

Book of Galatians
(God's Written Law vs Rabbinical Oral Law)

2018 Part 12



Don't Forget the Context of Galatians

- Main Theme of the book – Paul's main point to the Galatians is that the Law of God does not function as an instrument for Salvation (to justify/to declare one righteous; only faith in the redemptive work of Jesus can Save); the theme has nothing to do with instructions on how a Believer is to live after he is Saved.
- 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 Gentile Believers, to be Saved, first had to accept Judaism, the Oral law, and submit to the authority of the Rabbis.

Purpose for God's Law

The Law serves two purposes:

- *It defines sin (1Jn 3/4) ... it tells us that we are sinners (Rom 3:20) ... that we deserve death (Rom 6:23) ... that we need a Savior ... it points us to Jesus the Messiah, the Savior.*
- *After accepting Jesus as our Savior, the law then shows us how to live a Godly life ... faith is the beginning NOT the end of our Christian journey ... what follows after faith is obedience to God's law which brings blessings to those that follow it.*

Law's Purpose for the Unbeliever & Believer

- *For the “Unbeliever” – shows that he is a sinner, therefore deserves the death penalty, and only faith in the Messiah can save him and give him the gift of eternal life.*
- *For the “Believer” – shows him how to live once he is Saved.*

DARKNESS

DARKNESS

DEATH/CURSES

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

TORAH TORAH

TORAH TORAH

SATAN’S WORLD

SATAN’S WORLD

DEATH/
CURSES

DEATH/
CURSES

SATAN’S WORLD

SATAN’S WORLD

DARKNESS

DARKNESS

Galatians 4/1-31

Gal 4:1-2

- *Gal 4:1-2 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.*
- *Here Paul uses the “analogy of human children” who are “heirs” to a future inheritance.*
- *Chapter 4 naturally follows where chapter 3 leaves off.*
- *Gal 3/26-29 See next slide*

Gal 4:1-2

- Gal 3:26-29 ... you are all sons of God through faith in Christ (both Jew & Gentile Believers). 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, /slave nor free/, male nor female/;.... you are all one in Christ... 29 And if you are Christ's, ... then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (of KOG & Eternal life).
- Gal 4:1-2 ... I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Gal 4:1-2

- *Gal 4:1-2 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.*
- *As an "heir" we have the right to the Abrahamic promises (not just a piece of land to Abraham's descendants, but the main Seed, Jesus, was promised the entire earth as His KOG and Eternal Life to His spiritual children), but we don't have the promises now in this physical life. As "heirs", we will inherit these promises at the return of Jesus the Messiah.*

*While We Wait for the Inheritance
What Are We Supposed to Be Doing?*

- Deut 4:1-9 *"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you...."*

*While We Wait for the Inheritance
What Are We Supposed to Be Doing?*

- 5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. 6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

*While We Wait for the Inheritance
What Are We Supposed to Be Doing?*

- 7 *"For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?...And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,...*
- Unfortunately, *Israel did not live up to the role God had given them...the role of being an example to the surrounding nations.*

*While We Wait for the Inheritance
What Are We Supposed to Be Doing?*

- *But we as the church (God's Redeemed People) have the same "role" to play in this world:*
 - *Matt 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

*How Are We to Be Light to the World?
By Keeping the Torah*

- *Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*
- *Our role is to be an example (light) to others in our commitment to observe the...*
 - *Sabbath*
 - *Holy Days*
 - *Live a Torah lifestyle... summarized by 1) Loving God, 2) Loving Others.*

Gal 4:3-10

Read All Verses then Unpack the Verses

- Gal 4:3 *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.*
- Gal 4:4-5 *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

Gal 4:3

- Gal 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
- Gal 4:8-9 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

Gal 4:3

- Gal 4:10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.
- These verses are misinterpreted by our Christian friends to show that God's Sabbath, Holy Days, and the entire Torah (Law of God) are "bondage", "elements of the world", and "weak & beggarly elements".
- Let's unpack these verses and see that they are not referring to God's Sabbath, Holy Days, etc.

Gal 4:3

“Bondage & Elements of the World”

- *Gal 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.*
- *Facts to consider:*
 - *Sabbath & Holy Days never referred to in Scripture as “elements of the world”.*
 - *Paul is writing to predominantly Gentile Believers whose background consisted of worshipping pagan idols, not observing the Sabbath/Holy Days as the Jews did.*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *Paul also wrote “Colossians”.*
- *Col 2:8-10 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *Col 2:11-23 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ (Judaizers in Galatia were telling the new Gentile converts that they had to be circumcised and accept Judaism & its traditions...faith in Christ was not enough), 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements (wiped out your debt/sins) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (your debts/sins were nailed to the cross).*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ (they were observing the Sabbath/Holy Days but Paul was telling them not to let others... the Judaizers judge them on how they were observing these days with all their traditions... rather, let Christ judge you).*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels (some aspects of Judaism involved worship of angels), intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.*

Paul Also Warns the Colossian Brethren About “Principles of the World”

- *20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle (religious practices of ascetism)," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

Gal 4:4-5

- *Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem (own again...Adam/Eve sinned and they lost ownership relationship with God) those who were under the law (under the penalty of the law...death), that we might receive the adoption as sons (whether Jew or Gentile...it does not matter as long as you are connected through faith in Christ).*

Gal 4:6-7

- *Gal 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

Gal 4:8-9

- Gal 4:8-9 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods (these Gentile converts had worshipped pagan gods before their conversion). 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements (these Gentiles were never observing Torah – Sabbath/Holy Days... Paul was equating Judaism to going back to worshipping pagan gods), to which you desire again to be in bondage?

Before Conversion These Gentile Believers Worshipped Pagan Idols

- *1 Cor 10:14-22 ... my beloved, flee from idolatry. ... 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ... 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.*

Before Conversion These Gentile Believers Worshipped Pagan Idols

- *Acts 14:8-18 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. 11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"*

Before Conversion These Gentile Believers Worshipped Pagan Idols

- *12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out*

Before Conversion These Gentile Believers Worshipped Pagan Idols

- *15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,....18 And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.*

Gal 4:10

- *Gal 4:10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.*
- *Judaism also has many Jewish holidays that are not Biblical or that are not listed in Leviticus 23 where all of God's Holy Days are listed, including the Sabbath.*
- *Next slide for list of Non-biblical Jewish Holidays... just tradition.*

List of Jewish Holidays

- *Hanukkah* is not a biblical holy day...instituted by the Maccabees. *Purim* was instituted in the days of Esther. We do not exalt these days to the same level as the holy days found in Lev 23...days instituted by God...other days are men's.
- *Tu BiShvat*, *Purim Katan*, *Shushan Purim*, *Days of the Omer*, *Pesach Sheni*. *Lag B'Omer*, *Leil Selechet*, *Tu B'Av*, *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Memorial Day), *Yom HaZikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day), *Yom HaAtzma'ut* (Israeli Independence Day), *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day), *Sigd* etc, etc, etc.

Gal 4:11-16

- *Gal 4:11-16* *I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain. 12 Brethren, I urge you to become like me, for I became like you. You have not injured me at all. 13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first.*

Gal 4:11-16

- *14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. 15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?*

Next Week
Gal 4/17-31

Gal 4:17

- *Gal 4:17* *They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.*

Gal 4:18-20

- *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, do you not hear the law?*

Gal 4:22-23

- *Gal 4:22-23* *For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,*

Gal 4:24-26

- *Gal 4:24-26* ... *which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar — 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

Gal 4:27

- *Gal 4:27* *For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."*

Gal 4:28-29

- *Gal 4:28-29* *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.*

Gal 4:30-31

- *Gal 4:30-31* *Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.*