

Book of Galatians

(God's Written Law vs Rabbinical Oral Law)

2018 Part 9



Understanding Book of Galatians Is More than an Intellectual/Academic Exercise

- *It is a matter of life and death, blessings and curses, light and darkness, truth and lies, etc...obedience/disobedience comes from living or not living the Torah (law...instructions/teachings of God).*
- *It's also a matter of us being prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks why we believe what you believe...our belief needs is to be demonstrated by how we behave and act.*

Understanding Book of Galatians Is More than an Intellectual/Academic Exercise

- Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples 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;...Amen.
- 1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,...
- Living a Torah/Biblical lifestyle is best way to teach others.

I Wonder How Many Christians (Sitting In and Out of Churches) Are Bothered by the Following Scripture

- *Matt 7:21-23* *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' (these people clearly are Christians who profess belief in Jesus the Messiah....it is clearly referring to the "Christian Church...perhaps a lot like the modern day Christian Church), 'shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven (what is the Father's will...He tells us in verse 23).*

I Wonder How Many Christians (Sitting In and Out of Churches) Are Bothered by the Following Scripture

- *22 Many (not just a few Christians but lots of them) will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name (they are actually involved in doing Church work)?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness (God gives the "reason" for rejecting them... because they practiced lawless... Torah-lessness... perhaps they taught that the Law was a curse, bondage, done away with)!'*

I'm sure there are Christians sitting in churches (and perhaps those who have stopped going to church) who wonder what this Scripture means.

Perhaps God is stirring the hearts of 100's of people in SA and causing them to ask the question, "Why do I feel something is missing from my Christian life".

We are here for them....not merely for ourselves....we learn to love each other so that we can be more prepared to reach out to these "questioning/seeking Believers".

We Don't Know How Many People In SA God Is Calling

- *Acts 18:9-10 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you,... for I have many people in this city."*
- *We don't know how many people in SA God is stirring to further explore Biblical Truth... we just need to be available & ready.*

Brief Hermeneutic Reminder

- *Hermeneutics – the science of interpreting Scripture*
- *Two Basic Hermeneutical principles:*
 - *Scripture cannot contradict Scripture*
 - *Context – The immediate context and the whole book /letter....and even the whole Bible context.*

Don't Forget the Context of Galatians

- *Don't forget the Main Theme of the book – the subject is “salvation/justification” NOT instructions on how to live like a Believer. Don't forget why Paul wrote the letter.*
- *Why did Paul have to write this letter? – because there were Judaizers... Pharisees and other Jewish brethren who had become Believers and demanded that Gentile Believers accept Judaism and the Rabbinic Oral law to be saved.*

Galatians 3/10-14

- Gal 3:10-14 10 For as many as are of the works of the law (*ergon nomou* = *works of law* - Rabbinic Oral law) are under the curse (Rabbinic Oral law may bring a curse because it contaminates Scripture... but God's Law is not a curse); for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law (do God's Written Law not Oral law), to do them."
- Institutional Christianity interprets this as, "God's Law/Torah is a curse". How can God's "teaching/instruction" be a curse? Not logical. Would God have freed Israel from Egyptian

Galatians 3/20-14

- *Gal 3:10-14* 10 For as many as are of the works of the law (Rabbinic Oral law) are under the curse (Rabbinic Oral law may bring a curse because it contaminates Scripture... but God's Law is not a curse); for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."
- *Deut 27, 28, 29, 30* = Is where "it is written" about curses.

Torah is Not a Curse – Rather It Contains Curses

- *Deut 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"*
- *Deut 27:14-25 "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!'"*

Torah is Not a Curse – Rather It Contains Curses

- *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!' 19 'Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'*

Torah is Not a Curse – Rather It Contains Curses

- *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!' 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!'*

Torah is Not a Curse – Rather It Contains Curses

- *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!'*

Torah Also Contains Blessings

- *Deut 28:1-13 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.*

Torah Also Contains Blessings

- *4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. 5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. 7 "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*

Torah Also Contains Blessings

- 8 *"The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 9 "The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. 10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you.*

Torah Also Contains Blessings

- *11 And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

God Gives Us a Choice – Obey or Not Obey

- *Deut 30:15-20 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,*

God Gives Us a Choice – Obey or Not Obey

- *18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days;*

Difficult to Bless Someone Who Continues to Disobey

- *19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;...*
- *No matter how much you try to help people overcome their life challenges....if they continue to disobey God's Word, they will continue to suffer the consequences of disobedience. People reap what they sow. The blessings don't come from you....they come from God.*

Galatians 3/11-12

- 11 But that no one is justified by the law (God's Law is not the vehicle for salvation/justification/righteousness... Faith in the Messiah is) in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith" (however, faith w/o works is dead)." 12 Yet the law (God's Law is not for the purpose of salvation/justification... it teaches you how to live the saved life) is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

Habakkuk 2:4-5

- *Hab 2:4-5 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*
- *We can boast of our own righteousness....can't let pride enter in...can't make ourselves righteous through our own works or obedience to any system of law. You are also cursed if you think you can earn your salvation through your mere obedience.*
- *The just (the righteous) shall live by faith in Messiah. Being made righteous through "faith" nor "works" is an OT teaching....not only a NT concept.*

Galatians 3/13-14

- *13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (both Jew & Gentile enter the KOG/Salvation/Justification the same way...through faith...we can't work/earn salvation).*
- *Where is it "written" that "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree".*

Where Is It “Written” – What Does It Mean

- Deut 21:22-23 *"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for **he who is hanged is accursed of God.** (Isa 53/5-6)*
- This is referring to Jesus the Messiah. He didn't commit a crime, so what made him “cursed”? He took upon himself the curse of our sin...our breaking of the Law...Death...wages of sin.

DARKNESS

SATAN'S WORLD

DEATH/
CURSES

SATAN'S WORLD

DARKNESS

DEATH/CURSES

TORAH – God's Teaching -TORAH

(Christ's Redeemed
Community)

LIFE/BLESSINGS/
LIGHT-SALT/INHERITANCE

TORAH – God's Protection - TORAH

DEATH/CURSES

DARKNESS

SATAN'S WORLD

DEATH/
CURSES

SATAN'S WORLD

DARKNESS

TORAH TORAH

TORAH TORAH

Next Week

Chapter 3/15-?