



## "Two Peoples - One Way" (Part 2)

0315Ga2.16(18)

### Galatians 2:16



**15** We [are] Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles. **16** Yet we know that a man is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have believed in Christ Jesus so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law, since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. **17** But if while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! **18** For if I rebuild what I once destroyed, I prove

myself to be a transgressor. **19** For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ – **20** and it is no longer I who live, but Christ 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 up for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God: for if righteousness [comes] through the Law, then Christ died for no purpose.

– Galatians 2:15-21, translated by T. Bartolucci –

### *Introduction: A Little More on the New Perspective . . .*

#### **I. Essential Elements of the Gospel in Galatians (vv. 15-21)**

\*Two Peoples and Only One Way\*  
Jews and Gentiles are two races that  
can only be justified one way.

##### **A. The Universal Nature of Sin (v. 15-16a)**

1. What about the claim that Jewish religion of the first century wasn't about self-righteousness?

##### **B. Justification Is by Faith Alone (v. 16)**

1. Unpacking Three Key Concepts in Verse 16

- a. **"Justified"** (Verb *dikaioō*) - used 3x in v. 16

- (1) Relates to the Old Testament Hebrew word *tsadiq* (*sdq*) - "justice" / "righteousness" (which in its active form means "to declare righteous")

- b. **"Works of the Law"** (*erga nomou*)

- (1) Three views as to the meaning of the phrase: 1. Legalism; 2. Social boundary markers; 3. Deeds commanded by the Law

- (2) Question: Were the Reformers right in their application?

- c. **"Faith in Jesus Christ"**

- (1) Two views: 1. "faith in Jesus Christ;" 2. "the faithfulness of Jesus Christ"

- (a) The phrase is in the genitive case and could be translated either way (subjective genitive = "the faithfulness of Jesus Christ" vs. objective genitive = "faith in Jesus Christ")

Martin Luther said that justification by faith is the 'most principal and special article of Christian doctrine'. Without it, 'Christianity is just another religion—an endless effort to get right with God through self-discipline and ritual.'