

The Book of Galatians – Part 28

I said today that we are going to conclude the Book of *Galatians* and I intend to do just that. What we are going to do is begin by reading chapter 6 of the Book of *Galatians*. We will deal with the last few verses of *Galatians* and then recap the things that we have picked up. Please turn with me to *Galatians* 6 verse 1:

Gal 6:1 – “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

Gal 6:2 – “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Messiah.”

Gal 6:3 – “For if men think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

Gal 6:4 – “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.”

Gal 6:5 – “For every man shall bear his own burden.”

Gal 6:6 – “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

Gal 6:7 – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

Gal 6:8 – “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he

that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Gal 6:9 – “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Gal 6:10 – “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Gal 6:11 – “Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.”

Gal 6:12 – “As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Messiah.”

Gal 6:13 – “For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.”

Gal 6:14 – “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

Gal 6:15 – “For in Messiah Yeshua neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

Gal 6:16 – “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”

Gal 6:17 – “From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Yeshua.”

Gal 6:18 – “Brethren, the grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.”

In the last lesson we got all the way up to *Galatians* 6:17. That is where we will continue here today. We only have a few verses. Because of the nature of these verses, it is not going to take us a whole lot of time to get through them. But he says:

Gal 6:17 – “From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Yeshua.”

What Paul is recounting here is everything that he had experienced when getting the gospel of Yeshua to the various places that he had taken the gospel. We find that many people gave Paul trouble. Paul gives a list of some of the trouble and how he obtained the marks on his body for suffering for the sake of the gospel that Yeshua preached; the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Notice that I said the gospel that Yeshua *preached*. There are many who have confused the Gospel of Yeshua or the Gospel of Jesus to be the death, burial and the resurrection of Christ. If you ask practically any pastor out there to tell you what the Gospel of the Kingdom is, the majority of them will say that it is the gospel concerning *the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus*.

The fact of the matter is that Yeshua didn't come preaching that gospel. **That is a church gospel.** That is a denominational gospel. Yeshua rarely talked about his death. As a matter of fact, it wasn't until almost the end of his life that he declared the things that were going to happen to him.

In *John 17* we find that he began to pray for his disciples. He warned them and told them about what was going on. He told them where he was going and how he was going to come back and get them as he had earlier predicted in *John 14*.

For the majority of Yeshua's life, he wasn't teaching about the death, burial and resurrection. That is what the gospel has *evolved* into through theological circles. The gospel that Yeshua preached was the Gospel of the Kingdom. *This gospel embodied repentance.* John came and declared:

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

The Bible says that when John was put in prison, from that day forward Yeshua began to teach repentance for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He sent out his disciples. He sent out the twelve. Later on he sent out seventy others. He gave them specific instructions about what they were supposed to preach. It was repentance for the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand.

They were to heal the sick. They were to raise the dead. They were to do the things that he instructed. Even the disciples weren't preaching the gospel that we know of today as far as the death, burial and resurrection. **Instead, it was a gospel of repentance for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**

We did teachings on the *Gospel of the Kingdom*.¹ Those teachings are on our website. They are in our bookstore online. As we know, the instruction that Yeshua gave is the gospel that was coming to us. It is the Gospel of the Kingdom. The kingdom was coming to us.

¹Our DVD teaching *The Gospel of the Kingdom* is available at our online store at: www.arthurbaileyministries.com/collections/all. It is also available for FREE online on our teachings page. www.arthurbaileyministries.com/pages/teaching-videos.

As he told his disciples:

“Preach. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Yeshua later preached a message. He said:

“The kingdom is not here or there.”

Where is the kingdom? The kingdom is within us. The Kingdom of Heaven is within us. The way that the Kingdom of Heaven is within us is when the King is sitting on the throne. When the King of Heaven has become the Lord of our lives, we can boldly declare that the Kingdom of Heaven has come.

This is the message that John preached. This is the message that Yeshua picked up and preached. This is the message that his disciples preached. This is the commission that he gave to his apostles. If you remember in *Acts 2* when men and brethren were hearing Peter speak, they cried out:

“Man, what shall we do?”

What did he say?

“Repent! Repent every one of you!”

Everyone needed to repent. What did they need to repent from? They needed to repent from the Gospel of the Pharisees, the Gospel of the Sadducees, the Gospel of Herod, the traditions of men and the religion of the Jews that had taken the place of the commandments of the Almighty. As we read, Paul stated that:

“Even those who wanted to have you circumcised; they don’t even keep the Law.”

Individuals who were trying to get people circumcised according to the Law, themselves were not keeping the

Law. In the last lesson we looked at Paul referencing Yeshua when Yeshua said:

“Moses gave you the commands. But instead of teaching the commands, you are teaching the commandments of men!”

They weren't teaching the commandments of YeHoVaH. Instead of teaching what He instructed was to be taught, men were now teaching the instructions according to the leaven of the Pharisees, the leaven of the Sadducees; even the leaven of Herod.

Paul came proclaiming. You need to see this, because he says:

“Listen. I bear in my body, the marks of the Lord.”

There are people who literally beat him and stoned him. We are going to see this in just a moment. The same fate that Yeshua faced is the same fate that Paul faced. When Paul embraced Messiah, the very same spirits of the people who had sent Paul to persecute those who followed Messiah were now beginning to persecute him.

What does that say for us, ladies and gentlemen? We have example after example from *Genesis* all the way to the *Revelation*. When you follow Yeshua for real; according to this book, persecution is yours to enjoy. I said “enjoy” because Yeshua said it. He said:

“When men persecute you and revile you falsely for my sake...”

What should be our response? Rejoice! Not only should we rejoice, but rejoice and be exceedingly glad! Do you all remember reading that? Those who don't remember reading that, let me see your hands. Nobody is going to raise their hand. There is one. Okay. For the sake of one,

we have to go there. If you will turn to *Matthew* 5:11, he says:

“Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

Has anyone here ever had this happen to them? How many of you have had people accuse you of “falling from grace” or “going back under the Law?” How about abandoning the faith of your father and your mother? It is persecution. Persecution is what Yeshua had to experience. He said:

“Listen. When men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake, your response should be to rejoice and be exceedingly glad! For great is your reward!”

You see, the reward comes because you are faithful to following Messiah. If you are faithful to follow Messiah, you will experience persecution by those who only want to give Messiah lip service. There is a lot of lip service going on. There are many who honor Yeshua and who honor YeHoVaH with their lips; but their hearts are someplace else.

How do you know where people’s hearts are? By their actions. You will know where a person’s heart is by their actions just like you will know where a person’s treasures are. The Bible lets us know that where you treasures are is where your heart is. That is where your heart will be.

What do we have as treasures? We have treasures as money. We have treasures as investments. We have treasures as material goods. The bottom line is that where people put their money or their investments is where their hearts are. Are you following me? So he says:

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.”

Now Paul comes along and lets us know that in order to take the *true* Gospel of the Kingdom, there is going to be persecution. You can't get around it.

In 2 *Corinthians* 11, Paul begins to give us a list. I could have read the entire chapter and gone into 2 *Corinthians* chapter 12. Paul goes from talking about the persecution that he experienced to receiving dreams and visions.

I remember when I was in the secular world. We used to have “vision casting.” In our businesses, we would cast a vision. It is called a business plan in some circles. It is called a 5-year plan, a 3-year plan or a 1-year plan in other circles. The idea is: where are you going to be in five years? What do you anticipate your business doing? We would get together and have what is called vision casting.

Ironically I found that when I came into the church, people would do the same thing. From a business perspective it was like:

“Okay, here is where we are. Here is where the ministry is. Where do we want to be in five years? How are we going to get there?”

It was vision casting. Some people got the impression that this is casting a vision. They would even associate it to the *Proverbs* where it says:

Pro 29:18 – “Where *there is* no vision, the people perish:”

Let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen. Where there is no vision from YeHoVaH... You see, He is only obligated to fulfill the vision that He gave. But there are many who want to fulfill their own vision. Do you understand what I am saying? Where there is no open

revelation, where there is no revelation from the Almighty, where there is no vision, the people perish.

Because of the visions and dreams that Paul received from the Almighty, he was able to endure whatever he went through. That is because he knew. Remember those who have read it, that before Paul went to Rome, he knew that Rome would be his final destination. He knew it before he went. Why? Because it had been revealed to him that he was going to die in Rome. People tried to stop him from going. But you see, that is vision. If Father told him:

“Go to Rome.”

Someone tries to stop him, saying:

“Listen, you are going to die!”

There were even prophetic demonstrations on how he was going to die. They were begging him:

“Please don’t go! Don’t go! Don’t go!”

But because of the vision, he really had no choice. I mean, he had a choice. He could have refused, but that wasn’t a good choice. So Paul went forth. But in 2 *Corinthians* chapter 11 he says:

2 Co 11:16 – “I say again, ‘Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.’”

The thing that really stirred Paul up was the fact that individuals had boasted concerning others. If you remember, this is 2 *Corinthians* chapter 11; but it is actually the third letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthians. It really should be 3 *Corinthians*. We know that 2 *Corinthians* was really 1 *Corinthians*, because in 1 *Corinthians* chapter 5 he said:

“In the previous letter that I wrote to you...”

This means that there was a letter before *1 Corinthians* (which makes *1 Corinthians*, *2 Corinthians*). Now, what is he saying here? In his second letter, he wrote about how individuals were boasting.

“I’m of Cephas.”

“I’m of Messiah.”

“I’m of Apollos.”

He says:

“Listen. That is carnality.”

You will see this stuff happening all around today.

“You know, my bishop is So-and-So-and-So.”

“My pastor is So-and-So-and-So.”

“I got to So-and-So-and-So’s church.”

“I’m an armor-bearer of So-and-So-and-So.”

It is like:

“Who cares?”

Really, who cares? The moment that you begin to have some kind of authority and power; you start prophesying and people see the results of your prophesy. You start ministering healing and people get healed. Folks want to make you a god. People want to put you on a pedestal. They want to start piling accolades upon you.

It is something when you establish ministries. I have seen this happen. We have established ministries and ministers and they have found some revelation from somewhere else. Then they want to turn the entire ministry and start following that revelation; only to find out that it is not the direction that YeHoVaH is leading them. That’s the

direction that men want to lead you; yet people do this all of the time.

Before I went into ministry, I was establishing ministries. I was part of ministries. People would come in and get their ordination and papers. Then they would be sent out. The next thing that you know, they wanted to come out from under the leadership that sent them out to come under another leadership.

People can do what they want to do. But the thing is that if you are not careful, people will try to exalt you and put you on a pedestal. The moment that you start believing that, is the day that your demise starts.

I remember emphatically what the Father spoke to me. Father spoke to me in the parking lot of a ministry while I was out there in the cold. He was telling me that He was about to put me into another realm. He warned me:

“Don’t let people put you on a pedestal.”

Folks, if you are here, sometimes you will hear the little children say:

“Arthur Bailey!”

It sounds so beautiful. At the same time, I know that I am just a man. I am not going to allow anybody to make me anything other than that; as much as folks would like to do that. Are you with me? Paul was very much aware of that. It was happening in Corinth. He says:

“You all are letting these folks come in here. They are boasting and telling you things. And they are giving you all kinds of accolades of all of the things that they have accomplished; all of the things that they have done. They are taking you hostage. They are bringing you under their authority and exercising dominion and control over

you. That's foolish! How could you all get to that place? But since you are there, since you like folks boasting in your midst..."

Paul is saying:

2 Co 11:16 – "I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little."

Paul moved into a place of boasting, knowing that where he was going was wrong. But he tried to prove a point to the people where he had planted the ministry. Imagine that Paul is telling these folks:

"You know, I became a father to you. You have many teachers, but you have not many fathers. I became a father to you. I birthed you. I brought you all into the knowledge of Messiah, and yet you have accepted others."

Basically they rejected Paul as their leader. He says:

2 Co 11:17 – "That which I speak, I speak *it* not after the Lord,"

Here is one of those things that Paul is saying. This is a red flag for those of you who believe that everything in the Bible is scripture.

The Bible *contains* scripture, but every word in the Bible is *not* scripture. There are things that are of men and there are things that come from YeHoVaH. Paul makes a distinction. He says:

"What I am about to do, the Lord doesn't have anything to do with this. So understand what I am saying."

He says:

2 Co 11:17 – “That which I speak, I speak *it* not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.”

2 Co 11:18 – “Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.”

2 Co 11:19 – “For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye *yourselves* are wise.”

He is rebuking them. He says:

“Look, you all are letting these individuals come in here. They are saying things and you are so wise and yet you are still allowing yourselves to fall at the mercy of these people.”

“I have never tried to take advantage of you. I have never tried to subject you to my authority. I have always spoken the true gospel to you. I have always brought you a message of freedom, but yet you desire to be in bondage!”

“So let me just take a moment. You so much want to be in bondage. If anybody has the authority to put you into bondage; since I birthed you, it should be me! Let me just take a moment and step off into the foolish realm!”

That is what he is saying here.

“Since you suffer fools gladly and seeing how you yourselves are so wise.”

Oh, I wish there was different punctuation. I wish there were exclamations instead of just periods here.

2 Co 11:20 – “For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour *you*, if a man take *of you*, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.”

He is saying that you are receiving all of this.

2 Co 11:21 – “I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.”

He is continuing to remind us that he is speaking and this speaking that he is doing, is foolish. But he is among fools. He has already called them that. Look at what he says:

2 Co 11:16 – “I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.”

2 Co 11:17 – “That which I speak, I speak *it* not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.”

2 Co 11:18 – “Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.”

2 Co 11:19 – “For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye *yourselves* are wise.”

You gladly put up with fools! You go along with the foolish stuff – gladly, eagerly! Somebody comes along and prophesies some prophetic nonsense and you just eat it up and run with it! Now he is speaking to the Corinthians, but he also spoke this way to the Galatians. He said that they had even gone to the point of being bewitched.

“You all who are supposed to know so much word, you let somebody come in here and

bring you under a spell! I warned you that these things were going to happen when I left.”

And yet it happened anyway. Did you ever have children where you saw the calamity? You saw the destruction. You saw the path. You saw the end of the decision that they had made. You tried to warn them:

“Don’t go! Don’t do that!”

“I know what I’m doing!”

Really?

“I’m not a baby anymore. I can make my own decisions.”

“Yeah you can, but obviously based on the evidence that is before us right now, your decision-making capacity is off. It’s not where it is supposed to be yet, because this is a foolish decision that you are making.”

Yet no matter how harsh and no matter what words you choose to try to articulate and communicate to that hard-headed, stiff-necked stubborn son or daughter of yours, the words were ignored. Do you know that YeHoVaH had the same problem? Yeah. He continues to.

Paul said:

“For you suffer fools gladly.”

And he says:

2 Co 11:21 – “I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.”

I can get bold now.

2 Co 11:22 – “Are they Hebrews? so *am* I.
Are they Israelites? so *am* I. Are they the
seed of Abraham? so *am* I.”

Now we see who they are boasting in, don't we? When we look at *Galatians*, we know that when the Galatian congregations were established by Paul, individuals came down and began to speak. They told the people that before they could actually become a follower of Yeshua, that they had to undergo certain Jewish rituals.

We identified that the individuals that Paul was adamantly opposing in his letter to the Galatians were who we know of today as “Judaizers.” Remember that a Judaizer is a believing Jewish person who is preaching and teaching that you have to keep the traditions in order to be true to the Bible. That is just not true.

2 Co 11:22 – “Are they Hebrews? so *am* I.
Are they Israelites? so *am* I. Are they the
seed of Abraham? so *am* I.”

2 Co 11:23 – “Are they ministers of
Messiah?”

Now I speak as a fool.

“(I speak as a fool) I *am* more;”

In other words, think about what he is saying. They say that they are a minister of Messiah. I am more a minister of Messiah than they are. You see that Paul is really speaking out of his head. But who is he dealing with? These are people who are not thinking according to the mind of Messiah. They are carnal. These are carnal, religious people. These are people who are in the synagogue, in the congregation and in the assembly. Yet they are carnal, natural-minded. They are not Spirit-minded. He says:

“...I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft [often].”

2 Co 11:24 – “Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.”

Wasn't Paul Jewish? So why is he getting a beating from the Jewish people? Do you get this? Who is beating him? He says:

“I received 39 lashes, 5 times. How many lashes have you all received?”

Five times! I'm going to tell you ladies and gentlemen. If some of us got a whipping for preaching Yeshua; that would be the last time that Yeshua came out of our mouth! That shouldn't be! We shouldn't be afraid of persecution for the sake of Messiah. Now, we don't want to go out there looking for it.

“Come on beat me so that people know that I serve Jesus!”

No, we are not going out there looking for a beating, but we are not running from it. We are not shutting our mouths. We are not keeping quiet while heathens all around us spout out their nonsense. Sometimes I tell folks:

“You just need to be quiet. No, you need to shut up.”

You know, you try to be nice about it, you really do. But when people start speaking things into your life that you don't agree with, you can't just not say anything; because silence is acquiescence. Sometimes you have to boldly declare and boldly speak against [words] so that those words will have no place to go but down. Do you know that words bring to pass the things that have been

spoken if left alone? Everything that is created, YeHoVaH spoke it in a word. He says:

“Let there be.”

He spoke it into existence. When we declare, the power of words causes things to happen. The Bible says and Yeshua says:

“Every word that you speak, you are going to have to give an account.”

Your words are going to either justify or condemn you. How many of you intentionally condemn yourselves? I don't think that anybody in this room intentionally condemns themselves. But I think that when we speak things that are not in our best interest, we are speaking death and condemnation over our lives.

When we come into agreement with things that people say by not speaking against it, we are actually in agreement with it. It is not about a thought. If somebody speaks to you and says:

“You know, I think that you have cancer.”

“I have cancer? Oh God.”

What just happened? You just agreed with what somebody said. Now get this. Yeshua says that by his stripes you were healed. Do you see how there is a conflict right now? Yeshua says that I am healed. This person says that I have cancer. Who should I believe?

“Well, what about the symptoms, brother?”

“Well, what about them? What about them?”

It is when you come into agreement with something that it has a right to take occupancy. If you never come into agreement, you are constantly in a fight. You are constantly

in a battle. You are constantly denying and rejecting and standing on the word of YeHoVaH. You can't stand on the word of YeHoVaH and come into agreement with something that you don't agree with. That is being double-minded. That is unstable. That is instability.

Paul is saying:

“Listen. I got beaten five times.”

2 Co 11:25 – “Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;”

2 Co 11:26 – “*In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;”

2 Co 11:27 – “In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

2 Co 11:28 – “Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”

2 Co 11:29 – “Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?”

2 Co 11:30 – “If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.”

2 Co 11:31 – “The God and Father of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.”

2 Co 11:32 – “In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:”

2 Co 11:33 – “And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.”

Paul is saying here:

“I don’t want you all to bother me or trouble me.”

Basically that is what he says in chapter 6 verse 17:

Gal 6:17 – “From henceforth let no man trouble me:”

“Don’t trouble me with that.”

Gal 6:17 – “From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Yeshua.”

Basically he is saying:

“I have suffered for this cause.”

Based upon what we read, he can honestly say that no one suffered greater than Paul for the Gospel of the Kingdom. You are going to suffer. That is not anything to be afraid of. There really is nothing to be afraid of. But if you can’t get over people saying:

“You have fallen from grace.”

And it causes you to stumble for a week, come on. Those are just words. People are saying:

“You’re going to hell.”

“You’re trying to keep the Law.”

“The Law has been fulfilled in Jesus, brother.”

Any time we send out an Email about our services – I remember when I did the teaching on *Where Law Meets Grace*. I got so much opposition! I have had enough opposition to quit several times. But I know this. Because people have been inundated by false doctrines and false gospels, that this is to come; this is one of the reasons why I believe that the Father called me to be an apostle. It is to go forward, to speak and to stand.

After I stood in the Christian Church, I came into the Messianic and the Hebrew Roots movement. Now I am finding myself being persecuted all the more. I am persecuted because I don't practice traditions. I am persecuted because we don't believe that we have to keep Jewish traditions to be followers of Messiah.

If anybody wants to keep a tradition, that is your right. That is your privilege. But anybody who wants to tell me that I need to pray to the East or that I have to wear a kippah and a prayer shawl to attend their services, it is like:

“Where is that at in the Bible?”

Hello? Anyone who wants to exalt Hanukkah to the same status as the Feasts of YeHoVaH, understand me. *Hanukkah is not commanded by YeHoVaH!* A nine-branch Menorah can't be found in the Bible. But if you say stuff like that, what happens? People come after you.

“Oh, now he's anti-Semitic!”

Really? All because I am pointing out the obvious? Everyone else is afraid. They think that to speak against tradition is to speak against Jews. That is so far from the truth. I can speak against saggy pants without speaking against the Black community. I can speak against a lot of things without speaking against individuals. But there are

individuals who are doing such things and because it is part of a certain group of people, now you are “racist.”

No brother, you can’t connect culture with the Bible. The moment that you connect culture with the Bible, “it means that” you are attacking the Bible. But that is not true.

“So that means that you didn’t celebrate Kwanzaa?”

“Kwanzaa?”

“Oh, boy. Now there you go messing with Kwanzaa! We were fine as long as you were messing with those Jewish traditions.”

There is Christmas and Easter. Folks are doing a lot of things that we can’t find in the Bible, but that have been associated with scripture. The moment that you begin to address that issue, people get upset. If you are going to speak truth, you can’t worry about people. These are the kinds of things that got Yeshua crucified.

Gal 6:18 – “Brethren, the grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.

I want you to see this. It is interesting how Paul ends this letter.

“Not be with your flesh, but with your spirit.”

What is he doing? You see, Paul in his writings is really speaking to the spirit man. He is not speaking to denominations. He is not speaking to one’s head. Remember he has already said this in *Romans*. He reemphasized it in *1 Corinthians*, and *2 Corinthians*. He spoke it through *Philippians* and *Colossians*. He even dealt with it here in *Galatians*. He said that to be carnally-minded is death.

Remember that in *Galatians 5* we had the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit? The works of the flesh is the fruit of the flesh. It is the natural, carnal nature. The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit working with our spirit. Our natural man is not regenerated. Our spirit man is regenerated. Our natural man is not born again. Our spirit man is regenerated and born again.

His Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God. He is renewing our minds. We are no longer conforming to this world but are being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Everything that Paul is speaking to us, he is speaking to our spirit man so that our spirit can take its rightful place in our lives. Therefore we won't be following the desires of our flesh. To be carnally-minded is death.

So if you are filled with the Spirit, then walk in the Spirit! Those who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. Again, to be carnally-minded is death! A carnal-minded man will not understand spiritual things because they are spirit-discerned. But there are carnal minds that say:

“Doesn't God forgive?”

Yeah, that is carnal.

“Well, we are all sinners!”

You don't know your Bible. We may have *been* sinners, but we are now the righteousness of YeHoVaH.

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

I was saved by grace and hope and faith. Now I am walking in authority in the name of Yeshua. I am not relying upon grace. People who rely upon grace are disobedient. They are not trying to be obedient. They don't even think that they have to be obedient.

“Well brother, it's all about grace.”

Grace? Really? So that says to me that every time that you fall, you are not falling. You are walking right into it.

“Well now brother, you are judging.”

No, your actions are judging you! Your actions are judging you already. I am just looking at the fruit of the judgment. Are you seeing this? Religion has turned things around and caused people to accept a sinful lifestyle and condition while relying upon grace.

No, grace that brings salvation has appeared to all men; teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly and blameless in this present age!

That is what grace has come to do! Grace hasn't come to give you a license to sin so that you can live in lust and [sexual immorality] anywhere you feel like it. There are people who just want to live carnally. They say that they are believers. They are unbelieving “believers.” You need to start believing!

This is what happens with the pagan church – yeah, I said it. It's a pagan institution! Any preacher that teaches you that you don't have to keep the commandments of YeHoVaH is not preparing you for the coming of Messiah! No, you won't be ready! That is why they always have to “assure” your salvation.

“Well pastor, I don't feel saved today.”

“Well, it's not about feelings brother. It's about faith.”

“Faith?”

“Yeah.”

“Well, I've got faith.”

“Just believe.”

No, go and sin no more!

“You mean that I can sin no more?”

Either you can or Yeshua is a liar and he is not a liar! But there are a lot of lying preachers. You see, I’m even hitting the preachers. No one is off limits. It’s the word.

“Well, your words are going to come back at you.”

Let them come. I am ready. I really am. I believe with all of my heart that I am ready to deal with anything that I have said. Am I ready to meet Yeshua? I’m working on it!

I am. I would love to tell you that I am ready right now. The last time that I checked, I didn’t see anything that would cause me concern, but it was a surface perusal. Every time I look more deeply, I realize that there are areas in my life that have not fully conformed to Him. It shows me that I still have work to do.

But my eyes don’t go wherever my eyes want to go. They go wherever I send them. My feet don’t go wherever they want to go. They go wherever I take them. My mind doesn’t go wherever it wants to go. Sometimes it does, but I have to pull it back. I put a guard on my heart and a guard on my mind and on my thoughts.

Why? Because I believe that we have authority. Before I can call Him “Lord,” I have to first take over this flesh with His help. His word is what convicts me.

When conviction comes, what is my response? To make excuses? I was taught to make excuses when I was in the Baptist Church. Everybody was making excuses and excusing their sins. They were fornicating and committing adultery and lying and coveting and cheating and stealing and back-biting and slandering and gossiping.

“Don’t judge brother.”

The Bible is already judging us. Now what is our response?

Gal 6:18 – “Brethren, the grace of our Lord
Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.”

The word is Spirit. YeHoVaH is Spirit. What is He trying to do? He is trying to get us to be spiritual; not religious spiritual, but biblically spiritual. There is a difference.

When you become biblically spiritual, you see your body as the temple. That is what you see. You are not just putting on clothes. You are clothing your temple. You are not just eating food; you are feeding your temple. The Almighty has already told us that there are certain things that shouldn't go into the temple.

Even when He gave instructions concerning the physical temple, there were certain things that weren't permitted. What you put on it is as important as what you put in it. But you wouldn't know that if you abandoned the Law. We did the teaching on *Touch Not The Unclean Thing* and:

“I will receive you.”

Says YeHoVaH.

“And I will be your Father and you shall be
My children.”

The majority of the church world doesn't even have a clue what the unclean things are! They say:

“Brother, touch not the unclean thing.”

“Well, what is the unclean thing?”

“The Law.”

Really? Oh, it is in bad shape!

Gal 6:18 – “Brethren, the grace of our Lord
Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.”

Paul does a couple of closings in his letters using this statement. First he concludes 2 *Timothy* 4:22 with it.

2 Ti 4:22 – “The Lord Yeshua Messiah *be* with thy spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen.”

In *Philemon* when he is writing:

Phm 1:25 – “The grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.”

If you look at Paul’s writings, Paul is big on Spirit. He talks about the fruit of the Spirit. He talks about the gifts of the Spirit. He talks about spirituality and being spiritual. He talks about the difference between the flesh and the Spirit, carnality and Spirit, natural and supernatural. He is speaking to us but he is not speaking to us like this (in our ears). He is speaking to our spirit. This is why it says:

“Let them that have ears”

Everyone in here has ears, right? Let them hear what the Spirit is saying. You see, the natural ear is going to have a difficult time hearing the Spirit. The Spirit speaks to our spirit and not necessarily to our natural ears. Are you with me? We hear naturally. But when it comes to hearing from the Spirit, we hear from the Spirit by the spirit.

It is the Spirit that is communicating with our spirit. We must become spiritual. That means that we have to stop feeding and building up our natural, carnal nature. We must begin to build our spirit man so that as John says, our natural man decreases so that our spirit man increases. Then we will stop being led around by our fleshly, carnal desires.

We are putting to death the things of the flesh. If we don’t put to death the things of the flesh, Paul says in *Colossians* 3 that *for these things the wrath of God is coming for the children of disobedience*. It is coming for the ones who do not want to obey the word from *Genesis* to

the *Revelation*. That is why judgment is coming. It is coming to us first.

For those who think “Rapture,” you can forget about it. Judgment is coming to the House of YeHoVaH first. But if we judge ourselves – how are we going to judge ourselves? By righteous judgment [from the Bible], and not by denominational judgment. We use biblical judgment.

What does the Bible say? Are you aligning yourself with that word versus denominations?

It hit me several years ago. When I was a Baptist, I didn’t understand why the Baptists had such hostility toward the Pentecostals. The Pentecostals are over there speaking in tongues and casting out devils. They are running around the church and Holy Ghost dancing. But the stoic Baptists are over here saying:

“Those people are full of demons.”

And the Methodists and the Reformed are the “frozen chosen.” I mean, everybody had names for everybody else. All of those people (just like the people in my church) claimed to be lovers of God. Think about this. This denomination said:

“Those people over there who say that they love God, they are going to hell.”

Maybe you haven’t been in churches like that, but those are the churches that I have been in.

“Those people over there? Yeah, they say that they love God, but they are going straight to hell. As a matter of fact, those folks over there are going to bust hell wide open!”

I was listening to this and trying to figure it out.

“How come they are going to hell but we’re not?”

“Well, because you are part of the right denomination. Now don’t listen to those people.”

This is what in many denominations is called “equipping the saints.” They don’t trust the saints with the ability to understand the Bible. They have to tell them what the Bible says.

From the very first verse in Paul’s letter, he comes out swinging by letting us know that the things that he is writing to them did not come from him. That is chapter 1. He is writing them.

“The things that I am writing to you, the Spirit can bear witness. These things I didn’t get from the Pharisees. I didn’t get them from Gamaliel. I didn’t get them from any sage. This came straight from Heaven.”

If we were to continue in *2 Corinthians* chapter 12, he would have given us a glimpse of when he was taken into the third Heaven. It was when he received visions and things that he couldn’t speak of when he returned.

I don’t think that he ascended as much as I think that he may have been asleep. He may have been in a trance. He may have had a visitation and in this visitation he had an out of body experience. I don’t know. All that I know is that he went there and that he saw things.

I know what it is like to be in that place. I don’t think that I have ever gone to Heaven. But I know that I was in a place where I was face to face with the Almighty in Heaven. It was so much so that my body quaked to the degree that I felt that if I stayed there, I was going to die. I

wanted to come out of that place. It was intense to the point where it was like:

“I can’t take this. I just cannot take it.”

The closest thing that I can liken it to is this. I have shared this with people. Several years ago there was a movie called *Scanners*. Has anyone ever heard of that movie? It opens up where a guy is sitting there. All of a sudden his head just explodes. Of course it is a movie, so there is some artistic genius there. It didn’t just explode.

But that is what it felt like, if I could use an illustration. That is what it felt like for me to be in that place. I felt that I was just going to explode.

That is the last verse of *Galatians*, so let’s do a quick recap. I told you that when we went into this teaching, there were certain questions that we were going to ask and certain questions that we were going to answer. Actually the questions that we asked, we gave answers to. We gave them up front. Let’s recap.

- We learned that Paul’s letter to the Galatians cannot be looked upon at face value.

There is much tradition addressed to the point that if you did not know the traditions, you would not be able to recognize them as Paul addresses them in this letter to the Galatians.

- Did Paul teach that Jews no longer had to keep the Law of YeHoVaH?

NO.

- Did Paul teach that Gentiles did not have to keep the Law of YeHoVaH?

NO.

- Did Paul teach that the Law of YeHoVaH was for the Jews and not for the Gentiles?

NO.

Remember that we discussed *Noahide Laws*? Some sages came up with the idea that Gentiles did not have to keep the traditions of the Jews. They didn't refer to them as the commandments of YeHoVaH. They said that they didn't have to keep them. Instead, they only had to keep what *they* called *Noahide Laws*;² which were laws that are scattered throughout *Genesis*. You can find some of them in *Leviticus*.

There are others who teach that when the first Jerusalem Council came together in *Acts* 15, they reaffirmed the supposed Noahide Laws by abstaining from fornication, from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood and from idolatry. **But Paul did not teach that.**

- Did Paul teach that the Law of YeHoVaH was no longer to be observed?

NO.

Paul did not come to teach that the people no longer had to keep the commands. Paul himself kept the commandments. We found where Paul said in his word:

“Concerning the commandments of God, I keep them.”

- Did Paul teach that those who keep the Law of YeHoVaH have fallen from grace?

NO.

He never taught that.

- Did Paul teach that neither Jews nor Gentiles needed to be circumcised?

NO.

He was *accused* of teaching it. There were those *who said* that Paul taught that the Jews no longer had to

² There are no such things as Noahide Laws in the Bible. That is a man-made term and concept. There are however, Laws of YeHoVaH from which the supposed Noahide Laws are derived.

circumcise their children. Paul was adamantly opposed to that.

- Did Paul teach that circumcision was for the Jews but not for the Gentiles?

NO.

He did not teach that.

- Did Paul teach that the Law was cursed?

NO.

Absolutely NOT!

- Again, did Paul teach that those who had kept the Law had fallen from grace?

NO.

We identified that Judaizers were Jewish believers from a Pharisaic background. How do we know that they were from the Pharisees? We know this because the Sadducees were the ones who maintained the temple.

The Sadducees were not out there trying to establish temples in every city. It was the Pharisees who felt that it was their mission to establish synagogues in every city where there were Jewish people. That was not a mission of the Sadducees.

As a matter of fact, Sadducees held strictly to the Torah. Why? They did so because they were responsible for the sacrifices and the daily offerings. The Pharisees did not serve in the temple. Only Levites or the tribe of Aaron served. The high priests were from Aaron's lineage.

The Pharisees were mostly from Judah (and others who had converted to Judaism). These others did not become Pharisees. They became like many Pharisees.

These individuals who came to the knowledge of Messiah became zealous for the things of tradition. This problem is still at work today, ladies and gentlemen. It really is. That is why we did a teaching called *Avoiding the Religious Traps of the Messianic Faith*. There are a lot of traps out there. I deal with folks all of the time who come

here and who tell me all of the things that are going on in some of these places. I wonder:

“Why can’t we just stick with what the word says without having to add all of this other stuff?”

My problem with tradition is that people learn from what they see more than from what they hear. They watch what you do more than listen to what you say. You will notice that this is something that we are born with.

We came into the world like this. You will see sons watching their dads. You will see daughters watching their moms. They will pick up mom’s habits and dad’s habits. They are watching your movements and everything that you do. Do you see? The moment that you say something that is contrary to what you are doing, they will call you out!

“Well, you don’t do that?”

“But I’m the parent!”

Yeah.

“Don’t do what I do. Do what I say.”

Right. That was popular among the Pharisees. They put burdens upon other people that they themselves wouldn’t carry. I guess we have inherited that too.

Judaizers were Jewish believers from a Pharisaic background who taught that Gentiles needed to practice Jewish traditions and convert to Judaism before they could become a follower of Messiah Yeshua.

That is what *Acts* 15 is all about. But some people want to say that *Acts* 15 gave us the right to eat pork and shellfish and every other abominable thing.

Judaizers taught that a person must be circumcised in order to be saved. But what they were teaching was not

circumcision as a *covenant*, but circumcision as *conversion*. Circumcision as conversion became like baptisms are today.

“In order for you to be a bonafide member of this organization, you have to be baptized according to our doctrine.”

One of the largest issues that we saw when we looked at the Maccabean account was individuals who were uncircumcizing themselves because they wanted to be more like the Greeks. It is like:

“Uncircumcision? That’s interesting.”

Then of course there are folks who talk about the “circumcision of the heart.” We will get there.

Biblical circumcision is the seal of an Everlasting Covenant between YeHoVaH and Abraham and his seed. You cannot claim the promises of Abraham outside of the Covenant of Abraham!

The Covenant of Abraham is circumcision. Women never had to be circumcised; but men were required to be circumcised in order to obtain the covenant promises made to Abraham.

Part of the covenant is that any male child that failed to be or that refused to be circumcised was cut off! If you didn’t want to get your foreskin cut, then you got cut! So which cut do you want? But there are people who want to argue:

“You don’t need folks to get circumcised.”

Really? Where do you find that in the Bible? You don’t find that in the Bible. You find that in your church.

“But brother, that’s ‘under the Law!’”

Right! Torah people! Folks like using the word “Torah.” I use the word “Law.”

“Well, Torah is the instructions.”

It sounds “prettier.” It does. If you say “Torah,” half of the Christian world doesn’t have a clue as to what you are saying.

“We rejoice in your Torah.”

“What’s the Torah?”

“The Law.”

“The LAW!!!???”

(Laughter)

Yeah. Circumcision of the heart means stop being hard-hearted, stubborn and difficult. Circumcision of the heart was required in the Torah. It is not a New Testament phenomenon.

“Well, all God wants is a circumcision of the heart.”

He wanted that in the commandments! It’s a command. Circumcise your heart!

Dt 10:16 – “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.”

In other words, stop being hard-hearted. Stop rejecting. Stop rebelling. Stop resisting. Obey the commands. Do you want to be blessed? Do you want the blessings? Do you want My presence and power to manifest in your life? Father is saying:

“How is it that you expect Me to do all of this stuff for you, but you won’t even follow My instructions?”

If we can gain right standing with YeHoVaH by keeping religious traditions, then we don’t need Yeshua.

That is what Paul is dealing with. There is only one way to become righteous with YeHoVaH, ladies and gentlemen. That is through Messiah Yeshua! As I have said so many times, YeHoVaH didn't tell Israel:

“Keep My Law and I will save you.”

He saved them! He delivered them. He brought them out of bondage and said:

“Now, if you want to stay out of bondage, keep these commands.”

The commandments are not bondage. **Not keeping the commandments brings you under religious bondage.** Now don't know how to please God. You have to make this stuff up!

He tells us how to please Him. He tells us what to do to stay in right standing with Him. He tells us how to stay in right standing with your neighbor. He tells us how to treat one another. He tells us how to come into His presence.

He tells you the days to sanctify because you are sanctified. He tells us how to live and how to relate to our husband or wife and our children. He tells us how to relate in a community and how to conduct ourselves. If you don't have His commandments, you have to make this stuff up! **That is what denominations are doing. They are making it up!**

“Well brother, if you want to be in right standing, you need to tithe ten percent. You need to give offerings and you need to be at the meetings.”

“Is that all? What if I tithe but I don't come to every service?”

“Well, as long as you send in that tithe, Ha Ha Ha. Praise the Lord.”

Father is not concerned about your giving as much as He is concerned about your *living*. He doesn't want your stuff. He wants you! If He has you, He has the stuff. Some people say:

"Yeah, take that God, and leave me alone until I need you."

You don't say that, but that is what people do.

"I'll call you when I need you. I've got this."

Newsflash!! **The Jews did not kill Yeshua!** I am going to tell you something that may be news to you. I have been part of many denominations. As a matter of fact, Brother Vincent and I were together yesterday. We were overlooking the city. We asked a question about a building. It was a school. A guy responded. I remember what he said because it hit me. He said:

"Some rich Jew from New York came down and bought this."

I thought:

"Look at this."

This tells me what and who I am dealing with. It was the way that he said it, you see. I am picking that up. Let me tell you that racism does not have compartments. A racist is a racist is a racist. I wonder if he would have said that to that "rich Jew" like that. He would have been smiling. You see, there are people who will talk about people to you, but then they will talk about you to other people.

You talk about the Mexicans. You talk about the White people. You take about the Jews. I wonder what you say about me. You just told me who you are. If folks will laugh and gossip with you, they will laugh and gossip about you.

If you choose these kinds of relationships; then woe to you. You need to call them out. I am sitting there listening to him and I am thinking:

“Okay, I’m going to deal with this. I’ll deal with this. I have to deal with this if we are going to have a relationship.”

You can’t be in a relationship with just anybody. You can’t just let people say anything and let it slide.

“Well, brother that’s a lot of confrontation.”

Do you know what? Typically best friends are the result of confrontation. You will find people who have a drag-out knock-down fight. There is blood everywhere. But when they are done, they have respect for each other. The next thing you know, they are hanging out with one another and the next thing you know, they have each others’ back.

The Jews did not kill Yeshua. But there are many people who teach this and who believe this. **This has caused Judaism.** I was surprised as I was listening to a former Rabbi who believes in Yeshua. Unfortunately he has the Christian Jesus, but I am sure that it is not over yet.

As he was sharing his testimony, he was talking about how he was taught as a Jewish boy growing up. He was told to stay away from the New Testament. He was told. I am using his words. They are not mine. But I have heard this from several people. I am saying this because I have heard it from different Jewish people.

They state that the New Testament is the Gentile Bible and that in the New Testament, the Gentiles teach that we are supposed to kill Jews!

When you think about this, some of the most vicious terrorists on the planet and vicious individuals who have ever lived have been motivated by religion; many by the New Testament portion. Do you hear me? The Ku Klux Klan in the South used to quote scripture while they were

hanging Black folks. Hitler was inspired by Martin Luther. Do you understand? There is a lot of “inspiration” from the Bible that has inspired racism and acts of terror. I have grown up in churches where people in the church despise the Jews because of Jesus.

“The Jews killed Jesus! The Jews killed Jesus!”

Many of you have probably heard these words. I know that I did. I know of a guy right now who is this way. I am telling you that if you mention Jews, he has nothing but nasty stuff to say.

Understand that in every nationality there are nasty people. You can’t judge a nationality by the works of a few. That is stereotyping.

RELIGION is what killed Yeshua. Individuals who were practicing a religion are what killed him. Why? It was because he was a threat to their religion!

He was taking people and giving them truth and exposing them to the traditions which held them in bondage! That is why John came preaching repentance.

The Law of YeHoVaH is not cursed! Judaism is. I know that when I said that, many people cringed. Why? Remember the illustration. YeHoVaH sent His messenger. The messenger had simple words. I shared this illustration.

You send your messenger to deliver a message and there are five words in the message; just five. But by the time the messenger gets to deliver the message, there are now four words. Is that your message? No. By the time the messenger gets to the person that they are delivering the message to, now there are six words. Is that your message? No.

They have added or they have taken away. The moment that you add to or the moment that you take away, you destroy the message. Yeshua said:

“I didn’t come to destroy the message. I didn’t come to do away with it. I didn’t come to destroy it.”

The Bible says that the man who does such things is what? He is **cursed**. You don’t add to the message and you don’t diminish it. That is a command.

But people start adding traditions and trying to hold people to traditions and call themselves “building a fence.” As religious and as righteous as it may sound, now people are doing things that the Bible doesn’t require; but you require them. You have added to the message. You have taken away from the message. **You have destroyed the message.**

Yeshua addressed this issue. He said:

“You people; Moses gave you all the Law, but none of you are keeping it! Why? You are teaching for commandments, the traditions of the elders. You are teaching for commandments, the traditions of men. You are teaching for commandments, the commandments of men. Therefore you are nullifying the commandments of God and your worship is in vain!”

“How DARE you talk to us like that! By whose authority?”

By the time that Yeshua had come, the message had been so distorted. Remember that if the people don’t have access to the word, they won’t know what the word says. They are dependent upon people to tell them. And yet there are so many people who have access to the word, but they are still depending upon other people to tell them.

I try to tell folks what is in here and to show you where it is and all of these kinds of things. People want to

confront me with religious traditions. You can confront all you want. I am not going anywhere and I am not scared.

There were several laws in operation during Yeshua and Paul's times, but the Greek [text] does not distinguish between them. There was:

1. The law of the Pharisees
2. The law of the Sadducees
3. The law of Herod
4. The law of Rome
5. The Law of YeHoVaH

The Law of YeHoVaH should be number one, but that wasn't the case. They weren't keeping the Law of YeHoVaH. Yeshua referred to them as the "traditions of men" and the "leaven." Why? Because a little leaven – if you add one thing to the commands, it blows them up. Anybody who understands baking knows this.

I have a degree in Culinary Arts. I was a chef in the military. I cooked for the Captains and the Admirals. I got out of the military and wanted to expand my cooking career. I went to the second highest cooking institute at the time. It was the Grand Rapids Community College's Culinary Arts Department.

I obtained a degree as a chef. The worst part of going through the process of getting a chef degree was going through baking. Baking is a science. Cooking is an art. That is why they call it Culinary Arts. Baking is a science. You can't fix it! There isn't any fixing it. You have to start over. With cooking, you can fix it. Just add a little sugar. Just change the taste a little bit.

"Okay, that's better."

With baking, if you don't put the right ingredients and the right amount of ingredients, you are not going to get the results. You can't take the salt out once you have put the

salt in. You just can't do it. It's scientific. It is a science. I hated it. I didn't like baking. I like cooking. I passed.

The point is leaven. When you add a little leaven to your products – there were products that you didn't put leaven in. You put some leaven in that thing and you let it poof. When you come back, man, the whole oven is just one big glob. Do you know that the thing that I hated about this process was that everything that we did was supposed to be for the restaurant?

There were times when the restaurant opened but there were no baked products for it. That was because all of us students who didn't understand science were given the responsibility to bake muffins, rolls and all of these kinds of things. We produced something that was inedible, so they had to scratch the menu, change it and go on.

Leaven is adding something. This is what Yeshua is saying here. He says:

“Beware of the leaven.”

It is the leaven of the:

- Pharisees

That was the synagogue rulers.

- Sadducees

That was the temple priests and the Levites.

- Herod

That is the government. Today the Pharisees and the Sadducees could easily be denominations. Of course Herod would easily be Capitol Hill in Washington.

Mt 16:6 – “Then Yeshua said unto them, ‘Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.’”

Mk 8:15 – “And he charged them, saying, ‘Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.’”

Paul referred to them as the Jews' religion and traditions of his fathers.

Ac 26:5 – “Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.”

Paul identified that he was a former Pharisee.

Gal 1:13 – “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”

Gal 1:14 – “And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”

Being under the Law was generally associated with Pharisaic law, not YeHoVaH's Law.

Paul was a Pharisee. He kept Pharisee law until his conversion by Yeshua. When Paul said that he counted it all as dung, he didn't count the Law of YeHoVaH dung. **He counted the law of the Pharisees dung.** Paul kept the Law of YeHoVaH.

We learned in *Galatians* 5 that the works of the flesh are carnal. They result in death. The fruit of the Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit.

The book/letter/epistle of *Galatians* appears to be a compilation of all of Paul's teachings. It touches on most of the same topics [of his other letters] except that the Galatians had been bewitched or had come under the spell of Judaism. (This would be modern day Messianic Judaism if there is such a thing.)

This is indicated by Paul's reference to "the large letter" that he wrote to the Galatians when he said:

"What a large letter I wrote..."

(We looked at this in the last lesson.) Paul pulled in many of the topics that he had written to all of the other congregations combined. As we identified in the beginning of our study, there was no city of Galatia like there was a city of Corinth. Galatia was not a city. Galatia was a region. Within the region were many congregations. There wasn't one city here, but many cities within a particular region or province by modern terminology.

Finally, this letter is written to us *as spirit beings*. We need to understand this. The words of YeHoVaH as Yeshua said:

"My words are Spirit."

"My words are Spirit."

"My words are Spirit."

"My words are Spirit and they are life."

These words really caused me to take a hard look at myself. As one who has reveled in the flesh for much of my adult life, putting this flesh under is not the easiest thing to do. It is not about having the knowledge, because knowledge puffs up. There are so many who know the right thing to do, but they don't do the right thing. They know.

I saw it. I have seen this in every congregation that I have been in; every one of them. I would love to tell you something different, but that is not the case. Every congregation that I have been in, I could almost count the people who were sincere and righteous and who lived this out in their lives. If you saw them on Monday or Wednesday or Thursday or Friday or Saturday, they were the same person that you saw on Sunday. I can count out

these people on one hand or maybe on two hands. I have been part of congregations with hundreds of people.

You can probably do the same thing. If you looked back over your life, there are certain people in your life who stand out. These people believe and live what they believe. But I can also tell you that I saw a lot of people who didn't.

I couldn't understand how people could be singing in the choir and be living like they were married but they weren't married. I couldn't understand that. I couldn't understand how homosexuals could have prominent places in congregations. It didn't make sense to me. I couldn't understand how lesbians could be lead singers on the praise team. That didn't make sense.

I couldn't understand how pastors were sleeping around and how they had babies spread out throughout the congregation. This stuff didn't make sense to me.

But when I was in the world, it was no big deal. Unfortunately, folks will fall for anything. It is sad now that I look back on it.

Our spirit is what we should be building.

Gal 6:18 – “Brethren, the grace of our Lord Yeshua Messiah *be* with your spirit. Amen.”