

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

2018 Part 5



Mission/Vision/Values
Of the Church of God San Antonio

Mission

“To help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word in order to heal this broken-hurting world”

Vision

“A people prepared for leadership with Christ in Tomorrow’s New World”

Values

“Love God – Love One Another – Love the World”

Mission

“To help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word in order to heal this broken-hurting world”

- *Change begins with me (us) – “me” as an individual Believer and “we” as a congregation... we are the role models, as individual Believers and as a church... we practice what we say we believe... we’re Givers NOT Consumers... we are here primarily for our community NOT just for ourselves... we are here to serve “new Believers to this faith”.*
- *Change to become more like Christ.*

Mission

“To help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word in order to heal this broken-hurting world”

- Change so that we can be agents of change (within our circle of influence) in every aspect of life.*
- Change in order to be able to help others live life more effectively by teaching them how to live a Biblical-Torah lifestyle.*

Our Target

- Our primary target are individuals who are new to this Way of Life and who are being stirred by God to learn more about the Sabbath, Holy Days, Dietary Laws, and our other beliefs that make us distinctive from traditional Christianity. We welcome you and are here to serve you.
- We are interested in “conversion growth” and NOT in “transfer growth” from other Churches of God of our tradition. The COGSA is not made for brethren who are already attending one of the Churches of God of our tradition. We encourage them to continue to attend wherever they are presently attending. Brethren from other Churches of God are welcomed to attend with us, but if they do, they are expected, like the rest of us, to regularly contribute financially and support our M/V/V.

Let's continue 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.

Peter Admits That Paul's Writings Are Difficult to Understand

- *2 Peter 3:15-16 ... 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles (letters to the churches he established in order to resolve church issues), speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

Unstable and Untaught People Twist Paul's Writings To Their Destruction

- *People teach that Paul did away with the Law of God...they filter their teaching either through the customs and traditions of denominational Christianity OR through the customs and traditions of Rabbinic Oral Law. Both are perversions of Scripture and the Written Law of God.*
- *They rob Believers of the blessings of knowing, understanding, and applying the Written Law of God (“Your law is truth” –Psalm 119/42, “The law of the Lord is perfect” Psalm 19/7, “lamp to my feet/light to my path” Psalm 119/105)*

To understand Scripture, you must read any passage in

“Context”

instead of “cutting and pasting” isolate verses.

Context of Galatians

- *Who wrote Galatians (letter)? - Apostle Paul*
 - *Paul was a Pharisee and once believed in the Rabbinic Oral Law (with all its man-made-rabbinic customs/traditions) which superseded the Written Law of God.*
 - *The Rabbinic Oral Law drove him to murder and destroy Believers of Jesus the Messiah.*
 - *After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he stopped believing in the Rabbinic Oral Law and believed only on the Written Law of God.*
 - *Phariseeism and Judaism are not biblical.*

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 converted from pagan practices to believe in Jesus the Messiah.
- Why did Paul have to write this letter? – because there were Judaizers... these were Pharisees and other Jewish brethren who had become Believers but still retained their belief and practices in Judaism (Rabbinic Oral law) and believed that the newly converted Gentiles had to practice the customs/traditions of the Rabbinic Oral law.

Context of Galatians

- Paul had to re-convince them that they did not have to follow the Rabbinic Oral Law but that they must obey the Written Law of God now that they were Believers.
- He admonished them to stay focused on Jesus Christ and obedience to the Written Law of God.
- 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 and after accepting the Messiah, obedience to His Written Law.

Paul Wrote in Intellectual Shorthand

Word "Law" Can Mean either Oral or Written

- Rom 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified...for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
- Gal 2:16 *...knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*

Paul Wrote in Intellectual Shorthand

Word "Law" Can Mean either Oral or Written

- *James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*
- *Rom 2:12-15 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law 13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; 14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,...*

Paul Wrote in Intellectual Shorthand

Word “Law” Can Mean either Oral or Written

- *The word “mother” can have different meanings... context tells you what it means – female parent, mother of a storm, mother-board.*

Galatians

Chapter 1

- *Gal 1:1-24 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: 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Galatians

Chapter 1

- 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

“some who trouble you” – Who Were They

- *Acts 15:1-5 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.*

“some who trouble you”

- *3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."*

“some who trouble you”

- *These were Pharisees who had become Believers but still retained the practices/customs/traditions of Judaism (the Rabbinic Oral Law...to them the Oral law superseded the Written Law of God.*
- *They insisted that the Gentile converts had to become “one of them”...had to believe and practice the Oral law...circumcision was the “entrance into the practices of Judaism....which is not biblical”.*
- *They pushed circumcision according to their Oral Law rules.*

Galatians

Chapter 1

- 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. 11 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. 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.

Galatians

Chapter 1

- 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. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,*

Galatians

Chapter 1

- *17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)*

Galatians

Chapter 1

- *21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 And they glorified God in me.*

What Is Paul Teaching the Galatians to Counteract the Judaizers?

- *Paul is emphasizing Jesus the Messiah and obedience to the Written Law of God as the way to salvation...faith begins (not ends) the journey to eternal life and the KOG. After beginning the journey comes obedience to the Written Law of God NOT the Rabbinic Oral law.*
- *Paul is teaching Gentiles in his letters the proper way to live out the Scriptures in light of the Messianic fulfillment of Jesus.*

Concluding Remarks

- Bible doesn't contradict or oppose itself. . . whatever it is we think those conflicting verses say, they can't be saying what we've been told they say.
- The last thing we want to do is to replace on set of manmade traditions, such as the ones found in "traditional Christianity" with another set of manmade traditions as found in Rabbinical Judaism.. Unfortunately, this is a frequent occurrence with many that begin their journey into Torah observance without any responsible guidance or leadership.
- We desire to be "Biblical" in practicing and teaching others this faith.