



# Galatians Part 4 Bible Study Notes

Galatians 2:15-21

## About the Book:

The book of Galatians is a Pauline Epistle (letter from Paul). It was written by the Apostle Paul about 49 A.D. prior to the Jerusalem Council which had taken place in 50 A.D. This quite possibly could have been Paul's first letter. The key personalities of this book are the Apostle Paul, Peter, Barnabas, Abraham, Titus, and false teachers. Paul writes this book to deal with the problem of circumcision and Jewish legalism toward Gentile believers.

*Justification is the gracious act of God by which God declares a sinner righteous solely through faith in Jesus Christ.*

## 613 Commandment (Mitzvah)

Mitzvah is a Hebrew word meaning commandments. The 613 commandments are divided into two categories: 365 negative commandments and 248 positive commandments.

## The Five Solas

The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged from the Protestant Reformation intended to summarize the Reformers' basic theological principles in contrast to certain teachings of the Roman Catholic Church of the day. "Sola" is Latin meaning "alone" or "only"

- **Faith alone (Sola Fide)** : Justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone.
  - **Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura)**: The Bible alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured.
  - **Christ alone (Solus Christus)**: Our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone.
  - **Grace alone (Sola Gratia)**: In salvation we are rescued from God's wrath by his grace alone.
  - **Glory to God alone (Soli Deo Gloria)**: It is affirmed that because salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God, it is for God's glory and that we must glorify him always.
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How are we righteous before God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Although we have all sinned and fallen short of the law, God, without any merit of my own, out of His grace, declared by Justified because of Jesus Christ.

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## Challenge

1. Briefly explain justification in a way that a non-Christian could understand.
2. Why does it rob God of glory when we add other requirements to justification?
3. Why does it matter that we view justification as a once-for-all declaration and not a process?
4. How is justification of a sinner different from having sins ignored or swept away?
5. Martin Luther considered justification by faith as the doctrine on which the church stands or falls. Why does this doctrine so central to the church?