



# Messianic Christian Fellowship

with Ken Jenkerson

Let me start off by saying I did this study in 2012 and it probably needs serious revision! I recently studied a work by a gentleman Avi Ben Mordeci on the book of Galatians and it is the best breakdown and teaching I have seen yet- I highly recommend it. It is available on dvd or in book format- I saw the dvd. It can be obtained through his website- just google his name!

## "Galatians 1"

We are going to go through the book of Galatians and see if we can't correctly interpret some of the most daunting scriptures when it comes to the law. We will try to look inside the mind of Paul and see if he was really against keeping Torah; or if our interpretations have been wrong.

Before we start lets look at **2 Peter 3:14-18** and be forewarned!

English Standard Version: **"take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability!"**

## Galatians 1:1-5

We need to understand **who** Paul was writing to, and we need to understand **when** he was writing to them, and then we need to know **why** he was writing to them.

## Acts 13:14-45

**Vs.13** – Pisidian Antioch = Galatia; think of Galatia like the state and Pisidian Antioch is like the city in the state. On Pauls first missionary journey, he journey through the cities in Galatia otherwise known to us as the Galatians. Such cities included Pisidian Antioch, Lystra, Iconium, Derbe

**Vs.16** – Men, Israelites, those fearing God

**Vs.26** – Brothers, sons of Abraham's family, and God fearers

**Vs.42,43** – Gentiles or God fearers, Jews, and proselytes

Paul is talking to 3 different groups of people:

1. **Jews** – Those born Jewish as physical descendants of Jacob
2. **Proselytes** – non-Jews who had made a formal conversion to Judaism, thus becoming legally Jewish. No longer regarded as Gentiles, but through rituals of circumcision and immersion and sacrifice they had taken on the religious and legal status of Israel.
3. **God-fearing Gentiles** – Non-Jews who were attracted to Judaism. They worshipped in the synagogue with Jewish people and proselytes, but chose not to undergo the ritual of conversion. They didn't have legal Jewish status which meant they still were required to participate in pagan rituals required under Roman law.

**Vs.44-45** The Jews didn't want to **lose their identity** as Jewish by being overwhelmed with Gentiles worshipping their God without keeping the commandments.

**If you read sermon vs.38,39 – Paul is saying that you are saved by grace and not by works of the law.** He is in no way saying the law isn't relevant. **He is saying works without faith is dead.** For example mormons think salvation is based on works- it seems as though some Jewish folk may have had this same notion. We are saved by grace not by works, but that doesn't mean works or the law isn't important!

Remember it's not about the outside of the cup or going through the motions, it's about faith, believing, trusting, in Yeshua as your messiah. He is your savior and there is nothing you can do to earn salvation- it's a free gift- it's grace! Grace is God giving you what you don't deserve!

**Acts 15:11- Saved by Grace**

**Galatians 1:6-7** What was the different gospel or the distortion of the gospel?

**The different gospel was** you must undergo **legal conversion** to become Jewish, otherwise they wouldn't obtain a share in the KOG.

**Acts 15:1** – without circumcision you can't be saved

**Now there were great reasons to convert to be a legal Jew:**

1. Jewish status granted them legal protection under Roman law.
2. Jewish status granted them the right to intermarry with Jewish believers.
3. Jewish status eliminated social ambiguity. It exempted them from emperor-worship and idolatry.

Without Jewish status, the God-fearing Gentiles were vulnerable to arrest and prosecution for failure to participate in required civic and religious duties.

Being part of a community you cannot marry into doesn't work for long either.

The situation of God-fearing Gentiles in early Judaism, socially speaking, was not a long-term solution. The Jews who did believe in Yeshua saw the inclusion of Non-Jews who didn't obtain legal Jewish status as a problem.

**So Paul is writing to the God-Fearing Gentiles in Galatia. He must have received word of their intention to undergo legal conversion to become Jewish. Because Paul believed that they had seriously erred, he sought to bring correction.**

**From Paul's perspective, the Galatian God-Fearers were looking toward conversion in order to merit God's favor and salvation. Paul wrote Galatians to correct that theology, and to dissuade the Galatian Gentile God-Fearing Believers from going through with their plan to become full proselytes.**

According to Scholars, the book **of Galatians is the oldest book in the NT.** Paul wrote it first, even before the Gospels or any other book by any other contributor. Galatians was written about 20 years after the Resurrection of Yeshua.

**I Cor. 7:17-20**

Paul concluded that circumcision was of little importance because Abraham was saved without circumcision.

**But notice what did matter to Paul- Keeping the commandments of God!**

Lets look at how Paul came to this conclusion of circumcision being irrelevant to salvation:

**Genesis 15:1-6**

Notice that Abraham still did sacrifices, he still did works of the Law; even though he had salvation.

When we accept the Lord as our Savior; He imputes His righteousness to us; just like with Abraham.

**Genesis 17:22-27** Circumcision came at least 14 years later; after Abraham believed on the Lord and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Lets look at a few other scriptures written by Paul to gain proper perspective and interpretation:

**Romans 2:12,13** – doers of the law will be justified!

**Romans 3:19,20** – of course the works of the law won't justify you apart from faith, trust, and believe in the Messiah. We aren't saved by works but by grace- but that doesn't mean we do away with works or the law either.

**Look at his conclusion in V31**- Faith establishes the Law- Faith is the beginning of works of the law- not the end of it!

**Rom4:2,3** – This is the scripture Paul always uses for His argument.

**Rom.4:4-16** – Paul is saying that this relationship with God is initiated through Faith not circumcision.

**Rom.6:1-7** Don't be a slave to sin or breaking the law. Are we to continue in sin (breaking the law)- No!

**Rom.6:14-16** Shall we break the law because we are not under the law- No! Obedience results in righteousness or sanctification or being holy.

**Rom7:12** The law is Holy!

**Rom.7:14** – The law is spiritual

**Rom.10:4** – the end isn't a proper translation because it makes us think that the law has been terminated, and it hasn't. Conclusion, result or goal would be better rendered than end.

Messiah is the Word, which is the law- coming to Yeshua establishes the law – it's the beginning of learning Gods instruction and keeping it- not the end of it!

**Lexicon**- It doesn't mean as is commonly supposed, the extinction, end, termination; but rather the conclusion, result or goal. Christ is the completion of the law.

Christ is the full embodiment of the Law- in the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God! Yeshua is the law, the word, He is the fulfillment of the Law- He is the law

Coming to Christ Jesus by Faith and putting your trust in Him and Repenting, turning away from your sin (from breaking the law) doesn't give you a license to sin or break the law. No, on the contrary – it establishes the law! The law is holy- it teaches, instructs – the question is – are you going to keep the law and obey the instruction of the Father?

## **“Galatians 2”**

Let me start off by saying this – the foundation of our Faith in Yeshua is the Old Testament – the Tanach. If your NT interpretation doesn't line up with the OT; or if your NT interpretation is contrary to the OT – then your interpretation is wrong and you need to throw your interpretation away.

**Eph.2:19,20**- Moses was the greatest prophet to ever live and he was also the law-giver – **Deut.34:10**

## **Define sin- 1Jn.3:4**

Sin- Harmatia- missing the mark! How do you miss the mark? By breaking the law.

## **Read Gal.2:1-10**

**Gal.2:2** – What is the gospel that Paul preached? Works without faith was dead works. Paul taught that circumcision was unnecessary for salvation; based on the revelation that it was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness because he believed Gods word, many years before he was circumcised. Paul taught that becoming a proselyte or obtaining legal Jewish status was unnecessary for salvation.

## **Remember you have 3 different groups of people-**

4. **Jews** – Those born Jewish as physical descendants of Jacob
5. **Proselytes** – non-Jews who had made a formal conversion to Judaism, thus becoming legally Jewish. No longer regarded as Gentiles, but through rituals of circumcision and immersion and sacrifice they had taken on the religious and legal status of Israel.
6. **God-fearing Gentiles** – Non-Jews who were attracted to Judaism. They worshipped in the synagogue with Jewish people and proselytes, but chose not to undergo the ritual of conversion. They didn't have legal Jewish status which meant they still were required to participate in pagan rituals required under Roman law.

**Vs.4-** Who are the false brethren? Hard to say for sure, but it might have been the Pharisees who believed in Yeshua. Or it might simply have been some people the devil planted to stir up division and strife, people who claim to love God and serve Him, but they are really pretenders and not contenders.

**Vs.10-** Who are the poor? Probably the groups in Jerusalem who were selling all they had and giving all the received to the ministry of the apostles.

## **Acts 15:1-35**

**Vs.1-** the disturbing message; contrary to Pauls teaching

**Vs.5-** the Pharisees who had believed seem to be the ones stirring up dissension

**Vs.7,11-** Peter validates that Jew and Gentile are saved by grace

**Vs.19 -21** James' judgment to not push circumcision on the new converts, but to allow them time to learn the Law and let the Lord deal with them.

**Vs.24-**The apostles disclaimer that whoever was stirring up strife was doing it on their own initiative and not of the apostles instructions.

**Vs.25-** I love how they laid aside differences and came into unity and to be of one mind

**Vs.31-** The Gentile God - fearers rejoiced because they didn't have to go through the rituals of circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice, to have legal Jewish status or better yet to obtain salvation. Salvation is a free gift! Grace is God giving you what you don't deserve and can't afford, nor earn- it is a free gift from God!

**Gal.2:11-15** – Eating with the Gentiles was forbidden by rabbinical tradition; not by God – **Acts 10:28,48; 11:3**

You would think that Peter would've learned his lesson the first time.

**Acts11:25,26** – Antioch, I don't know if it was Syria Antioch or Pisidian Antioch but they were both in the Galatia region. First place the disciples of Yeshua were called Christians! It is supposed by scholars (Magnus Zetterholm & Routledge Tayor & Francis Group & Tomas Lancaster) that there was a synagogue there named 'The Synagogue of the Christianoi' or the Synagogue of the Christians' or put it in our English, 'The Synagogue of the Messianics'. And that's how the name came about.

**Vs.29,30** – Now we see who the poor mentioned in Galatians may have been- the brothers in Judea.

**Gal.2:16-21**

**Vs.16** – The law was never intended for our justification; its purpose is instruction on how to please the Father. And your keeping the Law without believing in Yeshua for your justification is absurd. Because all of your righteousness, all of your keeping of the Law isn't good enough to erase the times you've broken the law! You need grace- You need Yeshua!

Put your trust in Yeshua, not in your self. But that Grace that is extended to us in Yeshua isn't a license to sin or to break Gods law. You still need to do your best to please Him!

**Vs.17**- sinners- lawbreakers

**Vs.18**- If I continue to break the law then I'm a transgressor of the law- a sinner

**Vs.19**- The law is a mirror, when you hold it up and look into it, you have to recognize your sin and helplessness and your need for a Savior- your need for Gods Grace- Your need for Yeshua!

**Vs.20**- The righteous shall live by faith. Righteousness can only be imputed to you because you believe in Yeshua. But the law is righteousness and to practice righteousness or to practice the law doesn't take away faith. Faith and the law go hand in hand

**Vs.21** – Righteousness comes through Yeshua, but the law is still righteous and holy. Yeshua came to save the lawless from being lawless; and teach them how to keep Torah and please the Father. Paul said I don't nullify the grace of God, but he didn't nullify the law either.

Righteousness doesn't come by the law or by keeping the law (Gal.2:21). But the law itself is righteous(Ps.119:172). And if we are to practice righteousness (I Jn.3:7), then the law is what we are to practice and not just part of it, but all of it... Don't lie, murder, tithe, put God first, keep the Sabbath, eat clean not unclean, keep the festivals... etc. (I Peter 1:16) tells us to be holy, ok what is holy well there is holy and profane (Ex.22:26)- the law is the path and instruction of holiness. We are taught to be holy, but we are not taught how to be holy! We don't know the difference between clean and unclean.

If the Shepherds won't teach the sheep the difference between the holy and profane then the sheep won't know the difference. You aren't held accountable for what you don't know. But the teachers of the Word (Rhema also means commands) will be held to a higher standard than the sheep! James 4:1 and Math.5:17-19. Are heaven and earth still here? Is the law still in place? If I fulfill the law of stopping at a stop sign and you're behind me, since I fulfilled the law of stopping aren't you free to not keeping it and you can run right through the stop sign, right? Of course not, the police will give you a ticket for your own good and safety. The law is there for our own good and instruction and safety. Now you might think eating unclean is ok, and I might think running a stop sign is ok. But it doesn't change the principle of Gods law. Sin is breaking the law. If you break, you sin. Or has God changed His law? God says in Mal.3:6 "I am the Lord God of Israel and I change not" If Paul changed Gods law, then why are you following Paul? Paul didn't change Gods law, even though we interpret it as though he did. Paul kept Torah, He kept the Sabbath, he ate clean food (unclean animals aren't' even considered food in Hebrew thought), he kept the Appointed times (the feasts) and he instructed others to keep them. The thing Paul was against was Proselytes and Jews forcing God fearing believers to convert to legal Jewish status by undergoing certain rituals including circumcision. Paul discovered in the Scriptures that Abraham had a covenant relationship with God by faith before circumcision ever came into play and that was the basis for his argument. But Paul never taught that the law was done away with, just that you are save by faith and not the law, of course! I can't be saved by keeping the law, but that doesn't mean I can have salvation and not keep the law either. I must learn and grow up and mature by learning the Torah (instruction of God, or as we translate it – law). This was the very conclusion of the elders in (Acts 15:21). Let them come to God by faith just as they are, for they will learn the ways of God (Law, Torah) and walk in it. Because works (or law, Torah) is the proof in the pudding of your faith. God isn't the Father of the lawless!

**Rom.3:31** – Faith establishes the law; not abolishes

**Rom.2:13 – The opposite of Gal.2:16- keeping the law justifies; why?**

Because faith without works is dead! Faith without keeping Gods Torah, His law, His instruction is not living faith. Having faith in Yeshua and deciding you don't need to live a life pleasing unto Him; using His grace as a license to sin isn't going to cut it people. He wants us to be Holy; and if you want to learn how to be holy you need to learn and keep His commandments.

**Rom.7:12,13- The opposite of Gal.2:19-** The Law didn't cause death; Sin or breaking the law is what causes death!

**I Cor.7:17-19** - what is important is keeping the commandments

**Conclusion:**

Our goal should be to put our faith and trust in Yeshua. But we still need to practice righteousness which is the law. And we need to learn how to be holy and clean and that instruction comes from the law or the Torah.

Paul is saying works without faith is useless. The law without faith is useless for salvation. Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness; and that had nothing to do with the law. But it didn't make the law null and void either. Abraham still kept himself in right standing with God by his actions and repented heart; as we need to do today ourselves!

**“Galatians 3”**

**Vs.1** – Who has bewitched you? Who are the bewitchers? They are the influencers from chapter one who have influenced these God-Fearing Gentiles that it was necessary for them to become proselytes and keep the law for salvation.

**Gal.1:6,7 / Acts 15:1 / Acts 15:5** The bewitchers are obviously either from Group 1 or Group 2 –

Believing Jews, maybe the believing Pharisees,

or proselytes who believed in Yeshua; and they didn't think it was fair that they had to go through rituals to obtain legal Jewish status; and these God-fearers are grafted in Spiritually without circumcision as the sons of Abraham.

**Acts 15:10** – What is the **yoke** that Peter is talking about? **The yoke is using the law as a means for salvation.**

The law was never intended as a vehicle of salvation. The law was instruction from the Father on how to please Him, and live holy lives. But the false doctrine of that day was that salvation came from keeping the law –**Acts 15:1; John 5:39,40** – Yeshua recognized this false doctrine as well.

Salvation comes through Yeshua by faith- it is the grace of God to us- a free gift. But that doesn't make null and void Gods instruction or law on how to please Him and live a holy life.

**Vs.2,3** – Faith comes from hearing and hearing the WOG- Faith didn't come after the law. Faith comes before the Law. Faith leads us to keep the Law. Even for our forefathers, even for Abraham faith came first before works of the law.

**The issue is salvation coming by keeping the law:**

Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law? Paul is saying did you gain salvation by becoming a proselyte? Did you gain salvation by circumcision? Did you gain salvation by the rituals of immersion, and sacrifice?

Or did you gain salvation by faith in Yeshua?

What makes you think that you can gain salvation by works of the law. What makes you think that becoming legally Jewish through circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice is a means of salvation.

We don't get cleaned up and then come to the Lord. We just come as we are and He cleans us up and teaches us His ways and gives us His Torah to learn of Him and how to please Him.

**Vs.4- What did the God-Fearing Gentiles suffer?** They suffered the pressure from believing Jews and Proselytes to become a Proselyte, to

undergo circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice in order to have salvation. They suffered the false doctrine of using the law as a means of salvation!

Which was the opposite of what Paul led them to the Lord with. Paul told them they could have salvation by faith in Yeshua.

So the stigmatism that they suffered in the synagogue, the market place, socially wasn't healthy. They were ostracized by the church going people. They were suffering for their faith in Yeshua, and persecution was coming from within the body of Yeshua; or at least those who claimed to believe!

And now after having made a stand for so long and suffering these things, they were going to give in and become a proselyte, gaining legal Jewish status! All because of false doctrine!

**We can relate to this stigmatism they suffered-** If a Jew finds out you keep the law they say, "Why do you keep the law if you don't have too?" and if a Christian finds out you keep the law they say, "Who has bewitched you, why are you putting yourself under the law?"

**Vs.5-9** Again we arrive at the center of Paul's theology in all his epistles.

Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness and this was before circumcision.

So Abraham was saved by faith, not by keeping the law.

**Vs.10-** This scripture is huge, it has been used for anti-Semitism throughout the centuries. **This is where the saying comes from that if you are under the law you are under a curse.**

**False interpretation of this scripture makes it easier for anti-Semitism.**

If the Jewish people are under a curse it makes it much easier on the conscience to try and destroy them, even in the name of God - after all aren't you doing God a favor?

**As we break this scripture down we will see that Paul isn't saying anything new- he is just quoting scripture.**

First of all when Paul says **works of the law** – He is referring to circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice- which is the ritual for obtaining legal Jewish status and becoming a proselyte.

**Paul isn't referring to keeping the commandments of God.** If Paul was referring to the commandments of God, he would be making himself out to be under a curse because Paul kept the law - Acts 21:24.

Besides **that theology makes no sense:** if you honor your mother and father you're under a curse; if you keep the appointed times you're under a curse; if you don't commit adultery you're under a curse! That theology doesn't work. Obedience leads to blessing not a curse!

**Deut.27:26** - Lets look at what scripture Paul is quoting here.

Paul is reminding people what the Torah says. In Chapter 28 of Deut. This verse is followed by blessings for keeping Torah and curses for breaking the Torah.

You could paraphrase Gal.3:10 this way: "Every legally Jewish person who does not keep the Torah is under a curse because that is what the Torah says."

The **English Standard Version** of the bible reads like this: "For all who **rely** on the works of the law are under a curse." It's not a literal translation, but it's a better thought for thought translation. **They supplied the word rely.**

**And it is true, you can't rely on the law or your good deeds for salvation; you must rely on Yeshua for salvation.**

The curse of the law is spelled out for us in Duet.28

**Paul isn't saying if you keep the law you're under a curse. The Torah portion Paul quotes says that if you break the law you're under a curse! Obedience brings blessing.**

**Vs.11** – When Paul says Law, he is referring to the works of the law or obtaining legal Jewish status by circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice.

Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4

**Vs.12** – Paul says the Law is not of Faith! When Paul says Law, he is referring to the works of the law or obtaining legal Jewish status by circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice.

Paul quotes Lev.18:5

Paul means that obtaining legal Jewish status by the works of the law or by Circumcision, Immersion, and Sacrifice is not of faith. **Paul isn't pitting faith against keeping Torah. Instead, he says that the righteous man who lives by faith is the man who does the commandments and lives by them.**

Faith and obedience or Faith plus the Law.

Faith = Salvation

Law = Obedience

**You come to salvation by faith, but you keep the law out of obedience and desiring to please the Father.**

The word live in Vs.11&12 actually means = to gain eternal life

It's about faith and works- being saved by grace through faith in Yeshua - justifies by faith and works or keeping Torah!

**Rom.2:13/ 3:31/ James 2:21-24**

**Vs.13** – The law is not a curse! The enmity of the law is the curse. Sin or breaking the law is where the curse comes from. The curse comes from disobedience. The blessing comes from obedience.

**Eph.2:14-16** The enmity, the curse is what Messiah put to death. Not the law, but the curse that comes from your breaking the law is what Messiah put to death!

Yeshua took the condemnation of the Torah for us, He took our sins (breaking the law) upon Himself – **I Peter 2:24** – this is how he was accursed, or became a curse for us.

**Vs.14** – Through Yeshua, who was the seed of Abraham, Through faith in Yeshua we too can be the seed of Abraham and receive all the blessing of Abraham and we can receive the Holy Spirit which is the a seal or earnest a down payment of the great things to come in Eternity.

**Acts.2:38,39**

**Conclusion:**

If you've not put your faith in Yeshua as your savior from your sins, then I encourage you today to call upon the name of Jesus. Repent and be baptized and read your bible daily and obey what you read.

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, but you've not been walking in obedience to His Word; then repent and rededicate your life to the Lord.

Life is so short, one day we are here with the ability to accept or reject Gods plan of salvation. And the next day we are stepping into eternity with the decisions we made here determining our destiny of heaven or hell.

I encourage you choose Jesus, choose heaven!

**Vs.15,16,17-** I believe Paul is saying that when God makes a covenant it is forever; no one sets it aside, and no one adds to it.

This is actually called **a corollary truth**: Just as the Sinai covenant cannot overturn or nullify the Abrahamic covenant, neither can the new covenant overturn or nullify the Sinai Covenant. Instead, one covenant builds on another; they must all work together.

**Corollary**= a proposition that is incidentally proved in proving another proposition. An easily drawn conclusion.

The Word of God stands forever – Is.40:8

He changes not – Mal.4:6

He is the same Yesterday, today, and forever- Heb.13:8

When God puts something in place it's forever, His instruction is forever for all time, His appointed times are forever and for everyone in covenant with Him. And if God decides to change something or put an end to something, you'll probably find a prophetic Word from Him on it, Because God likes to declare the end from the beginning. And God would definitely make it loud and clear that there was a change- we wouldn't be arguing or guessing about it- God would use a servant like Moses and say, "Speak to My sons and daughters and tell them this..."

You have the Adamic covenant, the Noahetic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, and the Moatic covenant and the Yeshua covenant. They all build on top of one another, none of the new ones make null and void the old ones.

**Vs.16,17-** The Torah came 430 years after Abraham and it doesn't make null and void the previous covenant with Abraham.

That being the case, then the covenant with Yeshua wouldn't make null and void the Law either.

1. Promise to Abraham
2. Torah
3. Yeshua

The torah doesn't make null and void the previous covenant, and Yeshua doesn't make null and void the previous covenant of Torah. Yeshua is a fulfillment of both covenants. Yeshua is also a fulfillment of the Adamic covenant.

If He fulfilled the law then does that make it null and void (as mainstream Christianity says), if so then you would have to conclude that He fulfilled the promise to Abraham thus making that null and void!

**Vs.18** – inheritance or **being the seed of Abraham is based on Faith in Yeshua, and the promise God made to Abraham;** just because you keep the

law doesn't mean you are the seed of Abraham – You could keep the law and be the seed of the devil!

Yeshua confirmed this in **John 8:37-44**

**Vs.19,20** – Why the Law? It was added in order to identify wrong behavior, so we would know what pleases the Father and what doesn't please Him. The law is really a revelation of the character of God!

**Rom.3:19,20** – the law brings forth the knowledge of sin; and the law leaves us all guilty and held accountable before the father.

It's really simple – if you don't define your rules and expectations at home for your children, then you are creating a realm of lawlessness. Your children won't know what pleases you.

**Rom.7:7-13** – The law defines what sin is!

**Rom5:20-6:2** – Once we have knowledge of what sin is, should we continue to sin? No

So what is sin? **I Jn.3:4** – Sin is breaking the Law.

What is the Law? The Torah, God's instruction to us on how to be holy in all our behavior.

**Vs. 19,20** - The law was added **until** the seed should come??? Does this mean that the law is done away with because Yeshua the seed has come? Did Yeshua cancel out the Law with His death?

That cannot be what Paul meant! This would contradict several scriptures about the law being eternal.

**Lets look at some scriptures concerning the Law and we will start with Paul:**

**Rom.3:31**

**I Jn.2:2-4** – If you have come to know Yeshua, and you don't keep the commandments- John says you're a liar. You don't really know the Messiah!

**John 14:15**- If you love me, you will keep my commandments

**Math.5:17-19** The law is not done away with according to Yeshua

**Ps.119:44,53,89,90** – what is His Word? Everything that comes out of His mouth, including His Torah, instruction, law. Jn.1:1/Heb.1:3

**Lev.23:41** – the appointed times of God are permanent statutes= a commandment forever; never-ending; eternity.

We know this about the law for sure: Sin is breaking the law. If we continue in practicing sin, then we don't really have a desire to please the Father or look like a disciple of Yeshua.

**John 8:32** You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. What is truth? Ps.119:142 They Law is truth. So then you shall know the law (keep it do it) and the law will set you free? Absolutely! Free from what? Free from sin John 8:34- Everyone who breaks the law is a slave of sin.

So with understanding the Law of God stands forever and He doesn't change. Understanding that if God were to cancel out His law that would be contrary to His nature. We must conclude that with the coming of Messiah the law isn't set aside, or subtracted, or abolished.

**Vs.21,22**- The law isn't a vehicle for eternal life or salvation; it never was nor will it ever be. The law is intended for instruction on how to please God and it's still in effect.

How can you please God without the law? If you murder, covet, commit adultery, commit bestiality, bear false witness, hate, lust, eat unclean animals, don't honor your parents, don't keep the appointed times of the Lord. Can you please God?

Can you please God by breaking the law? No!

We are not saved by keeping the law either though!

We are saved by grace through Faith in Yeshua, but we are justified by faith and keeping the law.

Otherwise faith and grace are a license to sin and break the law!

**Vs.22-** The Scripture has shut up all men under sin- the law simply teaches us the difference between right and wrong, and unfortunately **it leaves us all guilty** because we all sin.

**Vs.22** – Faith in Jesus, or faith of Jesus really should be **Faithfulness of Yeshua**.

**Vs.23,24,25** – The law commonly referred to here as a **tutor or a schoolmaster** is actually incorrect.

The word in the Greek is **Paidagogos** or **Pedagogue**, and better translated as a **Child-Conductor**.

The **Child-Conductor** originally referred to the slave who conducted the children from home to the school.

So the **Child-Conductor** wasn't a teacher, school-master, or tutor, but a supervisor responsible for the moral and physical well-being of the children.

The **Child-Conductor** was ensuring the Childs safety and good behavior on the way to school and back; like a bodyguard and counselor.

In vs.23 some versions say in custody under the law, or held captive by the law. The **Child-Conductor** was the Childs guardian, not his jailer. The King James says shut up which is accurate. Shut up, kept in, enclosed are all good translations.

The word should be understood as speaking about how a **Child-Conductor** kept a child inside for his school lessons.

There is a **parable by Thomas Lancaster** to illustrate what Paul is saying:

“To what may the Torah be compared? It can be compared to a Child-Conductor who escorted a child to the schoolteacher, but once the child was under the care of the school teacher, the Child-Conductor relinquished his care over the child. So, too, the Torah escorted the Jewish people to the

Messiah, but once the people entered the care of the Messiah, the Torah relinquishes them to Him.”

Just as the Child-Conductor brings the child to the teacher. So the Torah brings us to Messiah. But the Torah is not the teacher; neither is it the means to earn salvation.

Paul didn't mean that the Torah is done away with or cancelled. He meant that we should not look to Torah or Legal Jewish Status as a means of earning salvation.

**Vs.26-29 – Oneness is different from being the Same or sameness.** Just because we are of one mind doesn't mean we are the same. Just because a man leaves his parents and cleaves to his wife and they become **one flesh; that doesn't make them the same.** I am about as different from my wife as any 2 people could ever be different, but we are one flesh. But we are not the same.

If **male and female** are one and not the same. Then marriage between a man and woman is in Jeopardy. A man could marry a man, or a woman could marry a woman.

This one new man theology isn't right. We are one in Christ, but it doesn't make us the same. **One new man theology says, “Since we are the same in Messiah, Jewish believers need not keep the Jewish aspects of Torah anymore.”**

Do you ever wonder **why there are no distinctly different Jews in Christianity?** It's because we don't allow them to be different. We want them to look the same as us, and thus eliminating the Jewishness of Christianity.

**I believe that this is diabolic and intentional. Where Hitler failed to eliminate the Jew, Theology and Christianity (inter-marriage and religious attrition) are taking over where he left off!**

**I believe that the only way to reverse this momentum at this point is to go to the opposite extreme. Gentiles who believe in Messiah are going to have to start looking like Jews. Most Jews don't even keep Torah now adays; and**

when they find out you keep Torah – that will provoke them to jealousy and bring them to the Messiah. **Thus returning Jewishness to Christianity.**

When **James judged** in Acts 15:21 to let the gentile believer go to the Synagogue every Shabbat and learn the Law of Moses- it was to bring them under the instruction of God and let them **slowly transition** into becoming who God wanted them to be so they could do what God wanted them to do.

**But instead the opposite has happened.** We don't go to the synagogue, we don't teach or keep the Law (the instruction of God). We've gone astray and look like Gentiles who worship a God not of the Bible, but one we made up. The two major Christian Holidays are Easter which commemorates the worship of the Goddess of fertility (hence the rabbit and eggs). And Christmas which commemorates the worship of the sun god going into it's winter solstice. Now in some of our minds we might say that's not what Christmas or Easter represent to me, but that is what is at root of the establishment of those holidays. Sometimes the truth sucks.

But then there is the danger of **One Law Theology, which says, "Since we are the same in Messiah, we all need to keep the Jewish aspects of Torah."**

**We need good balance people,** lets not be too extreme in any aspect. Lets do everything according to the measure of Faith given us. Let's **remember that oneness isn't sameness.** We all have different roles to play, we all have different gifting with different people to reach out to.

Paul isn't for "One New Man Theology", nor is he for "One Law Theology"

**I Cor.7:17-18** Let each person remain in the state or calling in which he was called. What really matters is pleasing God by keeping His commandments!

### **Conclusion:**

Remember that we are to change our ways to become His ways. God doesn't need to change. We are the ones who need to change. I challenge you to stand before the Throne of God and ask Him to show you the ancient paths, ask Him to teach you truth and expose false doctrine, ask Him to lead you in His way

that is everlasting, wonderful and truthful. May the God of Shalom be with you all.

## **“Galatians 4”**

### **Gal.4:1-10**

Common interpretations in mainstream Christianity of this passage; say that we are not to keep the Sabbath, or the New Moon, or the Feasts of the Lord. But I believe that that is a misconception, and a bad interpretation; which isn't consistent with the rest of scripture.

Most of **these interpretations come from taking the elemental things as referring to Torah.**

If this were true it would mean that Paul considered the Torah weak and worthless which we know he didn't. In Romans 7:12 Paul calls the Law holy, righteous, good, and spiritual.

Paul would also be saying that the law brings bondage, which is contrary to scripture. The law when kept brings freedom.

**Vs.3&9 – elemental things = Paganism, idol worship; not Torah**

**Vs.8** – slaves to those which by nature **are no gods**- with scripture interpreting scripture we see that Paul is not talking about the Torah, nor is he talking about Sabbath, or New Moons, or Feasts of the Lord in Vs. 10 Paul is talking about paganism, idol worship, false gods.

**Vs.10** – Paul is referring to the Roman Cult – Pagan holidays; not God's Appointed times!

**Vs. 5- Not redeeming us from the law;** just redeeming us from the enmity or the curse of the law. Redeeming us from the condemnation of the law. Redeeming us from sin!

**This is the verse that people take the term “Christ redeemed us from the law”.** But that’s not true – He did redeem us, but not from keeping the law.

The Lord didn’t come to redeem us from keeping the law, but to redeem us from the curse of breaking the law.

Besides here in this verse Paul is talking to those ‘under the law’ which means Jews and Proselytes. Yes, Messiah came to redeem them too!

**Vs.3** – Jews; maybe in slavery in Egypt, or in exile, or while worshiping false gods, apostasy, idolatry

Vs.3-5 – Paul is talking about Jews

Vs.6-11 Paul is talking to Gentile God-Fearers

## **Gal.4:11-20**

**Vs.11** Paul fears that the Gentile God-Fearers are backsliding back into pagan rituals, pagan holidays on the Roman calendar.

**Vs.12** – Pauls loyalty to the Gentile God-Fearers cost him his prestige and status within the Jewish community; So also loyalty to Yeshua was costing the God Fearers social status in the Roman Gentile world.

This isn’t Paul being a hypocrite and keep Torah when with Jews, and not keeping Torah when with Gentiles. Although, I’m sure he bent as far as he could to have a platform of common ground to talk to Gentiles, Jews, Proselytes, or whoever he was talking too. I’m sure Paul didn’t stick to the oral Torah, or man made traditions by the elders of the Jews; where it came in conflict with saving souls.

**Vs.15** – Have you ever experienced coming to the Lord and He cleanses you, heals you, and removes your burdens and you just feel so blessed? And then all the sudden somebody comes to rain on your parade!

Maybe they’re dogmatic about the names of God. Or maybe they try to push traditions of man on you and even tell you they are commanded of God.

They are like joy killers, and they rob you of your joy. Maybe they even rob you of some well taught principles in the WOG that will bring forth fruit and results in your life of blessing and triumph.

This is what Paul is talking about here to the Gentile God-Fearers who have been influenced by the proselytes or believing Jews.

**Vs.17** – Look at how these kind of people work. They cut you off from other people so you have no where to go except to them. This is how cults get started, beware of such people.

### **Prov.15:22,23 / 24:6**

I encourage you to have many counselors in the things of God, but don't ever put your eyes on the man- keep your eyes and ears and hearts fixed on the one who is your Savior!

**Vs.19** – We see the word **until** again like in vs.19 of Chapter 3. Maybe this until will help us understand the other until.

Does this **until** mean that Paul's work past, present, and future is done away with once Christ is formed in them? Absolutely not!

**The Word until represents a goal, but in no way does it do away with anything!**

### **Vs.21-31**

**Paul's analogy here is used for Replacement theology.** Some churches use this very passage to prove that the church has replaced Israel; the Christian has replaced the Jew.

A simple correction and that interpretation falls apart.

**Paul isn't even talking about Jews here.** Paul is speaking of **two covenants**; not the old and new as we think of testaments. But the covenant at **Mt. Sinai** and the covenant with **Abraham**.

Paul is talking to **two groups of Gentiles** here. **Proselytes and God-fearing Gentiles.**

**Paul is likening the Proselytes to Ishmael, Hagar and Mt. Sinia, corresponding with earthly Jerusalem.**

**Paul is likening the God-Fearing Gentiles to Isaac, Sarah, and heaven or New Jerusalem above.**

**Vs.21** – under law = Proselyte

**Vs.23** – flesh = Proselyte and promise = God Fearing Gentiles

**Vs.24** – Allegory = symbolic; not literal

Two covenants = Sinai and Abrahamic (not old and new)

**Vs.24,25** – dealing with Proselytes

**Vs.26-28** – dealing with God-Fearing Gentiles

**Vs.29** – Ishmael persecuted, mocked, made fun of Isaac.

**Rabbinic literature tells us** that Ishmael had one up on Isaac. Ishmael held over Isaacs head the fact that Ishmael was circumcised when he was 13 (an adult) and had the opportunity to protest the procedure, and as a result he was loved more by his father. Isaac was circumcised when he was 8 days old and had no choice in the matter.

Those 'born according to the flesh' are Gentile believers in Galatia who, like Ishmael, went through circumcision as adults and became legally Jewish.

Like Ishmael taunting Isaac, the proselytes taunted the God-Fearers and encourage them to convert to legal Jewish status.

**Paul is likening the Proselytes to Ishmael, Hagar and Mt. Sinia, corresponding with earthly Jerusalem.**

**Paul is likening the God-Fearing Gentiles to Isaac, Sarah, and heaven or New Jerusalem above.**

Remember that the heart of the issue for the letter to Galatians was the proselytes or believing Jews trying to persuade or influence the God-Fearing Gentiles to undergo legal Jewish Conversion in order to be saved.

And Paul was adamantly against that theology, and rightfully so. For salvation comes by grace and not by legal Jewish status- less we likewise also perish.

## **“Galatians 5”**

In verse 1 and 2 Paul is talking about 2 different things.

Paul is talking to the God-fearing Gentiles, not to Jews. So the yoke cannot be the law.

**Vs.1**- Yoke is referring to paganism, worship of false gods in Roman cult system.

**Vs.2** – circumcision is referring to taking up legal Jewish status.

**So we see Paul is warning the God-fearing Gentiles of 2 things. Falling back again into paganism and taking up legal Jewish status by becoming a proselyte; hence, using the law as a means of salvation.**

**Vs.3** – Paul is warning God-Fearing Gentiles that if they convert to legal Jewish Status; that circumcision is just the beginning. They would be accountable to every thing in the Torah.

We should notice from Pauls writings that he implies that the Proselytes are taking up legal Jewish Status- but not actually keeping the rest of Torah.

**Vs.4** – If you are seeking salvation by the law then you are not putting your faith in Yeshua and thus eliminating your salvation.

Salvation comes by grace through faith. We are justified by faith and works. Not just by the law. We need faith mixed with the law. It takes both not just one or the other.

**Keeping the Law is just walking in obedience to Gods Word. Walking in obedience to Gods Word without having a relationship with Yeshua; means you are putting your trust in yourself and your ability to be obedient in order to earn salvation.**

**For those of us who apply ourselves to keep Torah. Recognize that keeping Torah doesn't save you. The law isn't a means of salvation. I keep Torah by faith. I have salvation not by Torah, but by Faith in Yeshua, and by His Faithfulness and by Gods Grace.**

**Vs.5,6 – Neither Jew, nor Proselyte, or Gentile is relevant status in salvation. The relevant thing for salvation is Faith working through love.**

**Faith in Yeshua is the starting point for salvation.**

We love because God first loved us.

We all come to repentance because of Gods Kindness toward us.

What is the key ingredient we see working with faith? LOVE- more on that later.

**Paul is saying in vs.5 that even the Jews have to put their faith in Yeshua for His righteousness.**

**Vs.7-12 –** It would appear here that the influencers with the different gospel that were putting a lot of pressure on the Gentile-God fearers were primarily the Proselytes. But that isn't to say that the believing Pharisees or Jews weren't leading it.

**The different gospel** according to Acts 15:1 was that the Law was a means of salvation. Without being circumcised you couldn't be saved. The Gentile-God Fearers were being forced to take on legal Jewish Status as a means of salvation.

**Vs.11- Did Paul advocate circumcision at one point when preaching the gospel? It would appear so!** Maybe when he first started out as a believer in Yeshua, he held to the same opinion as the rest.

The real issue here is **Gentile inclusion**- the stumbling block of the cross isn't Faith in Yeshua. **The stumbling block is Gentile inclusion without converting to Legal Jewish Status through circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice.**

In other words- it would appear as though the gospel message was only for Jewish people only. After all they were the chosen people.

Paul was persecuted not for the message of salvation through the faithfulness of Yeshua, but he was persecuted for including non-Jews into the equation.

**Vs.12** – As Paul appears to conclude his argument for salvation for everyone through Yeshua faithfulness - without taking up circumcision or legal Jewish status. He seems irritated and finally tells the influencers where to get off. He says then just go circumcise yourselves, but leave these Gentile-God Fearers Alone!

**Vs.13** – This looks like Rom.6:1 “Don't use grace as a license to sin”

**Freedom from circumcision or Legal Jewish Status isn't freedom from the entire Torah.**

Paul isn't dismissing the rest of Torah by just saying all you have to do is love one another.

Yeshua taught that all the commandments of God could be summed up by Love God with all that is in you, and love your neighbor as yourself.

**Vs.14** – Paul sums up the Torah in it's relationship to man by saying Love your neighbor as yourself.

**Vs.16** – Paul says 'walk by the Spirit' – I believe this is Pauls way of saying Love God with all that is in you”.

**If your desire is to please God then you will be led to keep Torah, because that is Gods instruction to us on how to please Him.**

The Hebrew word halachah (halaic) means to walk. The rabbis used the term to refer to the legal way to 'walk' out the commandments of the Torah.

**Paul is saying the one who walks according to the Spirit will walk in Gods statutes and obey His rules.**

**Vs.17** – Paul is pitting the flesh against the Spirit

Even Yeshua said, “The Spirit is willing, but the Flesh is weak” Mk.14:38

**Paul isn't pitting the Spirit against Torah!**

**Vs.18** – The meaning seems obvious. If you are a Christian, you don't need to keep the Torah.

But this doesn't line up with the rest of scripture.

Yeshua said, “He didn't abolish the Law”

Paul said in Corinthians, “What is really important is keeping the commandments of God.”

**If you obey Gods desires for your life and for your behavior, you are not 'under the law'. Paul doesn't mean 'You're not under the authority of Gods commandments.'**

Paul isn't saying that Jewish people and proselytes cannot be Spirit-led, either.

**So what does He mean here?**

**I think Paul is Pitting Salvation by Faith Yeshua against, Salvation by Legal Jewish status. He is summarizing His letter.**

Believing in the faithfulness of Yeshua is salvation, which is the indwelling of the Spirit of God. But that doesn't mean you have to go 'under the law' converting to legal Jewish status through circumcision, immersion, and sacrifice.

**Being led by the Holy Spirit means that a Gentile-God Fearer has obligation to keep Torah, despite the fact that he is not 'under the law'-(forced to convert to Legal Jewish Status).**

**Vs.23** – Against such things there is no law? Is Paul promoting Lawlessness? No!

The Law doesn't prohibit good deeds. In other words, The Law is for good works, not against good works.

**Rom.13:3 says, "Rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil"**

**The Law isn't against good behavior**, but the Law is against evil behavior.

Vs.25- If we live by faith in Yeshua, then let us walk by faith in Yeshua.

So how should we walk? In a manner worthy of the calling? What is a worthy walk- Well to learn that you have to read and keep Torah.

Remember - The Hebrew word halachah (halaic) means to walk. The rabbis used the term to refer to the legal way to 'walk' out the commandments of the Torah.

It's like Paul is saying, If we have faith in Yeshua then let us walk out the commandments of Torah.

**Vs.26-** no comparing – Comparing leads to jealousy, and jealousy leads to envy.

Paul is referring to the proselytes challenging, mocking, the gentile God-Fearers, like Ishmael with Isaac.

## **Galatians 6**

**Vs.1** – This is done with gentleness and I don't think this referring to pointing out peoples personal sins and shortcomings that everyone has all time, because our personalities are flawed.

**Vs.2** - To love one another, and to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength is too completely fulfill the Law of God. We'd probably be better off just trying to accomplish one thing at a time in the Torah, rather than all of it at once! People don't realize when they say, "I just try to fulfill the law by loving others"- that love encompasses the whole law. We'd be better off studying Torah and keeping the things that apply to us; rather that keeping the whole.

My point is that we don't really understand the full implications of this word love! It's not just being nice to people you like in church.

**Law of Christ? Did Paul change Torah of Moses to the new Torah of Christ? No, he is just summarizing the whole of the law which is Love.**

**Vs.4-** no comparing

**Vs.6.** – Notice it doesn't say bad things or bad news

**Vs.7** – Don't deceive yourself Proverbs says, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he"

**Your heart is ground, and you sow into it. If you put garbage in you'll get garbage out; if you put good things in it, then you'll get good things out of it.**

**Vs.9** – a key principle in sowing and reaping the good things of God; is don't grow weary. When you grow weary and speak death into a situation you were speaking life into by faith- you cancel out your faith!

**Vs.10** – Do good especially to those who are in the Faithfulness of Yeshua

**Vs.11** – Did Paul have a condition with his eyes, after God blinded him on the road to Damascus? Maybe this is why he says in Gal.4:15 "you would have plucked your eyes and given them to me if possible." When he was sick.

**Vs.12** – Remember, the persecution and the offense of the cross- for the Jews and Proselytes wasn't Yeshua, it was the inclusion of the Gentiles without compelling them to become Proselytes, but letting them remain as they were – uncircumcised!

**Vs.13-** Paul is referring to the Proselytes only going through the motions of Circumcision, Immersion, and Sacrifice in order to obtain legal Jewish Status. But they didn't keep the rest of Torah. **They were guilty of learning tradition by rote, but having their hearts far removed from a real relationship with God which will bring change to an individual- the change is that they will love others-** not become a member of a social club and look down their noses at others not in the club!

**Vs.15** – This is that scripture I was looking for last Sabbath to start the service off with! A new creation- change – 2Cor.5:17

**This is why the key ingredient in your relationship w/ God and others is Love.**

**This is why the whole law can be summed up in Love!**

**The closer you get to God, the more you love – Because God is love and He wants to rub off on you! And that my friends is the change that we all need and that we all are looking for whether we realize it or not!**

Remember the Presidents powerful slogan when he ran for office, “Change you can count on”

It's about change, but not change you can count on- **it's about' "Change that God can count on"**

**We need to repent for the lack of love in our lives-** You want to be like Yeshua- then love people the way Yeshua loved. Look through the eyes of God when you look at people and you'll be looking through the eyes of love!

**Vs. 16** – Those who walk by this rule peace and mercy upon them!

I want to close the service a little different tonight-

Those who want a fresh new anointing of Gods Love - a double portion of Gods love Revealed in your life come to the altar and I will pray for you to receive a fresh new anointing of the Love of God in your Life.

**There is nothing more powerful in this world than Love!**