

# *Book of Galatians*

## *(God's Written Law vs Rabbinical Oral Law)*

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2018 Part 13



## *Don't Forget the Context of Galatians*

- *Paul's main point to the newly converted Galatians is that a person is not Saved (not justified or declared righteous) by keeping laws of any kind. One is justified only by "faith" in the redemptive work of Jesus. Paul's focus is not to show the Galatians how to live once they become Believers, so this is not what's stressed in the book.*
- *Why did Paul have to write this letter? – because there were Judaizers... Pharisees and other Jewish brethren who believed in the Messiah but demanded that the Gentile Believers, to be Saved, first had to accept Judaism, the Oral law, and submit to the authority of the Rabbis. Faith in Messiah was not enough.*

## *Gal 4:17*

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- Gal 4:17 *They (these Judaizers who were pushing the Oral Law) zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.*
- Gal 4:17 AMP *These men [the Judaizing teachers] are zealously trying to dazzle you [paying court to you, making much of you], but their purpose is not honorable or worthy or for any good. What they want to do is to isolate you [from us who oppose them], so that they may win you over to their side and get you to court their favor.*

## *This Is Paul's Issue that Needed to be Addressed in the Churches of Galatia – the Judaizers*

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- Gal 4:17 AMP *These men [the Judaizing teachers] are zealously trying to dazzle you....*
- The problem in Galatia was these “Judaizers” that were perverting the Gospel by demanding that these newly converted Galatians be circumcised and accept Judaism first and then faith in the Messiah was secondary.
- They were perverting the Gospel by “adding and taking away” from God's Written Law (Deut 4/2)

## *Gal 4:18-20*

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- *Gal 4:18-20* *But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. 19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, 20 I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.*

## Gal 4:21

- Gal 4:21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law (hupo = under – to be controlled by Judaism/~~Oral Law~~), do you not hear the law (~~Written Law of God~~)?
- “under the law” – Greek “hupo nomon” = under law...the definite article “the” is not in the Greek text...it was inserted by the translators to make you think that Paul is doing away with “the Law of God” instead of talking about just “law...any law”.
- Gal 4:21-22 New American Standard Bible Tell me, you who want to be under law (the definite article “the” is left out), do you not listen to the law (the definite article “the” is included – the Law of God)?

## Meaning of the Phrase “Under the Law”

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- Could mean to be “controlled by or subject to” the Oral Law... this is probably the correct interpretation since Judaism is the issue Paul is confronting.
- Could also mean to be “controlled or subject to” the penalties/curses for breaking the Written Law of God.
- Deut 28, 29, 30 = Blessed if we “keep them” and Cursed if we “disobey them”.

## *Some of the Curses Listed in Deut 27/1-26*

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- *Deut 27 Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today. 2 And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime.*

## *Some of the Curses Listed in Deut 27/1-26*

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- *3 You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the Lord God of your fathers promised you....8 And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law." 9 Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God.*

## *Some of the Curses Listed in Deut 27/1-26*

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- *10 Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today." ....14 "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel:*

## *List of Curses Follow – Deut 27/14-26*

*“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

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- *14 "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: 15 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'"*

*List of Curses Follow – Deut 27/14-26*  
*“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

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- 16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
- 17 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"
- 18 'Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

*List of Curses Follow – Deut 27/14-26*  
*“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

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- 19 'Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'
- 20 'Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

*List of Curses Follow – Deut 27/14-26*  
*“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

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- 21 'Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*
- 22 'Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.'
- *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"* 23 'Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*

*List of Curses Follow – Deut 27/14-26*  
*“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*

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- 24 'Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*
- 25 'Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.' *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*
- 26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' *"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*

## *Saying “Amen – So Be It” Is No Light Matter*

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- *“All the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”*
- *Nation of Israel & We Know that if we...*
  - *Obey God’s Instructions, we will be blessed.*
  - *Disobey God’s Instructions, we will be cursed.*
  - *Once we accept Jesus as our Messiah, we are also saying, Amen – So Be It.*
- *Important: We depend on the “graciousness/grace” of God to be merciful and not give us what we truly deserve”.*

*Never Say to God  
“I don’t deserve this”.*

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- *Because we are “not perfect in obeying God” and we absolutely need the “grace of God and we rely on His graciousness, we must have the following type of attitude as expressed in the Parable of the “Pharisee and Tax Collector”.*
- *God is a gracious God, so our approach to life is also to be gracious. Look at the following Scriptural examples.*

## *Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector*

### *“Oral Law Attitude vs Torah Law Attitude”*

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- *Luke 18:9-14* Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous (they trusted in their own righteousness instead of the righteousness of Messiah), and despised others (we are not to look down on other Christians who don't yet believe like us):

## *Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector*

### *“Oral Law Attitude & Torah Law Attitude”*

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- *10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'*

## *Parable of Pharisee and Tax Collector*

### *“Oral Law Attitude vs Torah Law Attitude”*

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- *13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified (Saved, declared righteous) rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *Our job as Believers is to make disciples of others and teach them what the Messiah has taught us, BUT we need to have the attitude of the following Scriptures.*
- *Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples (not only make more “converts” but “learners” and be available to teach them) of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *John 12:42-50 Nevertheless even among the rulers (the religious rulers who taught learned and taught Judaism) many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him (the Pharisees had so much power over the people that they were afraid of them), lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (we on the other hand should seek the praise of God instead of the praise of men and denominational leaders).*

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me (God the Father sent Jesus with the Torah...same message of the OT). 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 I have come as a light into the world (we are also to be light and Scripture says the Torah is light), that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.*

*Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind  
As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him (God's Written Law judges people)—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak (God does not change...He is not the “mean” God of the OT and Jesus the “loving God of the NT). 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*

*Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind  
As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- 1 John 1:5-10 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

DARKNESS

DEATH/CURSES

DARKNESS

TORAH – God's Teaching -TORAH  
(Christ's Redeemed  
Community)

1. Abrahamic Covenant (Faith  
– How to “enter” into the  
Redeemed Community)

2. Mosaic Covenant (Obedience  
– How to “live” in the  
Redeemed Community)

TORAH – God's Protection - TORAH

DEATH/CURSES

DARKNESS

DARKNESS

SATAN'S WORLD

DEATH/  
CURSES

SATAN'S WORLD

TORAH TORAH

TORAH TORAH

SATAN'S WORLD

DEATH/  
CURSES

SATAN'S WORLD

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind*

### *As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- *1 John 1:6-10 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind  
As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- 10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

## *Other Scriptures We Need to Keep in Mind As We Do Our Part in Making Disciples of Others*

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- Rom 14:11-13 For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me (in God's Plan, everyone eventually will be given the opportunity to repent and obey God), And every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God (let's focus on our being the right example for others who are not-yet-believers). 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

*Next Week*  
*Gal 4/22-31*