**Living by Faith**

**Galatians 2:17-21**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
* **The Wrong Compromise (Galatians 2:11-15)**
  + **The Divine Origin of the Gospel (vv. 11-12)**
  + **Paul’s Radical Transformation (vv. 13-17)**
  + **Independent Yet Verified (vv. 18-24)**
  + **Affirmation from the Apostles (2:1-10)**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 2:17-21**
* **Good morning, beloved brothers, and sisters in Christ. Today, we gather not merely to hear a message, but to be transformed by the truth of God’s Word. In a world filled with uncertainty, fear, and shifting values, the call to live by faith is more urgent than ever.**
* **Scripture tells us in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” This is not blind optimism or wishful thinking—it is confident trust in the character, promises, and power of God.**
* **From Habakkuk 2:4 to Romans 1:17, the Bible echoes this truth: “The righteous shall live by faith.” This faith is not passive—it moves us to action, obedience, and perseverance. It is the kind of faith that led Abraham to leave his homeland without knowing where he was going, and Noah to build an ark before rain had ever fallen.**
* **As we begin this message, I invite you to reflect: What does it mean to truly live by faith in your daily life? Not just on Sundays, but in the quiet moments, the trials, and the decisions that shape your journey. Let us open our hearts to the Spirit’s leading, and rediscover the joy, strength, and purpose that come from trusting God completely.**

1. **The Gospel Does Not Promote Sin (vv. 17-18)**
   1. **“But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! Rather I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down.”**
   2. **Romans 6:12-23**
   3. **Romans 7: The Struggle between the Flesh and the Spirit. (Luke 9:23)**
   4. **Paul anticipates the objection: if we abandon the law will we not be lawless?**
   5. **His answer is emphatic: Christ does not lead us into sin-He leads us out of it.**
   6. **Rebuilding the law as a means of righteousness only proves we were wrong to tear it down.**
2. **The Law cannot Give Life-Only Reveal Death (v. 19)**
   1. **“For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law-I stopped trying to meet all its requirements-so that I might live for God.”**
   2. **Romans 7:1-5**
   3. **The law showed Paul his sin and condemned him.**
   4. **But in Christ he died to that old system. Now, he lives for God, not for rule-keeping.**
   5. **This is a radical shift: from external obedience to internal transformation.**
   6. **Isaiah 29:13: “And so the Lord Says, “These People say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me and their worship of me.””**
   7. **Psalm 51:6-7: “But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**
3. **Crucified with Christ (v. 20a)**
   1. **“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, But Christ lives in me.”**
   2. **Romans 6:4-6: “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.**
   3. **2 Corinthians 5:17: “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**
   4. **Colossians 3:3: “For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.**
   5. **This is the heart of the Christian identity: union with Christ.**
   6. **The old self-bound to sin and law-is dead.**
   7. **The new life is Christ living in us, empowering us to walk in faith and love.**
4. **Living by Faith in the Son of God (v. 20b)**
   1. **“So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”**
   2. **Romans 1:17: “This is Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.””**
   3. **Hebrews 11:1, 6: “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see… And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”**
5. **Grace will not be nullified by the Law (v. 21)**
   1. **“I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.”**
   2. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**
   3. **To return to the law is to reject grace.**
   4. **If we could earn righteousness, the cross was unnecessary.**
   5. **But because we cannot, grace is everything.**

**Conclusion/Application:**

* **Through Christ:**
  + **Our lives are Free for God**
  + **Our lives are Free connected to Jesus.**
  + **Our lives are Free to Live Everyday by Faith.**
* **The passage calls us to live in freedom and power of the Gospel.**
* **We are not justified by our performance but by Christ’s sacrifice.**
* **And that truth does not lead to sin-it leads us to a life of faith, love, and surrender.**
* **What way of Life will you choose?**