

**Title: You Don't Need Jesus! - Galatians 2 11-16**

---

**Read:**

<sup>11-13</sup>Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line. Here's the situation. Earlier, before certain persons had come from James, Peter regularly ate with the non-Jews. But when that conservative group came from Jerusalem, he cautiously pulled back and put as much distance as he could manage between himself and his non-Jewish friends. That's how fearful he was of the conservative Jewish clique that's been pushing the old system of circumcision. Unfortunately, the rest of the Jews in the Antioch church joined in that hypocrisy so that even Barnabas was swept along in the charade. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not maintaining a steady, straight course according to the Message, I spoke up to Peter in front of them all: "If you, a Jew, live like a non-Jew when you're not being observed by the watchdogs from Jerusalem, what right do you have to require non-Jews to conform to Jewish customs just to make a favourable impression on your old Jerusalem cronies?" <sup>15-16</sup>We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good.

**Think:**

You know we don't actually need Jesus. No don't stop listening, don't stop reading hear me out. It's pretty simple really, God is perfect, right? God is so perfect that he can not be the presence of selfishness and wrong doing, that thing we sometimes call sin. So all we have to do to not need Jesus, is not sin. So when we get up in the morning, we need to keep pure thoughts in our head. No wishing you brother or sister would shut up for once. No swearing under you breath when you realise you have a class you just hate. Actually, no hating. Ok, so it's not as straight forward as I made out, but it could be possible. Well it could be possible, if millions of people hadn't already tried and failed. As Paul is saying in this passage, before Jesus turned up, there was a list of rules and laws people had to obey to be pure. The truth of the matter is, they were pretty rubbish at it and God realised it's wasn't working. Hence Jesus came to die for us so we could be pure and go to Heaven. The problem is some people forget that Jesus has done the work. There isn't a list of rules we can keep, so that we can go to Heaven anymore. We can't do enough good things to get into Heaven. No, we just have to thank God for Jesus, ask him to be our saviour and then try and live the life he would want us to live. We don't do good things to get into Heaven, we do what we can to help others as a thank you that Jesus has already got us into Heaven.

**Pray:**

My Father I thank you for Jesus, he really is the best gift you have ever given us. Amen.

**Action:**

What has God done for you that you are thankful for? Why not pop over to [aftershock.org.uk](http://aftershock.org.uk) and post a comment on this dev letting us know what God has done for you.