

Book of Galatians
(Mosaic Written Law vs Rabbinical Oral Law)

2018 Part 4



What Traditional Christianity Teaches

- *Age of Grace vs Age of Law... we no longer live under the Age of Law... it's now the Age of Grace... Law has been done away with.*
- *Law of Christ has replaced the Law of God.*
- *Not justified by the "works of the law" but by "faith in Christ", law is a curse, it is bondage, you can't earn your salvation, etc.*
- *And therefore, the Law has been done away with, so, we don't have to keep the Law with its Sabbath, Holy Days, Dietary Laws, etc.*

What We Believe

We believe that...

- *It is not true* that we believe that we can “earn” our salvation...no amount of law keeping earns us anything...salvation comes through the “redeeming acts of Jesus”.
- *But*, we also believe that after accepting Christ’s grace which begins our Christian journey, we are to live a life of obedience to His Laws (not our man-made laws or denominational laws, but God’s Written Law.).

What We Believe

We believe that...

- *Both Grace AND Law* are necessary for salvation.
- *Grace is unmerited pardon...* we don't merit (deserve) salvation... we deserve death... no amount of law keeping can eliminate the death penalty that we deserve... only the redeeming acts of Jesus our Savior can eliminate the death penalty which we deserve... so we cannot boast that we have earned salvation through law keeping... we are saved by grace through faith... salvation by Jesus is a gift... it is not earned.

What We Believe

We believe that...

- *The Law serves two purposes:*
 - *It defines sin...it tells us that we are sinners...that we deserve death...that we need a Savior...Jesus the Messiah is that Savior.*
 - *After accepting Jesus as our Savior, the law shows us how to live a Godly life...the way we were designed to live in order to function properly...living against the Law causes malfunctioning living...faith is the beginning of our Christian journey...what follows is obedience to God's law which brings blessings to those that follow it.*

What We Believe

We believe that...

- *The law has blessings and cursings*... *blessings if you obey it and curses if your disobey it... eternal death is the ultimate curse and eternal life is the ultimate blessing (Deut 27/28/29/30)*
- *Grace does not cancel the law* and obedience to it....*it gives us another chance to obey it... it keeps giving us chances as we learn to practice obedience to the law.*

Let's get started in going through the Book of Galatians...probably not verse by verse but highlights of each of the chapters, especially those that seem to indicate that Christ has replaced the Law of God.

To understand the book of Galatians and the other books (letters) that Paul wrote, you need to read his letters within the context and knowledge that the Law of God (Torah) is seen by Judaism as two Laws... Written Law and the Oral Rabbinic Law.

In Judaism, the Oral Rabbinic Law supersedes the Written Law.

Paul talks about both "laws"... context tells you which one he is talking about.

Two "Laws" Spoken of in Galatians

- *The "Mosaic Written Law of God" 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 and all the judgments. And all 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 with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

Two “Laws” Spoken of in Galatians

- *The “Mosaic Written Law of God” AND “Rabbinical Oral Law”*
- *Rabbinical Oral Law* (from Jewish writings)
 - *Talmud Shabbath 31a* – “Our Rabbis taught a certain heathen once came before Shammai and asked him. How many Torahs have you? TWO, he replied, the Written Torah and the Oral Torah.”
 - *Oral Law* = Jewish “traditions, customs, rules” added to the written Torah ... all part of the religion of Judaism.
 - *Rabbis* (sages) are the ones that have created and continue to create the “Oral Law”.

Two “Laws” Spoken of in Galatians

- *The “Mosaic Written Law of God” AND “Rabbinical Oral Law”*
 - *Rabbinical Oral Law*
 - *From the Babylonian Torah* – “...and even on the view that precepts cannot nullify each other...but in the case of a Scriptural and a Rabbinical (precept), the Rabbinical one comes and nullifies the Scriptural one”.
 - *Pesikta Rabbati* – “...Rather all that they decree upon you, observe! As it is written (mistranslation of Deut 17/11). Even I (YHWH - God) must obey their decree...”

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

- Deut 4:1-3 "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. (Deut 12:32, Prov 30:6)
- Rabbinical Judaism has added hundreds of traditions, customs, rules, etc that are not part of the Written Law (Torah).

It is important to know what Paul believed before his conversion and what he believed after his conversion.

Before his conversion, he believed in Judaism (religion of the Pharisees).

After his conversion, he believed in the Written Law of God.

Galatians 1/1-2; 11-14

- Gal 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead), 2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:
- Gal 1:11-14 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Next Message We Will Start with Galatians 1

- *13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*
- *Paul's mindset changed after conversion – he left the Oral Law and authority of the Rabbis TO the Biblical Written Law....this is the context in which Galatians was written.*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Strict Pharisee

Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *Acts 22:1-21 Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now." 2 And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: 3 "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel (a Pharisee – teacher of the law...Acts 5/34-35), taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women (Acts 9/1-5), 5 as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee

Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *6 "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' 8 So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' 9 "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee

Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *10 So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' 11 And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. 12 "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there,*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *13 came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. 14 Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 15 For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 9).'*

Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee Judaism – Religion of the Jews

- *17 "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' 19 So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You.*

*Before Paul's Conversion – Paul Was a Pharisee
Strict in Judaism – Religion of the Jews*

- *20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'"*

Phariseeism – Strictest Sect of Judaism

- *Acts 26:5-6 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.*
- *Paul knew how the Pharisees operated... they just didn't keep the Law of Moses...they kept all of the traditions, customs, rules...according to the Talmud.*

Paul's Attitude Towards the Rabbinic Oral Law After His Conversion

- *Phil 3:2-11 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision (Deut 30/6... God will circumcise your hearts...), who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;*

Paul's Attitude Towards the Rabbinic Oral Law After His Conversion

- 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law (Rabbinic Oral law), blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Paul's Attitude Towards the Rabbinic Oral Law After His Conversion

- *9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law (Oral Law), but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*
- *Paul is contrasting what he used to believe...the oral law that drive him to destroy Believers...not he believes in Written Law.*

Jesus the Messiah had many confrontations with the Pharisees (religion of Judaism).

He would tell Paul these things when he believed in Judaism... he was a strict Pharisee.

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *Matt 12:1-2 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"*
- *Not lawful according to their traditions and rules... not according to the Written Law of God.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *Matt 12:9-15 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — that they might accuse Him. 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. 14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.*
- *Phariseeism killed the prophets, Scriptures says... Jesus was recognized as a prophet and they want to kill Him... Judaism allowed this killing of God's prophets.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *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 (tradition of Judaism, not God's law)." 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 Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *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. 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 Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *Matt 23:1-37 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they bind heavy burdens (oral law binds heavy burdens, not God's Law...His yoke is light/easy), hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' 8 But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. 13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 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. 16 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.'*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' 31 "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? 34 Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,*

Jesus Confrontation with Pharisaic Judaism

- *35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

Why Is It Dangerous to Add/Take Away From God's Law?

- *Matt 16:5-13* *Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." 8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"*

Why Is It Dangerous to Add/Take Away From God's Law?

- *9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? — but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

Why Is It Dangerous to Add/Take Away From God's Law?

- *Whether in Judaism or Traditional Christianity, adding or taking away from God's Law "infects" the entire Law as yeast infects the entire batch of dough.*
- *We'll continue next week...eventually we'll get deeper into the Book of Galatians, but it's important we know the context of Galatians.*
- *Must first understand the "context" in which Galatians was written.*