull and that attraction to go back and to study and to put themselves underneath the yoke of something from the Old Testament and use that as a means to please God and basically Paul is saying that Christ has come and He has set us free from the law He has set us free from the outward regulations of the law and it's simply not necessary to go back and put ourselves underneath that law and does that mean that we are lawless

now? we will see as we progress on through Galatians that no, there is a new law at work but it is not the old law it is a new law of the Spirit who is working within us and conforming us to the image of Christ and we will see that as we progress along but that is the background to Galatians so Paul to begin with he says that he is called by God he is not called by man he is not trying to please man and the gospel that he preaches is not from man he didn't learn it from man but he says it is the revelation of Jesus Christ and so we are going to pick that up right here in verse 15 but before I go any further we should probably stop and pray and ask the Lord to bless this time that we have together in the Word Father, thank You for Your Word and I thank You Lord for everyone that is

listening to this I pray Holy Spirit that You would open the eyes of our heart open the eyes of our understanding open our minds Lord and just deliver us from our expectations deliver us from our preconceived ideas all these arguments and all these thoughts that would tend to rise up and fight against what is being said before it has even really been declared Lord just wipe the slate clean right now and open our hearts to receive spirit and truth open our hearts to receive Your Word which is spirit and life as we study these scriptures together Father I thank You for the Holy Spirit who was given to lead us into

Christ and so I pray Lord that we would see Christ in this teaching that we would see Christ in these words that these words would lift themselves off of the page so to speak and

would penetrate our heart penetrate our spirit where they can do us some good and thank You Father for the gift of Christ and thank You Lord for the Holy Spirit who leads us and teaches us all things and I thank You again for the many people around the world who are listening and hopefully benefiting and hopefully seeing Christ increased as a result of this study so thank You Father Father we commit this time to You in Jesus name Amen So Galatians chapter 1 and to maintain the continuity here let's begin reading in verse 15 Paul says but when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace now see grace is a theme that you're going to see throughout the book of Galatians and you've already seen grace, grace, grace as opposed to law the law, the

commandments so when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him among the Gentiles I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood we've already spoken at length last week of how God reveals the Son to us by His Spirit and it is not a flesh and blood revelation but it is a spirit and truth revelation so if you still have questions or you don't quite understand that I encourage you to go back and listen to last week's message because it will help you verse 17 he says nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me but I went to Arabia and returned again to Damascus and all he's trying to do here folks is just establish the fact that he did not get his message from some other apostle or

from some group in Jerusalem and the reason it's important that he establishes this is because the people coming behind him were saying well this is what Paul preaches he's just preaching the same thing that we're preaching and that was certainly not the case so Paul had to really go back and establish the fact that he is called by God he didn't get his teaching from Jerusalem or from the Jews and in fact the difference between the Jews and Paul is the difference between night and day in fact the Jews were trying to kill Paul because they saw him as an apostate someone who had turned from the Jewish faith who not only preached Jesus but was preaching that you no longer had to live under or obey the commandments the law of Moses and again as we get into this you're going to see that the

law of Moses was directed to the outward whereas the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus is directed to us inwardly it is a spiritual thing that the Lord is working deeply within us and he's not so much concerned about the outward he is working from the inside out whereas religion and even the Mosaic law was trying to regulate people from the outside in see we'll see that as we go on but verse 18 of Galatians 1 then Paul says after 3 years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained with him 15 days but I saw none of the other brother or I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother now concerning the things which I write to you indeed before God I do not lie afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia and I was unknown by face to the churches of

Judea which were in Christ see he had no contact with any of these people that were coming behind him saying we're preaching the same thing Paul is preaching and Paul is saying that you need to be circumcised okay which was not the case verse 23 but they were hearing only he who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy and they glorified God in me okay so that's the end of Galatians 1 now again folks Paul did not write in chapter and verse they are just added for our convenience so he's continuing in the same line of thought giving his background chapter 2 verse 1 then after 14 years he says I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and also took Titus with me and I went up by revelation and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the

Gentiles but privately to those who were of reputation lest by any means I might run or had run in vain so see Paul had already gone out by this time and had preached the gospel of Christ and had seen people one to the Lord he had seen disciples get turned onto the Lord he had seen churches being established as disciples begin to gather together and so he's already out there in the thick of it it's only after 14 years that he actually goes up to Jerusalem and meets with the the leadership if you will and kind of compares notes just to make sure that he's on the right track but see the point is folks he heard from God and he obeyed God he didn't he didn't go get permission from someone to do what God had called him to do when you have that revelation of Christ and you know that God is

speaking to you you don't have to have confirmation from a lot of other people yeah there's wisdom in a multitude of counselors and for most people I would say yes you need to check with other people but sometimes the Lord just moves on you and you just have to do what you know you have to do and I think that in this particular case if Paul was if he had a fear of man and he was always looking for man's approval and looking to see what what everyone else thought and he always had his finger up in the wind to see which way the wind was blowing like a politician would and you know he's on this side of the issue one day depending on who he's preaching to and the next day he's all over in a different side of the issue depending on who's in front of him if that was the case I think he would

have just been swept away with everyone else's opinion and we're going to see that there is value in hearing from the Lord directly and if there's anything I think that we really need to grab hold of these days it is that the ability to get before God and hear from God for ourselves you know the prophetic word is primarily intended first of all to to bring forth the testimony of Jesus to speak forth the truth concerning Jesus but a personal word of prophecy or a prophetic word directed to an individual person you know it really should be confirmation to what God is already speaking to you directly and if not then that prophet or that prophetic word begins to take the place of the Holy Spirit in your life and that's out of balance so thank the Lord that Paul he was humble enough to listen

to others but he knew he was smart enough to take his direction from the Lord and we need to just learn how to get before God hear from him and go and if the rest of the world doesn't understand or comes against us or fights us even if other brothers and sisters don't understand us well you know they'll just have to you'll just have to be misunderstood that's part of the work of the cross but you cannot go through your whole life trying to get the approval and the permission of other people to do what the Lord has called you to do you have got to be delivered from the fear of man in fact there is an article on my website called Fear No Man and I encourage you to check out that article and read it and apply it to your life because I think it will be beneficial to you and it will help you

to see where this fear of man comes from it will help you to deal with that and remove that so that you can move past that and be fruitful and so Paul he says it was only after 14 years that I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and also took Titus with me and I went up verse 2 chapter 2 I went up by revelation and I communicated to them that gospel which I preached among the Gentiles but privately to those who were of reputation lest by any means I might run or had run in vain now verse 3 yet not even Titus who was with me being a Greek was compelled to be circumcised and this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in now Paul is getting pretty direct here he says this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty

which we have in Christ Jesus that they might bring us into bondage and you can actually go back in the book of Acts and read about this little confrontation where Paul is there along with all the other apostles

and then it says that some Jews stood up who used to be Pharisees who were now Christians but they were saying that unless you keep the laws of Moses and you're circumcised you can't be saved and so that started this big debate well is a Christian who believes in Jesus obligated to the Mosaic law what is a Christian's obligation to the Old Testament law the commandments of Moses and all the Jewish festivals and the holidays, the holy days and all the requirements of the law so Paul calls them false brothers who snuck in to spy out on the liberty we have in Christ that they might

bring us into bondage so he is pretty adamant about not going back into an observance of the Jewish laws he calls it a return to bondage so in verse 5 he says we do not yield submission even for an hour that the truth of the gospel might continue with you he just continued steadfast to hold to the grace of Jesus, grace, by grace you are saved he told the Ephesians and here he is saying it is by grace it is through faith and it is not through a righteousness that comes by keeping the law in verse 6 but from those who seem to be something whatever they were it makes no difference to me God shows personal favoritism to no man and that is just an interesting little aside there again to demonstrate that Paul is saying look I went up to Jerusalem I spoke to the other apostles I shared this

gospel with them and they accepted it and we were in agreement and he says you know I'm glad that I have their endorsement but I really don't need their endorsement I just like the way that he puts that whatever they were it makes no difference to me ok so verse 7 but on the contrary when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter in other words they understood that Paul was called to go to the Gentiles just as Peter was called to go to the Jews ok verse 8 for he who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles see he again if the spirit of God is flowing through someone and you see the spirit of God being poured out on these Gentiles then how

can you deny that God is in fact endorsing the gospel that is being proclaimed to them and that's the lesson that Peter had to learn remember when he went down to the house of Cornelius do you remember how he got there he had a vision he was praying and three times this sheet was let down out of heaven with all kinds of unclean animals in it animals that were not lawful for a Jew to eat and three times this sheet came down with all of the animals in there and a voice from heaven said rise Peter kill and eat and Peter said not so Lord oh I've never eaten anything that was contrary to the Jewish laws I'd never eat anything unclean like that and that voice spoke to Peter and said what the Lord has cleansed don't call unclean and this happened three times and then you know the story the Holy

Spirit led him to go to the house of Cornelius to the house of to a home where there were uncircumcised Gentiles who knew nothing of and cared nothing for the Jewish laws and while Peter preached Jesus to them the Holy Spirit came and fell on them and filled them and saved them and they became disciples of Jesus and Peter went back to Jerusalem and everyone all the Jews criticized him and he said look I went and I preached Jesus to them Holy Spirit came and filled them just as he did us in the beginning and if Holy Spirit came and filled them then who was I to argue with God and so that's when they finally understood that God is not a God for the Jews only but he is the Savior of all men he is a light to the Gentiles and it is just as much for the Jew and the Gentile and the Greek and

everyone else male or female we'll see that as we go on see Paul had a vision of a universal Jesus a Jesus who was not restricted just to being a Jewish Messiah the Savior of Israel and that's really what they had in mind but Paul had this revelation of Christ as the Savior of the whole world the Savior of the Jews Savior of the Gentiles Roman Greek male female slave or free it didn't make any difference because he is

the Savior of all the son of man who takes away the sins of the world so Paul says verse 9 and when James Cephas another name for Peter and John who seemed to be pillars perceived the grace that had been given to me they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised they desired only that we should remember

the poor the very thing which I also was eager to do now look at this verse 11 now when Peter had come to Antioch I'd withstood him to his face because he was to be blamed isn't that something verse 12 for before certain men came from James he would eat with the Gentiles but when they came he withdrew and separated himself fearing those who were of the circumcision now see understand Jews were not supposed to eat with Gentiles and understand that when Peter came up from Jerusalem he was eating with the Gentiles Antioch if you'll recall was the first fellowship of Christians established outside of Jerusalem outside of Judaism here are these Gentiles in Antioch which began to believe on the Lord Jesus and they became Christians I'm not saying all of the of the believers in Antioch were

Gentiles but the majority of them were and so Peter came up and he was eating with them which a Jew was not supposed to do but they were meeting around the grounds of Christ the fellowship of Christ and not Jew and Gentile so those distinctions were torn down says but here's the problem Paul had with Peter in this particular instance when certain men came from James came up from Jerusalem he withdrew and separated himself because he was afraid see there's Peter some of that old Peter coming back but Paul wouldn't stand for it well verse 13 and the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy do you see the hypocrisy here if you don't see the problem here reread this passage several times and you just pray through it and

you see you can draw your own correlations hopefully and the Lord will show you but see here's Paul's point verse 14 but when I saw that they were not straight forward about the truth of the gospel I said to Peter before them all and I just like that see Paul because he has no fear of man he knows God is no respecter of persons and whereas most people would just fall to the ground before Peter Paul's not about to do that if it's Peter or if it's Barnabas or if it's James or even if it's an angel from heaven preaching something different or not standing up rightly according to the truth of the gospel Paul is going to stand up and call them and hold them to account and thank God I don't see anybody else in Antioch that stood up and confronted the situation I guess they were intimidated but

thank the Lord that Paul had the love see Jesus says those whom I love I rebuke and chasten and that's exactly what Paul is doing here and he spoke to Peter because they were all kind of following Peter in this hypocrisy but in rebuking Peter before them all he didn't pull him aside he didn't take him into a back room and you know he's just right there in front of everybody because his sin was done before everyone and so his rebuke was carried out in front of everyone so that they would all learn and what did Paul say he says if you're a Jew and you live like a Gentile and not as the Jews then why are you trying to compel the Gentiles to be like Jews see and that's the issue now look at this in verse 15 we who are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles we know that a man is not

justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ even we have believed in Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified do you see this by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified but if while we seek to be justified by Christ we ourselves are also found sinners is Christ therefore a minister of sin certainly not verse 18 for if I build again those things which I destroyed I make myself a transgressor 19 for I through the law died to the law that I might live to God died to the law and here here is in verse 20 a very familiar verse but as

you'll see here it's only the summation of everything that has been said up to this point Paul how can you say that you are free from the

law how can you say that we don't have to follow the law at all how can you say that the Mosaic law has no application to us as Christians as spirit filled believers in Jesus Paul says I through the law died to the law that I might live to God and then verse 20 I have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me hallelujah not I but Christ and he not only does he explain why and how and that we have been delivered from the law but he also gives us the secret for living as people under grace grace to live under grace means to live by the cross of Christ it does not mean casting off the law and living any way that you please and that's that's where people who who want to bring you under the law there they do it in reaction to people who throw off the law

together and say we're free to I'm free in Christ I can do whatever I want to do I'm not under law I'm under grace so if I want to go out and drink and smoke and chew and beat my wife it doesn't matter because I am free in Christ is that what free in Christ means if that's what you think it means then you are sadly mistaken but the answer see Paul says is I'm crucified with Christ see you are free from the law when you take up the cross and die to the law because you die to yourself and only those who have died can live again and live under the grace and the power and the authority of Christ see he says it is no longer I who live it is Christ who lives in me hallelujah well we are not quite to the end of chapter 2 but I just feel like we should stop right there and pick up and say some

more about that next week so we're going to stop it right there for now and come back to it next week but praise the lord I am crucified with Christ that's a good place to stop and just meditate on here for the next several days I want to let you know that we are coming to the Dallas Fort Worth area the second weekend in June to conduct another school of Christ and so if you are in the Dallas Fort Worth Texas area or you have a way to get to that area and you'd be interested in attending that school of Christ we would love to see you just stay tuned to this webcast and to the email list where you will eventually get some updated information from us so if you want to be a part of that just be praying about that and we would love to see you this is Chip Rogdon streaming online at

www.watchman.net you can send us email at info@watchman.net and until next time God bless you and we look forward to continuing in our study of Galatians with you next week

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