

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

2018 Part 8



Torah – “sweeter than honey” to King David

- *Ps 19:10-11 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. (One of the many Scriptures that speaks highly about God’s Law.)*
- *This is what King David thought of God’s Law (Torah... God’s teaching/instructions)... how can they be done away with, discarded, bondage, a curse as mainline Christianity teaches.*

Don't Forget the Context of Galatians

- *Don't forget the Main Theme of the book – the subject is “salvation/justification” NOT how to live like a Believer; the subject is “salvation” NOT “sanctification”... it is not to show Believers how to live a life that is set apart for God's purpose. Paul is not saying that the Law is irrelevant. 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 Chapter 3/1 - 9

- Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians (“you stupid people of Galatia”... God’s Word... Paul is frustrated and mad.) ! Who has bewitched you (“you let someone trick you”... New Century Version... Judaizers had tricked them by convincing them that they could not be saved unless they accepted Judiasm) that you should not obey the truth (Paul started these churches... he had taught them what Jesus had personally taught him), before whose eyes Jesus Christ (Jesus is the source for salvation NOT the works of Rabbinic Oral law or any other Law) was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

Galatians Chapter 3/2

- 2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit (Holy Spirit) by the works of the law (ergon nomu = works of law w/o “the” - Judaizers were demanding that the new Gentile Believers must first convert to the religion of Judaism and come under the authority of the Rabbis and their Oral law if they wanted to receive the Holy Spirit and be saved by their Jewish Messiah...He was their Messiah not the Gentile’s Messiah...to them it was the Oral law first and then the Messiah), or by the hearing of faith (faith in the redeeming acts of the Messiah is what saves you and brings righteousness...hearing and obedience go together...your response once saved is obedience to God’s Written Law... James 2/14-26)?

Shema – Hebrew Word for “Hear/Listen”

- *The Hebrew word “hear/listen” always connected to “obedience”*
- *Deut 6:4-8 "Hear (shema), O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up (you teach by setting the example of obedience).*

Shema – Hebrew Word for “Hear/Listen”

- What were they to “hear and obey” = God’s Torah (instructions)
- Deut 6:1-3 “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them (not only hear them but obey them) in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life,...3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you....

Why Is It Important That We as Believers Not Only Hear But Also Obey?

- Deut 4:5-10 "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.'

Why Is It Important That We as Believers Not Only Hear But Also Obey?

- *7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us... 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law (Torah – Written Law of God not Rabbinic Oral law)... teach them to your children and your grandchildren,....*
- *Important we diligently observe Sabbath, Holy Days, etc. – We are the example to our children and to those whom God is stirring to further explore Biblical truth that results in blessings... this is our mission and calling... to be light/salt/examples.*

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 help 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”

Our Corporate Purpose & Vision Personalized

- *Our Purpose: To build a Community of Believers who are willing to sacrificially commit of their Time, Talents, and Treasures as well as commit to gathering, learning, and leading others by example in order to accomplish its mission, vision, and values.*
- *Paul's commitment – what God wanted from Paul was his “commitment”...that commitment to destroy Believers was turned to commitment for God's cause.*
- *This world needs people to help them rediscover the Torah and show them how to live a Torah lifestyle.*

Galatians Chapter 3/3-4

- 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit (Paul taught the Galatians that faith in the Messiah is a spiritual thing and that salvation comes only through faith in Messiah), are you now being made perfect by the flesh (are you now trying to make yourself perfect and achieve salvation through the Oral law as the Judaizers are telling you)? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain?
- Rom 8:9-11 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Galatians Chapter 3/3-4

- 3 *Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain?*
- 10 *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

Galatians Chapter 3/5

- Gal 3:5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He (Jesus Christ) do it by the works of the law (*ergon nomou* = works of law - Rabbinic Oral law and all its required customs and traditions), or by the hearing of faith (remember Shema – hear & obey go together...obedience always follows faith...faith without works/obedience to the Written Torah is dead...James 2/14-26...obedience to the Torah does not save you but obedience is a result of being saved...you obey because you love God and obedience is a manifestation of that love).

Galatians Chapter 3/6

- 6 just as Abraham "believed God (Abraham was motivated by faith in God), and it was accounted to him for righteousness (it was "faith in God" NOT "works" that justified him/made him righteousness.

Story of Abraham's Faith

- Gen 12:1-3 *Now the Lord had said to Abram (Abraham was a Gentile...from his descendants came the people of Israel): "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (all = Israelites and Gentiles...people from other nations)*

Faithful Abraham

- Heb 11:8-9 By faith Abraham obeyed (Gal 3/6 “it was accounted to him for righteousness”) when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;
- Abraham was justified/made righteous “by faith” (Remember that the main theme of Galatians is “salvation/justification/righteousness)... not Believer’s lifestyle.)

How Did Abraham Demonstrate His Faith?

- *Gen 26:4-5 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven (God told this to Isaac, Abraham's promised son); I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."*
- *"Obedience" always follows "faith" - actions are louder than words...faith without works is dead.*
- *God's Law existed during Abraham's time before it was written.*

How Did Abraham Demonstrate His Faith?

- *Gen 22:12-18 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."*

How Did Abraham Demonstrate His Faith?

- *15 Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

Galatians Chapter 3/7-9

- 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture (OT), foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.
- Paul keeps stressing to the Gentiles not to listen to the Judaizers because salvation/justification comes only through faith in the Messiah... BUT that does not make God's Law irrelevant... obedience to God's Law follows faith.

God All Along Included Gentiles in His Plan of Salvation

- Isa 56:3 Do not let the son of the foreigner (Gentile) Who has joined himself to the Lord Speak, saying, "The Lord has utterly separated me from His people";
- Isa 56:6 Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants — Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant —

God All Along Included Gentiles in His Plan of Salvation

- Isa 56:8-9 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him."
- Gentiles are given "equal footing" along with Israelites... they are also justified/made righteous through faith BUT obedience follows that faith... v6 says they keep the Sabbath and hold fast to God's covenant.

Next Week

Chapter 3/10-?