

Book of Galatians

(God's Written Law vs Rabbinical Oral Law)

2018 Part 15



Keep Context in Mind

- *Paul's main point – Salvation/Justification (or being declared righteous) does not come from keeping any law. Salvation cannot be earned. One is justified only by “faith” in the redemptive work of Jesus. Paul's focus in this letter is not to show how a Believer in Jesus is to live once he becomes a Believer. It's all about how one is saved...and that's through faith in Jesus.*
- *Why Paul wrote this letter – because there were Judaizers (Pharisees and other Jewish brethren who were Believers) but demanded that the Gentiles must first accept the religion of Judaism (the Oral law and the authority of the Rabbis).*

Context of Galatians

- *Who was the Apostle Paul*
 - *Paul was a Pharisee who once believed in Judaism (the Rabbinic Oral Law with all its man-made-rabbinic customs/traditions) which they believe supersedes the Written Law of God. (Gal 1/1-2, 11-14)*
 - *The Rabbinic Oral Law drove him to murder and imprison Believers. (Acts 9)*
 - *After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he stopped believing in Judaism and began believing in Jesus as the Messiah... he no longer believed in Judaism.*

Context of Galatians

- *To whom was the letter written?* – to the churches in the region of Galatia that Paul had established; the brethren were predominantly “gentiles – non-Jewish brethren” who were newly converted from pagan practices to belief in Jesus the Messiah.
- *Phariseeism and Judaism* are the same religion and are not Biblical. Jesus did not teach Judaism.

Context of Galatians

- Paul had to re-convince them that they did not have to first convert to Judaism to be part of the people of Messiah... he taught that they must live according to the Written Law of God instead of living by the Oral Law.
- He also had to re-mind them that no law (whether Oral or Written law) can earn them their salvation... only faith in Jesus the Messiah....after becoming a Believer, then they are to live according to God's Written Law.

Two "Laws" Spoken of in Galatians

- *God's Written Law and Rabbinical Oral Law ... these two are not the same.*
- *Written Law of God:*
 - *Ex 24:3-4 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord....the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do." 4 And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord.*
 - *Ex 31:18 And when He had made an end of speaking....He gave Moses two tablets ... tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

What God Says About Adding or Taking Away from the Written Law

- Deut 4:1-3 “... You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord....
- Rabbinical Judaism has added hundreds of traditions, customs, rules, etc that are not part of the Written Law of God.
- Gal 1:6-8 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7... there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel...

Today we will cover.....
Galatians 5/1-4

Galatians 5/1

- Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
- “Liberty” – Christ has set us free (delivered us) from the bondage of sin (Rom 6:23...wages of sin is death).
- “a yoke of bondage” – The religion of Judaism and its oral law with all its Rabbinic traditions (not God’s Written Law) had become a “yoke of bondage”.

God's Law Never Referred to as Bondage (It's a Law of Liberty)

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*
- *Ps 119:45 And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.*

Jesus Accused Pharisees of Putting People in Bondage

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *Matt 15:1-9 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."*

Jesus Accused Pharisees of Putting People in Bondage

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?" 4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'*

Jesus Accused Pharisees of Putting People in Bondage

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" — 6 then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*

Jesus Accused Pharisees of Putting People in Bondage

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."^{'''}*

Jesus Accused Pharisees of Putting People in Bondage

- *Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- *These were the “Teachers” of the Scriptures to the people. The people did not have Bibles like we do... they were totally dependent on the teachings of these hypocrites who taught Judaism and kept people under their control and under a “yoke of bondage”.*

Judaism Made the Gentiles Worse than they Were Before Conversion

- Gal 5:1 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
- Matt 23:15 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*
- "entangled again" – The Gentiles were going from being entangled to paganism to being entangled to Judaism... it was just as bad.

Jesus Told the People that His Yoke is Light

- Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
- Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Galatians 5/2-4

- Gal 5:2-4 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
- “if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing” – Paul was not talking about “Biblical circumcision” but about the “circumcision ritual” required as entry into Judaism.

There Are Two Types of Circumcision

- *Gal 5:2-4 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- *“Conversion Circumcision” and “Covenant Circumcision” – Here Paul is not teaching about the “commandments of God”... he is teaching against the “commandments of men”.*

Conversion Circumcision Required to Enter Judaism

- *Gal 5:2-4 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- *By going through this “conversion circumcision ritual” required by these Pharisee Believers”, the Gentiles would be making an oath that they would be obedient to the Oral Law and authority of the Rabbis. To them, faith in Jesus was not enough for entry into salvation status.*

If Gentiles Accept Judaism then Christ Is No Profit to Them

- *Gal 5:2-4 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- *“Christ will profit you nothing” & “he is a debtor to keep the whole law” - If these Gentile Believers accept the religion of Judaism instead of accepting Jesus the Messiah through faith in His redemptive works, then they become obligated to keep the entire Oral Law of Judaism and submit to all the Rabbis say.*

If They Accept Judaism, They Won't Need a Savior

- *Gal 5:2-4 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- *“attempt to be justified by law” & “fallen from grace” – Paul is telling these Gentiles, that if they attempt to earn their salvation by keeping all of the Oral Laws, then they don't need a Savior and they don't need the grace of that Savior.*

The Pharisees Felt Salvation Was an Ethnic Right

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- Matt 3:7-10 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

The Pharisees Felt Salvation Was an Ethnic Right

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- *9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Next Week
Galatians 5/5-?