

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

2018 Part 25



Don't Forget the Context of Entire Book of Galatians

- *The problem issue Paul was addressing was teaching between:*
 - *Rabbinic Oral Law vs God's Written Law*
 - *Many Pharisees and their followers, who practiced the religion of Judaism, began to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. However, they retained the practices Judaism and taught that anyone who wanted to come to Jesus the Messiah first had to convert to Judaism. Judaism, they taught, was the passage way to the Messiah. Converting to Judaism meant that one had to accept the Rabbinic Oral Law with all of its man-made traditions and customs. They also had to accept the authority of the Sages/Rabbis.*

Don't Forget the Context of Entire Book of Galatians

- *Paul, after his conversion, left the practices of Judaism and began teaching that one could come directly to Jesus the Messiah without the practices of Judaism and its Rabbinic Oral Law.*
- *Paul abandoned the Rabbinic Oral Law and accepted (and taught) God's Written Law.*
- *Deut 4:1-3 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach 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. (Deut 12:32, Prov 30:6)*

Paul did not stop teaching Law... he stopped teaching the Rabbinic Oral Law and began teaching God's Written Law which pointed Believers, not to the authority of the Rabbis but to the sole authority of Jesus Christ.

Oral Law was based on the Written Law but the Rabbis taught that the Oral Law superseded God's Written Law.

He taught both...
Grace AND Law

The immediate context which begins in Chapter 5 and continues
into Chapter 6

Walking in the Spirit vs Walking in the Flesh
(Gal 5/19-26)

God's Written Law vs Rabbinic Oral Law

Today's Message

Galatians 6/11-18

Galatians 6/11-18

- Gal 6:11-18 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6/11-18

- 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Galatians 6/11

- Gal 6:11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!
- Scholars differ as to what Paul means by writing this concluding portion of his Galatians letter with “large letters”.
- Some say that he had “poor eyesight”, some say that he wrote with “large letters” for emphasis on what he was saying as he concluded the letter, etc.

Galatians 6/12-13

- Gal 6:12-13 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.
- Judaizers, Pharisees who had become Believers but continued to teach Judaism, taught that one could come to the Messiah only if they were physically circumcised according to the rituals of Judaism (different than Biblical circumcision); it was the “entry” means to the religion of Judaism before they could come to Jesus.

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *Judaizers would boast as they converted Gentiles into the religion of Judaism by convincing them to go through process of “circumcision according to the practices of Judaism” as the entry-step to accepting Jesus as the Messiah.*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *By convincing the Gentiles to go through their version of circumcision, they were obligating the new converts to accept the Rabbinic Oral Law (and all its traditions/customs) and to submit to the authority of whatever the Rabbis said and taught.*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *This is what Paul said about their conversion practices:*
 - *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."*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *Paul also said this about “true” circumcision:*
 - *Deut 10:12-17* *"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him (John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments) to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *Paul also said this about circumcision:*
 - *13* *and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? 14 Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it.*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- Paul also said this about circumcision:
 - 15 *The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.*
 - 16 *Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- *Paul also said this about circumcision:*
 - *Rom 2:25-29 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.*

Galatians 6/12-13

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- Paul also said this about circumcision:
 - 26 *Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?*

Galatians 6/12-13

- Gal 6:12-13 *As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*
- Paul also said this about circumcision:
 - 27 *And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?*

Galatians 6/12-13

- Gal 6:12-13 *As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*
- Paul also said this about circumcision:
 - 28 *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

Galatians 6/14

- Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- Paul gave them two options:
 - Submit to circumcision of Judaism and come under the authority of Judaism, its oral law, its man-made customs/traditions, and the authority of the Rabbis....OR...
 - Come under the authority of the grace of Jesus Christ & God's Written Law.

Galatians 6/15

- *Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*
- *It is not circumcision or uncircumcision that defines a Believer; what defines a Believer is being “born again” through Jesus the Messiah and becoming a “new creation”.*
- *At conversion (Repentance/Baptism/Laying on of Hands) we receive the Holy Spirit and become a “new creation”.*
- *And a “new creation” desires to be obedient to God and to His Written Law (not Rabbinic Oral Law or Traditions of Men).*

Galatians 6/15

- *Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*
- *Jer 7:8-11 "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, 10 and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered (saved) to do all these abominations'? 11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the Lord.*

Galatians 6/15

- Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.
- Even God's temple during the time of Jesus on this earth had become a "den of thieves":
 - Matt 21:12-13 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves."
 - Even in God's temple, worship had become "worship in vain".

Galatians 6/15

- Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.
- Why had their worship in God's temple become vain worship?
 - Matt 15:8-9 "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."
 - Mark 7:9,13 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition... 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition..."

Galatians 6/15

- *Gal 6:15* *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*
- *We do not keep the Law to be saved, but we keep the Law because we are saved:*
 - *Matt 7:21-23* *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many 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?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

This Is God's Punishment for Continued Disobedience

- Ezek 20:21-26 *"Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness. 22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.*

This Is God's Punishment for Disobedience

- *23 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries, 24 because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols. 25 "Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live;*
- *Both Judaizers and Gentilizers have added and taken away from God's Written Word.*

Most Christians Do Not Read Their Bibles

- *Most Christians do not learn God's Word by reading and studying their Bibles.*
- *They learn God's Word through:*
 - *Christian TV/Christian Movies*
 - *Denominational teaching & Pastors' sermons*
 - *Parents*

Most Christians Do Not Read Their Bibles

- Christians need to read their Bibles and study for themselves.
- And we need to tell others (without forcing our beliefs on them) why we believe what we believe: Sabbath, Holy Days, etc.
- People may not agree with your beliefs, but they usually respect your convictions because so few are convicted of anything.
- Telling them may annoy some or make them feel uncomfortable, but they have no problem telling you what they believe.
- If God is calling them, they may eventually begin researching and Googling the “Sabbath, Holy Days, etc” and learn more.

Jesus Came to Rescue Us From Both Judaism & Corrupted Christianity

- *Luke 4:17-22 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives (during this time the people were captive to Judaism) And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

Jesus Came to Rescue Us From Both Judaism & Corrupted Christianity

- *20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Isa 61/1)*
- *When Jesus began His ministry with (Mat 4/17) He declared, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
- *What did the people at that time have to repent of? Of what they were being taught... Judaism, traditions of men. What do we have to repent of? Not only our sins, but the traditions of a corrupted Christianity.*

Jesus Came to Rescue Us From Judaism & Corrupted Christianity

- *Gal 5:1-6 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free (He has made us free through grace and faith in Him), and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage (bondage to Judaism, Oral Law, Control of the Rabbis). 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised (circumcised according to the ritual of Judaism), Christ will profit you nothing.*

Jesus Came to Rescue Us From Judaism & Corrupted Christianity

- *3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law (if you accept the circumcision of Judaism, you better keep the whole Oral Law and submit to the control of the Rabbis and do it perfectly). 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law (attempt to be justified by earning your salvation through the Rabbinic Oral Law); you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

Jesus Came to Rescue Us From Judaism & Corrupted Christianity

- 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.
- Rejoice when someone who has not known Jesus the Messiah finally accepts Him as his/her Lord and Savior.
- Pray that God continues to draw him/her into a closer relationship with Him by continuing to learn, understand, and apply what Scripture requires of a Believer.
- Mat 28/19-20 We are called to make disciples, not just converts.

Without accepting Jesus as the Messiah, one has not even begun the journey towards salvation.

He is the Door/Gate

John 10:9-10

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Galatians 6/16-18

- Gal 6:16-18 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

- Paul summarizes as he closes his letter:

- Those who walk according to:

- The Grace of God through Faith in Jesus the Messiah
- And Obedience to God's Written Law

Peace & Mercy
Be upon them

Next Week

Concluding Remarks & We're Finished