

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 2:4-21

RELAPSE TO LEGALISM

INTRODUCTION

The word “relapse” describes the act or instance of returning to a previously undesirable condition. A synonym of the term is recidivism, both meaning to fall back into bad habits.

Peter's Problem: Relapse Back to Living Under Mosaic Law (Gal 2:11-13)

Peter	Knowledge of God's changing house-rules - Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Acts 10 (Unclean foods and unclean fellowship Acts 15:23-24, 28-29)
Peter	Visit to Antioch after the Jerusalem Council - Acts 15:30-35
Peter	Hypocrisy - Gal 2:11-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motivated by fear of the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem
Peter	Problem perpetuated - Gal 2:13

Paul's Prognosis of Peter's Problem (Gal 2:11-18)

Paul

Exercise of apostolic authority - vs 11

Paul

Statement of the problem: compelling Gentile Christians to live as Jews under Law because of Peter's actions - vs 14

Paul

Explanation of the problem - vs 15-18

Paul

Use of irony to emphasize the obvious: we are ALL sinners - vs 15

Paul's Prognosis of Peter's Problem (Gal 2:11-18) continued

The contraction of seeking to be declared righteous in Christ (II Cor 5:21) while under Mosaic Law – vs 17

If a Jewish Christian who has been living by grace, puts themselves back under Law, they make themselves again a transgressor (of the Law) -v vs 18

Paul's Remedy for Peter's Problem

(Gal 2:19-21)

- ◆ Realize you are dead to the Law (by the Law's own condemnation) in order that you can NOW live unto God – vs 19 (cf Rom 7:1-4)
- ◆ Dead WITH Christ by co-crucifixion – vs 20a
 - ◆ Christ alive in me – vs 20b
 - ◆ Christ's indwelling Life lived out by faith concerning the promises of Christ to the GRACE believer - vs 20c
- ◆ Warning: DO NOT SET ASIDE (“frustrate”) God's grace for daily Christian living - vs 21a
 - ◆ If righteousness is through the Law, the Christ died for no purpose - vs 21b

CONCLUSION

Even today, Peter's problem is a common problem for all NT believers at some point in their Christian lives.

Having been saved initially by grace through faith in the gospel for initial salvation, do we now mature in our Christian life by law-keeping, or by USING God's grace?