Justification by Faith 9.4.10

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. 17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. Galatians 2:15-21 ESV

"We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners" A ref. to he and Peter (Jewish born) and all Jewish Christians. He is not using this term in the sense of public immorality but rather in a legal sense which was common for Jews to do. They were "sinners" in the sense that they had no law to guide them like the Jews did.

"yet we know that a person is not justified

P: Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in his sight.

Think JUDGE. Think BANK ACCOUNT.

A Few Implications:

1. We have peace with God (Rom. 5:1).
2. We have access to God (Rom. 5:2).
3. Our suffering in life has meaning (Rom. 5:3).
4. We, who were once "aliens & strangers" are now "sons & daughters" (Eph. 2:19).
5. We are friends with God (Mt. 28:20)
6. Our past has no power over us (Rom. 8:1)

Am I leveraging these truths in my daily life? If not, what needs to change?"

How Are We Justified?

"(not)...by works of the law..." All of the directives of the OT Law. "Good deeds" today.
"but through faith in Jesus Christ" Faith = complete trust and submission. The "faith" is not a new work but how we receive the benefits of Christ's justifying work. Think STRAW in a milkshake.

"*so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ..."* A restatement of what he has just said in principle form to drive the point home.

P: Justification is by faith alone. Our faith is in Christ's Work, not our works.

What am I trusting in for my justification today? My works or Jesus' work?

"But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin?" Rhetorical device saying "If we were wrong to eat with the Gentiles, we made ourselves sinners. And that makes Jesus a sinner because He told us it is was permissible."

"Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor." Of course, Jesus is no sinner. But if I tried to use the Law to justify me after I just said it couldn't justify me, I would be.

"For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God." Similar to Romans 7. The law was binding upon him when he was "alive to it." But now that he is dead to it, he is "living for God." He would have never known sin without the Law. Think CORN SEED. Or GANDALF.

P: The Law shows us that we need a Savior. The Savior frees us to live for His glory.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

P: When we are justified, Jesus Christ moves into our lives.

Do I stop and marvel at this truth? The God of the universe lives in me?

P: We are to live our lives by faith in the Son of God.

Am I living my life LISTENING TO and TRUSTING God or doing what I want and then asking God to bless me or bail me out?

P: Gratitude should motivate us to we live for God's glory.

Am I motivated by gratitude? If not, what motivates my pursuit of Christ?

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. To make void. To be in good standing with.

P: If we could be justified through our own works, Jesus' death was needless.

How do you need to put the truth of justification to work in your life today?

Works Consulted: MacArthur Study Bible, MacArthur's Commentary on Galatians, Study of Galatians, ESV Study Bible, Messages by RC Sproul, Darrin Patrick, Yancey Arrington, Paul's Letter to the Galatians by Tim Keller, The Bible Exposition Commentary, MacArthur Study on Galatians