

## The Book of Galatians – Part 13

When I look at the book of *Galatians*, *Galatians* chapter 5 is actually a continuation of *Galatians* chapter 4. It makes it difficult sometimes when you are trying to minister by verses; because there are some verses that you just can't understand or explain without the context of the entire book. *Galatians* is one of those books.

*Galatians* is a book that is written to a variety of people in a region. As we talked about early on, as we began this series, unlike Corinth, Corinth was a city. Galatia was a region. There are several congregations that Paul is writing to in this particular book.

The other thing that we pointed out is that the Bible is one of the only books that we talk about that has books within a book. We talk about the "book" of *Galatians*, when in actuality, *Galatians* is a letter. When we look at it as a letter and not as a book; books have chapters and verses.

One of the things that we've been trained at is that we've been trained to think a certain way. We've been trained in our churches. We've been trained in our homes. Our religious upbringings have trained us to see things in a certain way.

When you think about any other book that you have, no other book has books, it is either a book or not. They are not books within books except when we read the Bible.

So we have the book of *Galatians*. We've got the book of *Corinthians*. We've got the book of *Colossians*. And we've got a lot of books which were actually letters.

Paul wasn't writing books. Paul was writing letters. Books have chapters and verses, letters don't. Have you ever written a letter that had chapters and verses? Usually you have a letter. It has paragraphs. Within the paragraphs is the context.

Typically a paragraph change or the indentation of a paragraph indicates that there is a change of thought. When there is a change of thought, you may pick up on another subject because you've already expounded on the subject that you were speaking on in the previous paragraph.

When we look at the book of *Galatians* from a paragraph standpoint instead of a book standpoint, we might be able to glean a lot more from the letter. It is something when people want you to explain *Galatians* 5:9. It is like:

“How can we jump from Galatians 1 to Galatians 5 and explain the end of a letter without even reading the first five chapters?”

But people do that.

“I don't want you to talk about that, just explain this verse!”

That makes it somewhat difficult. That's why we decided that we're going to take our time. This is part 13. We are about to embark in chapter 5. I want you to look at verse 1.

Gal 5:1 - “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Messiah hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the **yoke of bondage.**”

Paul went into detail in chapter 5 about this yoke. He talked about the two covenants; Hagar and Sarah, if you would. What he's explaining or trying to expound upon is the fact that these Galatians had received the word from his very lips. And once Paul left, some other folks came behind Paul. They began to try to put the Galatians under the same yoke of bondage that they were under.

Paul is very familiar with this yoke. We're going to see this in a moment; that Paul is very familiar with this yoke. Whenever Paul is talking about certain things, Paul is talking about where he used to be. He's talking about how he used to live.

We identified that the folks who came along behind Paul were believing Jews. These were Jews who believed. What's interesting about these individuals who were believers is that they were more specifically, Pharisees who believed.

Paul was very familiar not only with the Pharisaic teaching and doctrine, but also with the Sadducean doctrine and teaching. Paul himself used to be under this yoke of bondage.

Many make the mistake of thinking that when Paul is talking about the law, that Paul is talking about the Law of YeHoVaH. When in essence, what we have tried to point out in the Bible; in the New Testament we find that the word "law" is generally "*nomia*."

Therefore when you begin to think about "law," it doesn't make a distinction between the law of Herod. It doesn't make a distinction between Roman law. You don't see the law of Herod or Roman law or Pharisee law or Sadducee law. All we see is "law."

When we look at law in the New Testament and when Paul is talking about law, we also need to understand that when Paul was trained in the law (as we are going to see in this teaching today), Paul was trained in the law of the Pharisees.

It is the Pharisees who were more of an evangelical [group] if you would. They were more evangelistic because the Pharisees are the ones who established synagogues in every city. The Sadducees weren't evangelical because everybody came to them. They were the ones who ran the temple. They weren't establishing temples in every city. There was only one temple and the Sadducees were the

ones who were responsible for the temple services. The Pharisees were very evangelistic. They would scour the world for one proselyte. Yeshua said:

“You scour the world for one proselyte and once you find him, you make him twice the son of hell as they were before you found them.”

What you will find ladies and gentlemen, is that denominationalism (Phariseeism was a denomination of its day) was more called a sect. The followers of Messiah were called a sect by a sect. It was the Pharisaic sect who called the followers of Messiah a sect.

The Pharisees (who called them a sect), basically were saying that they were a cult and that this cult leader was Yeshua. Yeshua was the leader of a cult which is called a sect by a sect and which was a cult itself.

Denominations are just cults, ladies and gentlemen. A cult is a belief, a thought, a system of beliefs that has a leader and which teach a particular doctrine. Whatever cult you came from, whatever denomination you came from – you will notice that when the Baptists send missionaries, they are not sending missionaries out to make Pentecostals. They are not establishing Methodist Churches.

When they establish a community, it is typically a denomination by which the evangelists or the people were sent out to reach other people and to make them just like themselves. This is what Yeshua was saying about the Pharisees. We know that Paul used to be a Pharisee. As a Pharisee, Paul learned Pharisee law.

Last week on Yom Teruah, I shared a little historical data that Paul was the prize student of a fellow by the name of Gamaliel. We learned his name in the Baptist Church. Gamaliel was the son of Simeon Gamaliel. He was the son of Simeon ben Hillel and the grandson of Hillel.

Hillel was the President of the first great assembly that was in Babylon. We can trace Phariseeism all the way back to Babylon. As we looked last lesson, we know that with the children of Israel (prior to going into Babylon), there was no such thing as Judaism. There were no such things as Pharisees and Sadducees.

There were no such things as synagogues. There was no such thing as the oral Torah. There was no Mishnah. There was no Kabbalah. There was no Gemara. There were none of these things. All of these things that we know of in religious circles today came straight out of Babylon.

We have pre-Babylon and then we have post-Babylon. When we begin to make the distinction between what the children of Israel were like prior to Babylon; and we look at the children after Babylon, we see two totally different groups of people. **Everything that we know about religion today in Christianity, in Catholicism and in Judaism came straight out of Babylon!** Babylon – the great whore that has made the nations drink of its poison.

Everything that we take – unless we strip ourselves and begin to look at the Bible through YeHoVaH's eyes and not through denominational eyes, there are certain things that we won't see. About this yoke of bondage for instance in chapter 5 verse 1. Paul says:

Gal 5:1 – "...be not entangled again with the **yoke of bondage.**"

This is an indication that Paul has communicated because Paul was well known for espousing his testimony. His testimony went like this:

"One day I received a letter from the high priest. I was going into every city and I was taking into captivity, those who were in the sect 'the way' – the followers of Messiah. I was dragging them out of their homes; men

and women. I had the authority of the high priest. And one day on my way to Damascus, I had an encounter. I was blinded. I was knocked from my steed. I was knocked from my horse, from my mount. There was a voice speaking to me. This voice said ‘Paul, why are you kicking against the pricks?’”

Paul is giving his testimony of his life prior to Messiah, his encounter with Messiah and his life after Messiah. After Messiah, Paul had considered everything that he knew as dung. Everything that Paul knew was taught to him by Phariseism. Phariseism didn’t teach the Law of YeHoVaH. Phariseism taught denominational law as it was given by the traditions or handed down by the fathers or the elders.

You have the tradition of our fathers. You have the commandments of men. You have the religion of the Jews. These are all the same thing. The commandments of men, the traditions of the elders or our fathers, or the religion of the Jews are all Judaism.

Because Judaism was the only thing on the planet as far as religion was concerned when Yeshua came, Yeshua came to bring the people to repentance. John called the people to repentance because they were practicing a law, but they weren’t practicing the Law of YeHoVaH. So he said to the people:

“You people are worshipping the Almighty in vain because you people are teaching for commandments, the commandments of men. You have made the commandments of God of no effect.”

The first thing we have to understand when we are reading Paul’s letters is that **Paul never ever, ever**

**addresses the Law of God as something that has been done away with. The Law wasn't cursed. Judaism is cursed!**

“Whaaaaaat?”

“Yeah!”

**The Bible says that if you add one letter or if you take one letter away from it, you destroy the whole thing!** It was strictly forbidden! This is why Yeshua said very clearly when he came:

“I did not come to destroy. I didn't come to add anything to it and I didn't come to take anything away from it and I certainly didn't come to do away with it.”

We have to get that clear because many times when people are looking at Paul [they say]:

“Paul taught against the law. Paul said you know, if you keep the law, you've fallen from grace.”

Well, we're going to see exactly what grace and law he is talking about. What is this yoke of bondage that Paul is referring to? Very clearly it is **Judaism**. Paul went into great detail about bondage in chapter 4. Look at it in chapter 4. Then you can check out our teachings on *Galatians* part 11 and 12.

Paul was converted by Yeshua on the road to Damascus. Yeshua would not have called Paul to preach something contrary to what He preached. He certainly wouldn't have commissioned his disciples, his apostles to go out and preach a message that was contrary to what he was teaching. No. He told his disciples:

“Whatever I've commanded you, whatever I've taught you, this is what you teach.”

Paul was teaching something else. That's why Yeshua had to knock the "hell" out of him. He did! Bam! The next thing you know, he hit him so hard that he went blind. That's a serious lick ladies and gentlemen! It just knocked the sight out of him. My folks used to say:

"Boy, I'll smack the taste out of your mouth!"

Now that's a hard hit! You know, you get hit so hard that you can't even taste! I mean, that's hard! Paul got hit so hard that he lost his sight. We read that, but think about this. The brother was knocked down. The horse didn't know what was going on. The folks around him were like:

"What's going on with Paul?"

One minute he's riding. The next minute...I know he can ride because we've been riding all over the place with this fellow.

"What's he doing on the ground? Who's he talking to?"

He's over there having a conversation. They don't know what's going on. Paul's having a conversation. Yeshua is having a conversation with Paul. They're looking and trying to figure it out. So he didn't commission Paul to teach something other than what he was teaching.

Yeshua expressed that the religion that was being practiced and taught in his day was not the commandments of God, but the commandments of men. How do we know that? Because it's throughout his writings. He says:

Mt 15:7 – "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,"

Who is he talking to? He's talking to the Pharisees. That's who he's talking to. Saying:

Mt 15:8 – “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.”

Mt 15:9 – “**But in vain do they worship me,** teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

Who is he talking about? He’s talking about the religious leaders. He’s talking about the Pharisees. He’s talking about the Sadducees. He’s talking to a people who are responsible for teaching Israel. They are responsible for teaching the commandments; for teaching Israel the Law and for upholding the Law of God, not of men.

But they were worshipping Him in vain. Why? Because they had taken the Law of Elohim and added to it and removed from it. **All of this put the people into bondage.** You have to understand something. Unlike today, folks didn’t have a King James Bible they could go home and read. They were dependent upon the Pharisees and the Sadducees to teach them. This is why when Nicodemus came to Yeshua at night, Yeshua said:

“Listen. You’re Israel’s teacher and you don’t know these things?”

People had to go to the synagogue to hear the word read. They had to go to the temple during the pilgrimage feasts to hear the word read. They didn’t have a scroll at home like we have Bibles at home. They were completely dependent upon the Pharisees, on the scribes and on the Sadducees to tell them what the word said.

This is what the Catholic Church tried to do. They removed the Bible from the people so that the people would be dependent upon the pope and the priests to tell them what the word says. And when you do that, the people

become dependent. Now you have people who have a Bible, and they are still dependent!

“I don’t understand the Bible. You’ve got to listen to the people who’ve been to the seminary. They’re the ones who have been taught.”

So you [in effect] turn off your own brain – not you all, because you all have been taught differently. But there are a lot of people who don’t trust their own ability to read and comprehend this book. He says:

“They worship me in vain.”

If you look at the context of who he is talking about, he is talking about the leaders who are responsible for leading the people in worship. But they are worshipping him in vain because they are teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men.

Mt 15:9 – **“But in vain they do worship me,** teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

Mk 7:5 – “Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but at bread with unwashen hands?’”

I’ve been in congregations where you have to comply with the ordinances of the organization. You just do. You will notice that in a congregation where women are forbidden to wear pants, that no woman is wearing pants.

You have congregations where women have to wear dresses right above the knee or right below the knee or right at the knee. You can go into congregations where women have to wear dresses down to their ankles. You can go into congregations where men have to wear a tie. Then

you go into congregations where men have to wear a kippah.

You can go into these places and in order to be able to worship and to fit in, you have to comply with what is required in the organization or congregation that you are part of. This is the work of men.

“Well brother, God said we ought to have order.”

Yeah, He did. We ought to have order. But what is He talking about? People want to take order and apply it to every area. They are taking “order” out of context. If you want to have order, then you ought to stop all of those people out there speaking in tongues and nobody interpreting what they said in a public assembly! That’s order! That’s the context of the “order” in which He is speaking!

Everybody wants to prophesy. People want to stand up and interrupt the message because they’ve “got a word.” Who is judging it? Have you ever been in a congregation where a word is given and somebody judged it? You see, that’s the way it is supposed to be. Either that is from the Almighty, or that is just pure imagination. Yeah.

When we begin to talk about order, we have to look at things within the context. He says:

“The Pharisees and scribes...”

You see, this is Yeshua’s biggest issue. Yeshua didn’t have problems with the Pharisees or the Sadducees until he went to the temple. Everywhere he went, he had to deal with these Pharisees and these scribes. Why? Because they were in every city except Samaria. They said:

Mk 7:5 – “Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why walk not thy disciples

according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

Where is that in the Torah? Where does it say that you can't eat bread except that you wash your hands? It's not there! So how is it that these guys have the gall to check Yeshua and tell him that:

“Listen brother. You're wrong because you're not following the traditions of the elders.”

Who are the elders? If you were to do the research on elders, you will find that the whole oral Torah – Moses had 70 elders. There were 70 men. YeHoVaH took the Spirit that He had put upon Moses and put it upon 70 men. When you begin to do the research on how the oral Torah was transmitted from generation to generation, there is a little catch phrase in most of the research out there that the oral Torah was passed down through the elders, but “not during the time of Moses.”

Really? So what are you saying? They are saying that Moses didn't start this stuff. Moses' elders weren't following this. If it wasn't Moses and his elders, then what elders did the oral Torah, the oral traditions, or Judaism get passed down through?

It's all there if you are looking and asking questions. Moses had absolutely nothing to do with the oral Torah; neither Moses nor his elders! **That came out of Babylon!** And yet you have practically every Messianic, Hebrew Roots, Jewish Roots, Christian congregation who has been affected by these teachings.

“Well brother, who do you think you are?”

I'm just pointing out the obvious. I'm one of those people who people have fed me stuff for a long time and I've just decided that I'm going to feed myself. I encourage

you to do it too. If I say something that doesn't line up with the word, you have every right to check me on that. I won't cut you off at the knees. If you show me something wrong, then I want to know. I say that because I mean that.

Some of these fellows, you start asking them questions and they don't know how to answer you. Then they want to put this on you:

“Are you questioning God's anointed?”

No, I'm God's anointed! You're God's anointed! He is no respecter of persons. Don't just use that when you want to get your way. Use it all of the time. He's no respecter of persons. He's not doing any greater favors for me than He will do for you. The only difference between you and I (and I hope that difference won't be there long if you hang around long enough) is that I just take Him at His word and try to walk in it.

I stopped making excuses for not doing what He told me to do because it cost me too much. You can't ignore His voice! You can't disobey what He says and not pay a price! You will pay a price! I've paid too much and I'm tired of paying. If I have to walk this walk alone, then I will do that.

I want to be unified. I want to be in unity, but I'm not going to unify myself. I'd rather be in unity with Him and with people who want to be in unity with Him, than to be with people just for the sake of unity.

Yeshua answered and said unto them – here's the question. The Pharisees and scribes are saying:

“Why? Why are your disciples not following the traditions?”

He says:

“You see, Isaiah prophesied about you folks. You people honor me with your lips.”

Isaiah is prophesying for whom? For YeHoVaH.

Mk 7:6 – “He answered and said unto them, ‘Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.’”

YeHoVaH is speaking to the prophet Isaiah, saying:

“These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”

They say the right stuff, but what are they doing? You will know a tree by its fruit. A person can tell you whatever they want to tell you, but their actions tell you who they are. Listen to me folks. People’s actions tell you who they are.

I was standing with a gentleman who wanted prayer while we were ushering. When I was in school, they used to talk about closure in psychology and how when you are talking to people, when they fold their arms, they have closed themselves off. At that point you are kind of talking to a wall. So when I’m talking to people, I’m watching their body language. I’m not going to be talking to people who aren’t interested in what I have to say.

Now I’m sitting at the table with this fellow who we prayed for and he crosses his arms as I’m telling him about the commandments. I’m telling him about what it is and why and what Father wants to do in his life. He shuts himself off, so I called him out. He’s sitting at the table.

Did I say this to you? [Arthur is speaking to an audience member.] I said it to somebody while we were sitting at the table. I said:

“This is a classic example of when a person has closed themselves off and there is nothing else that you are going to say that is going to get through to them.”

This person has shut himself down. Do you know that this man said:

“Oh, I see that you are familiar with the psychology of closure.”

I said [to the person at the table]:

“He knows he did it.”

He’s telling me:

“Oh, you’re familiar with the psychology of closure.”

Basically what I’m saying is that you are just talking and wasting your time from this point onward because I’m not interested in anything that you have to say. At that moment, I just said:

“Yeah, I’m familiar with the psychology of closure.”

I looked at the crowd and said:

“See? This man knows that he just shut down the conversation. He *knows* that he did it!”

What’s the point of continuing to talk to him? I’m doing it right there while he’s sitting there. I’m not going to waste my time with this person.

“Honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”

You need to know because I am going to tell you. Some of us are so busy talking to the point that we are not even paying attention to the fact that nobody is listening. We’re trying to outtalk each other. Yeshua says:

“The prophets prophesied about you people.”

Mk 7:7 – “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

Who is he talking to? The Pharisees and the scribes. What were they teaching? Commandments and doctrines of men. If the Pharisees were teaching the commandments and doctrines of men and Paul was a Pharisee, what was Paul teaching prior to his conversion? The commandments of men!

So when Paul is talking about “the law,” all that Paul knows are the commandments of men that have been transferred through the elders and the teachers; the fathers before him.

**Paul is not teaching the Law of God.** So when Paul is talking about the law of God, he is not talking about the Law of YeHoVaH, he is talking about **the law according to the Pharisees and the scribes!**

**He wasn't teaching against the Laws of YeHoVaH. He was teaching against that stuff that he now considered dung!** Everything that he had learned. Where did it come from? It came from Gamliel, which came from Simeon, which came from Hillel, which was born in Babylon. **Judaism came from Babylon. It did not come from the word!** It's mixed. It's a mixture. Denominationalism is a mixture!

Mk 7:8 – “For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men, *as* the washing of pots and cups; and many other such like things ye do.”

Mk 7:9 – “And he said unto them, ‘Full well ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.’”

I’m going to tell you just how you’ll know when you are dealing with a person who doesn’t have the knowledge to refute you from scripture. This is a catch phrase. Just as you see a person shut you down (by crossing their arms), they will also tell you:

“Well, this is what I believe.”

Really?

“Well, that’s not how I believe. This is how I believe.”

What they’ve just said is that:

“I’ve just gone off the path of reason and from now on we’re going to deal with my denominational doctrine.”

At that point when a person goes into that default mode, “this is what I believe,” they have lost the capacity to communicate from the scriptures; which probably was very limited to begin with. Most people aren’t learning scripture. They are learning their scripture according to their denomination.

The Baptists can read the same scriptures that the Pentecostals read, and have a totally different understanding because of the fact that “prophesies will end.” They interpret that as if everything that the Holy Spirit did has ceased. I had one woman write to me who said:

“You know, miracles, signs and wonders will come again when Yeshua comes, but for now, they’re not happening.”

Oh yeah? Well, tell that to the guy who got his ears healed – his hearing back. Tell him:

“You didn’t get a miracle. That’s all in your head!”

Tell that to the person whose leg is being restored or to those whose eyes are seeing:

“God doesn’t do miracles anymore!”

Really? There are people who not only believe that, but who have the audacity to open their mouth and to spew that out.

“Your purpose in telling me this is what?”

“You should stop what you’re doing!”

Really? And do what? What you’re doing? Telling people they can’t do what Yeshua said they can do? No! I don’t think so!

Mt 5:17 – “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

Mt 5:18 – “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

“All” has not yet been fulfilled, ladies and gentlemen! But get this:

Mt 5:19 – “Whosoever therefore shall **break** one of these least commandments,”

These are the words of Yeshua.

Mt 5:19 – “Whosoever therefore shall **break** one of these least commandments,

and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven:”

I used to read that and say:

“Well, at least I’m in the kingdom.”

Has anybody ever said that? I know I’ve said it. I’m thinking Okay, if God made everything and it’s all in His kingdom, then where is hell? Where is the Lake of Fire? Where do people go in the second death? It’s somewhere in the kingdom that He made! Do you hear me?

“...but whosoever **shall do and teach *them***, the same shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven.**”

So here you have an option. You have “least in the kingdom” and you have “great in the kingdom.” Why choose the least when you can have the great? And what is greatness?

“...but whosoever shall do and teach”

What? The *least* commandment! Shall do and teach what? The commandments! What commandments?

“...the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

That word there “great” is [in the Greek] “*luo*,” means to destroy. Yeshua said (Mt 5:17):

“Don’t think that I came to destroy”

To break the Law is to destroy. To add to the Law is to destroy. To take something away from the Law is to destroy. So let us conclude that Paul is not talking about the Law; not the Law of YeHoVaH. He’s talking about Pharisaic law because it’s the only law that he knows.

Continuing on; adding to the commandments was forbidden by YeHoVaH. Judaism adds, therefore Judaism is cursed; NOT YeHoVaH's Law. YeHoVaH's Law is not cursed.

As I've tried to explain to people so many times, even as we were out of the country, the Law is not cursed. The Law contains blessings and curses. You choose which one you want. You choose whether you want curses or blessings!

I feel sad and sorry for people who reject the Law, because they've made a choice. They've already made a choice! They didn't come to the conclusion that Paul was teaching against the Law. Their preachers who are preaching that Paul taught against the Law brought them to that conclusion.

Most people (without a preacher) reading the Bible will never come to the conclusion that the Law is no longer required for today! That means that you can worship idols?

"Well, not *that* part of the Law, brother!"

Well, wait a minute. That means that you can commit adultery? You can have sex with animals? No!! You can eat detestable things? Covet your neighbor's wife and husband? Move your neighbor's borders? Kill? Steal? That's what the devil does! He comes to kill and steal and destroy! And that's where that doctrine comes from!

If the enemy can get enough people to reject the commandments, he doesn't have to do anything. They destroy themselves! It's all about what you believe. When you think about it,

"Well brother, we're not under the Law."

Well then, what are we under?

"We're under grace."

Okay, now that I'm under grace, what does that mean? What does that mean that you're under grace?

“Well brother, whatever you want it to mean!”

That's what it boils down to. There are no rules. The rules that do apply are the ones I make up; the ones that I choose. So if I don't like the rules over here, I go over here. If I don't like the rules over there, I go over there. If I don't like the rules over there, I go over there. Pretty soon I'm not going anywhere. I'm just going to be at home making up my own rules and trying to teach people to believe like I do; which is really not much.

But people are adamant and strong in their beliefs. I run across them.

“Well, you know, I just don't want anything to do with organized religion.”

Then let me tell you something. You don't want anything to do with Yeshua, because the first thing Yeshua did was that he called some folks and organized. That's what he did. He organized! He took them from disciples and made them apostles. He gave them specific instructions of what to do, what not to do, where to go, where not to go, what to say, what not to say. That's organization. Yeshua was an organizer! Do you hear me? So people are saying:

“Well, I don't want anything to do with organized religion.”

Neither do I. Yeshua didn't come to organize religion. Yeshua came to bring people back to the organization called the kingdom of God where He reigns. You don't come up in here and do your own thing.

Verse 2. We finally got to verse 2!

Gal 5:2 – “Behold,”

Now this is where it gets...we're only one verse in and already its...He says:

“Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be **circumcised**, Messiah shall profit you nothing.”

Paul is referring to conversion circumcision, not covenant circumcision. Understand that Paul is not teaching the commandments. Paul is teaching the commandments according to the Pharisees. Understand something. Please get this. When a true Pharisee is born in the home of a Pharisee, the male is going to be circumcised on the eighth day. That's a given. Paul boasts on the fact that he was circumcised when? On the eighth day.

If you are brought up in the home of a Pharisee, you will not need to be circumcised as an adult. The only person who got circumcised as an adult was a Gentile who wanted to come into covenant with the Jews' God. That meant that they had to convert; and the conversion process was circumcision.

Only Gentiles were circumcised as adults. Pharisees and Sadducees were circumcised – even secular Jews. Even the secular people today are circumcised at eight days. It is the *Brit Milah*. Just as they have their *Bar Mitzvah*, they can't have a Bar Mitzvah without having a circumcision Brit Milah. [Bat Mitzvah is for women. Women didn't get circumcised.]

So a Bar Mitzvah was for a young man to become a son of the covenant. He could not become a son of the covenant if he had not been circumcised. They were circumcised on the eighth day. Any mention of circumcision in any of Paul's letters is not for a Pharisee. It is generally for a Gentile who wants to come into covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Please get that!

He's talking about conversion. Conversion for a person was to convert to Judaism; just like baptism today. When a

person comes into a religion, denominationalism; they are either going to be sprinkled, poured on, immersed, “in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” “in the name of Jesus,” or “in the name of Yeshua.” That seals their relationship with that denomination.

**Conversion circumcision** was required for a person to convert to Judaism.

**Covenant circumcision** was required to enter into covenant with YeHoVaH and to have access to the promises of Abraham. Understand this.

Ge 17:10 – “This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee;”

This is what YeHoVaH is saying to Abraham.

“...Every man child among you shall be circumcised.”

Not every child, but every man child. Women? You’re off the hook.

Ge 17:11 – “And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.”

Ge 17:12 – “**And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you,** every man child in your generations.”

Ge 17:13 – “He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”

How many of you know that the New Covenant is an Everlasting Covenant? Get this:

**Ge 17:14 – “And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.”**

It's not Moses' covenant. It's YeHoVaH's covenant! What does it say? Any male child who doesn't get circumcised is what? Cut off! So there is no confusion there. The word “*karath*” means to be killed, cut off, eliminate.

If a person wasn't circumcised, they couldn't even eat the Passover. If a person wasn't circumcised, they couldn't even go into the temple. They couldn't participate in much of what the Bible says that they were supposed to, because they were not in covenant with the Almighty.

Gentiles weren't required. But if a Gentile wanted to come into covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, what did they do? They circumcised them.

Remember the story of Simeon in Shechem? The Shechemite wanted their sister Dinah? What happened? They had all the men circumcised. After three days while they were sore from their circumcision, they destroyed them. Their Dad was outraged because they had taken that which had been given to them by the Almighty and used it in vain.

John the Baptist, Yeshua and Paul were ALL circumcised the eighth day according to the Law.

Lk 1:59 – “And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.”

Lk 1:60 – “And his mother answered and said, ‘Not so; but he shall be called John.’”

Lk 2:21 – “And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called YESHUA, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Paul:

Phil 3:5 – “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; **as touching the law,**”

What? Now here’s the key right here! Paul says:

“My brand of the law is Pharisee law!”

Do you see this? This is Paul talking. As touching the law:

**“a Pharisee;”**

Phil 3:6 – “Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

What righteous? Now Paul here really explains it. Listen.

“...touching the righteousness which is in the law,”

What law? Pharisaic law. To the Pharisees, keeping the oral Torah is what made them righteous. Therefore they were already righteous and they didn’t need some heathen named Yeshua. They didn’t need some Jesus. They were already righteous in their own eyes.

Phil 3:7 – “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Messiah.”

Paul in chapter 3 had already emphasized the importance of covenants and that the Covenant of Abraham was not disannulled by the Law. This is what he said:

Gal 3:13 – “Messiah hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:”

The curse of the law – what’s the curse of the law? You need to go back and look at parts 10 and 11.

“...for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:”

Gal 3:14 – “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Yeshua Messiah; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Gal 3:15 – “Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though *it be* but a man’s covenant, yet *if it be* confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.”

The Covenant of Abraham was not disannulled by the Law that YeHoVaH gave to Moses. This is what he is saying here.

“Though *it be* but a man’s covenant, yet *if it be* confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.”

Gal 3:16 – “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Messiah.”

Gal 3:17 – “And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Messiah, the law, which was four

hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”

Circumcision was not part of the Law of Moses or the Law that was given to Moses on Sinai! Circumcision had already been part of the Covenant of Abraham where the promises of Abraham lay. So Paul is saying:

“Listen. The Mosaic Law as tradition has put it, does not annul Abrahamic Covenant. The Covenant of circumcision came long before what we know of as the Law.”

Do you get this? He says – in fact YeHoVaH says to Abraham:

“Abraham, your seed, our descendants are going to be taken into bondage. I’m going to destroy those who afflict them.”

What Paul is saying here is that the covenant was made with Abraham; therefore the Law came 430 years later. I have to say this because this is where a little bit of confusion comes in. Sometimes when people say “the Law,” oftentimes people talk about what happened at Sinai in *Exodus* 20. Most people (in their mind) see the Law as being given in *Exodus* 20 and beyond.

But then with our mouths we say that the Torah (the Law) is the first five books [of the Bible]. There is some kind of disconnect that takes place in the mind of people. The average preacher and the average theologian and the average Christian out there say that the Law is the Old Testament. Now it’s the whole Old Testament.

We’re not under the Old, we’re under the New. Now they have included all of the prophets, the psalms and the writings, as well as the first five books. You have some people who are looking at it as the entire Old Testament.

You have some people who say that the Law was given at Sinai. Then you have some people who say that all five books of the Bible; the Torah, the Pentateuch is the Law.

In essence, it is. But here is the Law of God. **The Law of God is whatever He says it is.** Whatever He said is His Law. Whatever He said in *Genesis*, whatever He said in *Exodus*, whatever he said in *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, *Deuteronomy* and whenever He spoke to His prophets.

“Man shall not live by bread alone.”

These are the very words that Yeshua spoke when the devil tempted him in the wilderness. He quoted Moses.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

So when God is speaking to Moses, He was giving Moses all of these instructions. These are the word of YeHoVaH. They weren't the words of Moses. YeHoVaH is speaking and His word is life! I mean, it's a terrible thing to want the promises of Abraham (which are in the Old Covenant) – you have people claiming the promises of Abraham while rejecting Abraham!

Abraham is in the Old Covenant. He's not in the New Covenant! How can you be a New Covenant, New Testament person and receive the promises and blessings of Abraham that are in the Old Covenant? You see, this is the confusion that is being taught by denominations and people are so confused that they revert to:

“Well, that's not what I believe!”

“What do you believe?”

“I believe what my preacher in my denomination told me.”

“What did they tell you?”

“Well, I don’t know it all right now.”

“Tell me what you DO know.”

“Well, I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins. I believe that...”

They start quoting the Apostles’ Creed.

“Yeah, he rose again on the third day. He was very God, of very God, born of the virgin.”

They start giving you the creed – their statement of faith. Do you get that?

**Gal 3:18 – “For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.”**

This is Paul writing and yet Paul’s people want to quote Paul as being against [the Law]. He says:

“Listen. The inheritance that came through Abraham, didn’t come through Moses. The knowledge of it was given to Moses. Moses wrote it, but it didn’t come through Moses. It came through Abraham. Abraham was way before Moses; 400 and some years before Moses.”

That’s where the promises are and that’s what the people want to claim. They want to claim the promises of Abraham and they want to claim the blessings of *Deuteronomy*. But they reject the book that these promises are in because they are in the Old Covenant. How can you have the promises of the Old Covenant without the Old Covenant?

Gal 3:19 – “Wherefore then *serveth* the law? **It was added because of transgressions,**”

We spent some time on this. The Law ladies and gentlemen that Moses received, was added because of transgressions. Whose transgressions? Adam’s transgressions. Paul doesn’t get into that here, but he certainly gets into it in *Romans*; whom he wrote.

Ro 5:12 – “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Ro 5:13 – “(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”

Therefore...

Ro 5:14 – “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses,”

Death reigned over Abraham. Death reigned over Isaac and Jacob.

“...even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression,”

Why was the Law added? Because of transgressions. Do you see that? The Law was added because of transgressions. Whose transgressions? Adam’s!

“...who is the figure of him that was to come.”

Adam was the first man. Who was the second man? Yeshua! Paul writes this in *1 Corinthians* 15. Adam, the first man and Yeshua, the second man. Everything between Adam and Yeshua was born of a woman. Everything

between Adam and Yeshua was born of a woman and of a man. They are the result of a man and a woman. Adam is not the result of a woman and Yeshua is not the result of a man.

Gal 5:3 – “For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.”

What is the whole law? The whole law is according to Judaism. You see, if you break one law, you’ve broken them all. That’s true, but what is he talking about? Remember that when Paul is talking about the law, Paul learned law according to Judaism.

Here’s how this thing works. You go to Israel. It’s against the law to wear tzitzits without a kippah. Do you know that? It’s against the law! It’s also a violation to go to the Wailing Wall without a covering. It’s like:

“Really?”

You can wear a kippah and not wear tzitzits, and you won’t be violating the law. But if you wear tzitzits without wearing a kippah, you’re now violating the law. So we are walking around and the guys are looking at that [tzitzits] and then are looking up at my head and it’s like – nobody is saying anything, but it’s like:

“Ha ha, this Gentile. He doesn’t know the law. That’s sad. He’s wearing tzitzits without a kippah.”

They are wearing their kippahs without their tzitzits. The ones who are wearing tzitzits are wearing all white ones; which are not really tzitzits. I’m looking at this and just talking to folks.

“Why are you wearing a kippah? Where is that in the commands? Why is it that these

guy's wear black hats? Why are they wearing fur hats? And why is it that every time you see a Jew, he has his head covered? And why does he have a kippah under the hat?"

It's so that when he takes the hat off, he's still got a covering on. And it is like:

"Where is *that* at in the Bible!"

NONE of that stuff is in the Bible, but it's "law." Whose law? Man's law! People get confused with man's law (Judaism) as if it's God's Law. Then they run around here talking about how:

"Well, if you break one law brother, you break them all."

Well, guess what? We are all in trouble! We are ALL in trouble. As I was telling the saints, Yeshua said:

"Go and sin no more."

How is she going to do that? He told the woman who had been caught in adultery:

"Where are those who condemn you? Neither do I condemn you. Now go and sin no more!"

Sin is a violation of the Torah! Is he telling this woman to do something that is impossible for her to do? No! Is the Almighty calling us to do something that is impossible for us to do? No! When people come to me with that crazy stuff, I say:

"Can you go a minute without sin?"

You say:

"Well, we sin every day."

“Can you go a minute? Well, if you can go a minute, can you go five minutes?”

“Yeah.”

“Can you go an hour?”

“Of course I can.”

“What about two hours? Three hours? What about 5 or 6 hours? What about 24 hours?”

If you can go one day without sinning...but I first have to define what sin is. Sin is a violation of the commandments. So if I'm going to go without sin, what do I need to do? I need to learn the commandments! If I don't learn the commandments, YES I'm going to sin every day! That's because I can't help it! I don't know how NOT to! And yet you have people who are teaching people:

“We are not under the Law. You don't need to know those commandments.”

What are you doing? You're teaching people how to be sinners.

“Well, yeah, we're all sinners saved by grace.”

No, I WAS a sinner. Now I'm saved. I don't live like a sinner. I do what Yeshua said:

“Go and sin no more.”

If I do sin, I have an advocate with the Father. I confess my sin; which means that I recognize that I have violated His commandments. It should grieve me. It should cause me to say:

“Father, I’m sorry! Help me. Fill me. Create in me a clean heart. Cleanse me from unrighteousness. Give me the strength.”

I’ve learned from that. I’ve learned from that! I know what that is now and I’m not going to do it anymore. I leave there and go and violate another command. What do I do? Confess.

The same people who are telling you that you don’t have to keep the Law, are telling you that you need to confess your sins. Think about that for a moment.

“You need to confess your sins, but you don’t need to keep the Law.”

Well, what is sin? Sin is a violation of the Law. So what am I confessing? I am confessing that I’m a lawbreaker. But I don’t have to keep the Law, so why should I have to confess to anything? Do you see the confusion? There is a lot of confusion out there!

Gal 5:3 – “For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.”

What he is talking about is Judaism. What he is saying is this:

“Listen. Don’t let people come and bring you into bondage. Don’t let people come behind me [Paul is saying] and bring you into something.”

If you look at Paul’s travels, you will find that the only people who followed Paul were Pharisees. Gentiles didn’t follow Paul. The only time the Gentiles got angry with Paul was when Paul went into the city and folks started burning their books and the sorcerers stopped “sorcering” and the palm readers stopped reading palms. That’s because Paul

was now messing with their money. That's the only time the Gentiles had a problem with Paul.

Before then it was all folks who felt that Paul had lost his marbles; he had bumped his head. Paul left Jerusalem with the intent that he was going to create problems for those who followed Messiah.

Then Paul became one of those people he was supposed to be destroying. Now he has turned on the folks who sent him. The folks who sent him are now sending some others to try to stop Paul; just like Paul was sent to try to stop the folks whom he was sent to try to stop. Now he is saying:

Gal 5:4 – “Messiah is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are **justified** by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

Remember the righteous? Paul says according to the righteous:

Phil 3:5 – “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; **as touching the law, a Pharisee;**”

Phil 3:6 – “Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

“I was blameless. I was a Pharisee of Pharisees. I was a Hebrew of Hebrews.”

What he is saying is that when you begin to deal with that particular idea; those of you who are justified by the law, **you're fallen from grace.**

If I come to you bringing the grace of Messiah and saying to you that you are no longer bound by sin and you are free to serve the Almighty; and somebody comes along and says that before you can serve Yeshua that you have to

first convert, the idea is that Yeshua was the Jewish Messiah, not the Gentiles'. He was the Jewish Messiah. In order to accept the Jewish Messiah, you had to be Jewish.

“You can't accept our Messiah without becoming one of us!”

So folks converted. Paul is saying:

“No! Who bewitched you? Who bewitched you?”

I'll tell you “who bewitched you.” It was the ones who came after Paul. Who were they? They were the Pharisees.

The word here is “*dikaioo*,” which means to render righteous or such he ought to be; to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered; to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be.

**Pharisaic law does not make anyone righteous.** *This is the argument that Paul is making.*

Mt 5:20 – “For I say unto you,”

Earlier we quoted from *Matthew* when Yeshua said that he didn't come to destroy the Law or the prophets. He said that the least of them would be those that break the least of the commandments and who teach others to do so.

You see, if I teach people – get this. We talk about all of these “great men of God.” People talk about all of these “great men of God”; Billy Graham, T.D. Jakes, Creflo Dollar and all of these folks. These are “great men of God.”

That's what the tabloids write – they're great men of God, right? Great men! Not according to Yeshua, because they taught that you are under grace. You are not under the Law. About anybody who teaches that you don't have to keep the Law, Yeshua says:

“If you break the least of these commands and teach others to do so, you will be called ‘the least’ in the Kingdom!”

Do you see how twisted religion has become? They are calling men “great” who Yeshua says are least; and calling those who are great “fallen from grace” because they teach the commandments! Yeshua says:

“If you teach these commandments and do them, you will be called ‘great’ in the kingdom!”

“Well, now you’re going to start calling people’s names!”

Hey, sometimes people can’t read between the lines. Folks are calling people’s names in private. Yeah, folks are out there talking about me like a dog and then smiling in my face like everything is fine; when everything is not fine. You’re a hypocrite. That’s what you are. You’re a hypocrite.

If I talk about you like a dog and then I smile in your face like everything is fine, what does that make me? It makes me less than a man. You are less than a man if you can’t tell a man what you feel and think in a righteous way. You’re scared of men. I’m not scared of you! You shouldn’t be afraid of any man. If you don’t agree with somebody, you don’t have to cuss them out. Just tell them:

“I don’t agree with that.”

You don’t have to get all belligerent. You don’t have to get all obnoxious about it.

“No, I don’t agree with that. I teach what I believe. I teach what I believe and if what I am teaching is in disagreement with that

you are teaching, then that should tell you that we don't agree on that."

It doesn't mean that we can't have relationship. It just means that that is an area where we don't agree. I'm sure there are some things that you don't agree with me on, but I'm not going to hate you for it. At least we know that we don't agree on these issues.

I can still love you and not agree with you, unless you are doing something that is totally against my belief. Then we have to part ways. I'm going to tell you. You're not going to find anybody out there that agrees on everything. I don't even agree with myself sometimes! I don't! Have you ever changed your mind? Hello?

You see, you are disagreeing with yourself. One minute you believe one thing and the next minute you have changed your mind. You are in disagreement with yourself. If you can disagree with yourself and I'm not you, then there is a good chance that you might disagree with me. What's wrong with saying:

"Well, I don't agree with that."

"You don't agree with that? What's wrong with you?"

I'm not you. Case closed.

Mt 5:20 – "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

(Laughs)

This is what Yeshua says. He says:

“Listen. These guys think they’re righteous because they are keeping their brand of the law. But except your righteousness...”

How is my righteousness going to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees?

“I’ll tell you how. Don’t follow the scribes and the Pharisees. Follow me.”

That’s how!

“Brother you just make things so simple. It can’t be that simple!”

Why not? It’s simple when you take off those glasses and stop speaking what people have put into your spirit. He says:

“Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Those who feel they are made righteous by the law do not need Yeshua. That’s why those who felt that they were already righteous had no problem hanging him on a tree. The Savior of the world who came to save their behinds; they killed him. Think about that. What are they saying?

“We don’t need you, joker. We’re good. We’re Abraham’s seed. We are already in. We were born in this. Who do you think you are? We have something for you. It’s called the stake.”

I’m not talking about filet mignon. We aren’t talking about that kind of steak. Halleluyah. What a way to end.