

The Book of Galatians – Part 5

This is one of those books where we don't want to rush. Today we're going to be continuing on in the book of *Galatians*. Right now this is part 5. We are in the second chapter of the book of *Galatians*.

In our last teaching, we looked at Paul's confrontation with Peter. As you remember, Peter came down to Antioch and began to act unseemly. The only thing that I can relate it to is that I remember there were times in my life (not certainly anything that I am proud of, or anything like that), but when you are with certain people, you have a tendency to behave in a certain way.

There are some people when I used to operate in foolishness that could really bring the depths of foolishness out of me. You get around them and they are silly. Before you know it, you are silly. They fabricate and the next thing you know, you are just going off and going down that road and going down memory lane.

Sometimes you forget. Then someone shows up who is still operating in a sense of piety and you know, they have a tendency to call you out. Well, I'm happy to say to you today that I don't have as many moments like that as I used to, but there are still times. There are still times that I want to get a little silly.

Peter came down to Antioch and was really fellowshiping with individuals without any holds barred. But when some Pharisees who believed came down to Antioch, Peter began to change how he was acting with the Gentiles, when he saw the Jewish brethren who came down.

I consider these individuals Jewish brethren because the Bible says that they were believers. There were Pharisees who were not believers, but there were Pharisees who were believers. It is unfortunate, and as we are going to see today, there were many who were former Pharisees who

continued on in their Phariseeism even though they had become believers.

This is one of the challenges that Paul had. When Paul became a believer, he abandoned Phariseeism. But there were believers that held onto Phariseeism. We're going to discover as continue looking at Paul's writings, that often times when Paul was making reference to the law, Paul wasn't making reference to the Law of YeHoVaH. Paul was making reference to the law as he had learned as a Pharisee.

If we can put this into perspective, those of us who have come out of certain denominations have to realize that you came with your denomination. You may have abandoned Sunday. You may have abandoned Easter. You may have abandoned Christmas. But there are certain things that you picked up in your denomination that you [probably] haven't abandoned.

These are things that carry over because "this is what the scripture teaches," when in essence as a former Baptist, they taught the scripture according to the Baptist beliefs. As a former Pentecostal, they taught the scriptures according to Pentecostalism.

How many of you know that the Pentecostal doctrine and the Baptist doctrine (although they both read from the same Bible), do not believe in the same way? There are certain things that they agree on. But when it comes down to the power of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they conduct themselves in an environment of worship, it is very different than how the Baptists conduct themselves or how the Methodists conduct themselves.

Many of us came out of our traditions or no tradition at all into Messianic Judaism. Without even realizing it, we began to pick up Jewish traditions that were incorporated into scripture. Some of the Jewish traditions we picked up

were the prayers. One of the prayers that we used to pray until it dawned on me that I couldn't find it in the Bible is:

“Blessed art thou Adonai, who commanded us to kindle the Sabbath lights.”

And it is like:

“Okay, where did He command us to kindle Sabbath lights?”

There were other things that we did like praying to the East, or when it came down to how women were to open up the Sabbath and how we even learned to separate the Sabbath from the other days.

In order to do that for some people – in order to separate Friday or the Sixth day from the Seventh day, they have incorporated some traditions. Because they believe that this is how it was done, they hold onto these things, and that is fine.

But you have to understand something, ladies and gentlemen. When it came down to the things that we learned to do, those who learned it from Messianic Judaism, the Messianic Judaism people learned it from the Jews.

How many of you know that Sarah probably did not bake Challah bread for the angels of the Lord? How many of you know that the Jews, the Hebrews in the wilderness probably had no idea what Challah was? And yet Challah has become an intricate part of celebrating Shabbat. Do you follow what I'm saying ladies and gentlemen?

We assume a lot and we have incorporated a lot into what we believe is “biblical.” When we search it out, we find that it is tradition. Oh, I've got some stuff for you today.

We looked at Peter and his hypocrisy. We are going to pick up in *Galatians* 2:14.

Gal 2:14 – “But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all,”

Paul confronted Peter in front of everyone that Peter had led into hypocrisy. He said to Peter:

“If thou, **being a Jew,** livest after the manner of Gentiles, and **not as do the Jews,** why compellest thou the Gentiles to live **as do the Jews?**”

Last week we saw that those words “Jew,” “Jews” and “Jews” are there and each one of them has a different meaning. We went into those last week.

Paul uses the terms “Jew,” “Jews” and “Jews” (*loudaios*) in the verse, but all have a different meaning. We saw that one means those that belong to the Jewish race. This is a person who is born. How many of you know that Peter was a Galilean? Peter was a Galilean.

The next word (*loudaikos*) means Jewishly, or after the manner of the Jews. When he said:

“...you **being a Jew,** livest after the manner of Gentiles, and **not as do the Jews,**”

In other words, as a Jew in that day, they lived a certain way. In order for us to try to understand this, if you have ever been outside of the United States and gone into lands where there are tribal people, you will see this.

Tribal people as I have experienced them, have a way that they dress. They have a food, a staple food that they eat. There is a dialect that they communicate to each other by and there are customs and traditions that are different than other tribes. Even among the twelve tribes of Israel, they had certain customs among each tribe that were different from the other tribes.

How many of you know that the Levites functioned differently than all of the other tribes? There were specific rules and regulations concerning the Levites that weren't necessarily concerning the other tribes. Therefore they had to conduct themselves a certain way. Their lives involved tabernacle and then later temple worship, where they could literally die on the spot.

There was a standard that the Almighty held, even when it came down to who could eat the offerings and who they could marry. Individuals outside of the Levites had a different standard than the Levites had.

When it comes down to the tribes, those of you who have gone outside of the country, you have been in places where you have tribal people. You will find that often times there is tribal warfare.

How many of you know that if you read and if you spend any time in the Old Testament (the Tanakh), you will find that there was tribal warfare even among the twelve tribes of Israel. They fought each other. They warred against each other. They joined sides against each other.

After Solomon died, there was an even split where one of them went one way and another set went another way. They established their own kings and their own high places, although they supposedly maintained some semblance of the Torah.

When YeHoVaH took the children of Israel into Babylon, you will see ladies and gentlemen, that after they came back from Babylon, that is when the practice of Judaism was established. **Judaism is a product of Babylon!**

When we really look at it, we find that a great deal of the people who had been taken into exile in Babylon, literally lost the language. They could no longer speak the language. Because they could no longer speak the language, they really couldn't even understand the Torah being read in the language of the Hebrew people.

Ezra had to interpret it. This is where we learned in Discipleship [class], that when it comes down to the Father of hermeneutics, the Father of biblical hermeneutics is a fellow by the name of Ezra. Ezra interpreted the Torah to the people as it was being read when they came out of exile.

The next word here is compelling the Gentiles to live as do the Jews. That word we find is *loudaizo*. This is what is taking place today – imitation of the Jews. There is a lot of people imitating the Jews. Once people realize that you are not Seventh Day Adventist, the next thing they call you is “a Jew.”

Imitating – why do people call you a Jew? It is not necessarily because you say that you keep the Sabbath and you keep the commandments. But oftentimes people identify the customs that you begin to incorporate into your faith. Those customs that we incorporate into our faith come straight out of Judaism.

Because we got it from the Jews, the assumption is that it is biblical, and that is an assumption. A lot of the things that we see practiced in Modern day Messianic Jewish communities did not come from the Bible. It came from Judaism.

In verse 15 he says:

Gal 2:15 – “We *who are* **Jews by nature,**
and **not sinners of the Gentiles,**”

Now Paul here is making a strong distinction as to how Judaism – listen, before they went into exile, people practiced the Torah. However, they felt, and what is being taught today is that we “can’t keep” the Torah. In other words, the people were not honoring the Torah, which is why Father took them into bondage.

Now, let’s deal with a concept. Father delivered the children out of Egypt; out of the land of bondage. He brought them into a land where He set the former captives

free. He gave them a set of laws in order for them to maintain their freedom. And because they did not keep the laws that He gave them to maintain their freedom, He took them back into bondage.

But the way it is interpreted today is that the law is a “curse.” Those who keep the law are “under a curse.” So in essence, what they are saying is that the Father delivered the people out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of bondage. He set them free. He gave them a bunch of laws. He cursed them knowing that they couldn’t keep them so that He could take them back into bondage. Wow, the wisdom of men!

Gal 2:15 – “We *who are* **Jews by nature,**
and **not sinners of the Gentiles,**”

What Paul is saying here – remember what he did. Well, we’ll get to that. What he is saying to Peter is:

“Listen Peter, what you are doing is hypocrisy. You are acting one way (that you actually don’t live) among a people, and then when the people who come down from Jerusalem – the Pharisees who are believers, you change your behavior in order to please them. Now when others whom you lead see what you are doing, they follow suit.”

This is exactly what religion does, ladies and gentlemen. People who become part of religion follow suit. Whatever is done in the culture of the denomination is what people begin to do; even down to how they comb their hair.

I remember. I won’t mention names, but I remember when I was in Christianity. You could tell those individuals who loved their leader so much that they started cutting their hair like their leader. There was one congregation up

in Michigan where everyone had the pastor's haircut. Do you follow what I am saying?

There are groups today. If their pastor starts wearing a prayer shawl when he preaches, guess what? The protégés start wearing a prayer shawl when they start to preach. I know a group where the leader wears a certain kind of hat. All of the protégés wear a certain kind of hat. Do you understand what I am saying?

In Judaism – I didn't realize this until I actually went to Israel. I had seen it before, but I never really paid any attention to it because after all, who cared about what the Jews did as a Christian? But when I began to follow Torah, all of a sudden things began to become more interesting and it peaked my curiosity.

When I was in Israel, I realized that there were different kinds of Hassidic hats. In other words, you will find individuals who had black suits. They didn't just have black suits; they had black overcoats that were shiny. Some had shiny black overcoats. Some had wool overcoats. The overcoat and the type of hat were distinguishing. They distinguished each denomination from the other, although they were both practicing Judaism.

But the way it was, it was just like the way you have it today. The Baptists didn't just create themselves. The Methodists didn't just create themselves. Every denomination has a founder. The founder of the denomination establishes the doctrine of the denomination.

In Judaism, you have Rabbis who establish their own Yeshiva. They establish their own disciples. And the disciples begin to dress like the Rabbis. The disciples begin to look like the Rabbis. The disciples begin to teach. They learned and they taught like the Rabbis. After all, before they were ever ordained by the Rabbis, they had to pass the standard of the Rabbis.

Before you are ever ordained as a Baptist, you have to pass the standard of the Baptists. Before you are ever

ordained as a Methodist, as an Episcopalian, as a Catholic, as a Pentecostal, or whatever denomination you have become, if you move into leadership, you now have to pass the scrutiny of its leadership before they stamp your denominational ordination. I experienced this several times.

You go from one denomination to the next denomination and they want to make sure you don't bring that denomination with you. Now you have to go through their process. Then you have to go through their process. And once you have gone through the process and you have signed an acquiescence to their statement of faith, everybody now wants to know:

“Where is your statement of faith?”

A statement of faith is something that a denomination comes up with to express what they believe.

“We believe.”

One person's statement of faith, one denomination's statement of faith is different than another denominational statement of faith. Before there were statements of faith, there were creeds – the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. These are the three popular ones, but there were several others. Do you follow what I am saying?

So now in order for you to pass and to go to the next level and be recognized as one authorized to teach, you have been given the stamp of approval. You have passed the test. You smell like a Baptist. You look like a Baptist. You sound like a Baptist. You teach like a Baptist, so you are a Baptist. It's is the same thing with Pentecostalism. Where do you think that they got that from?

Where do you think that the Catholics got their structure? You see, the Pope (in the Catholic Church) is like the High Priest according to Judaism in accordance to the Torah. Now I say Judaism in accordance to the Torah

because Judaism; whether it be Pharisee Judaism or Sadducee Judaism, built their theology on the Torah, but they had different ways of interpreting it. Do you get it?

The Pharisees had a system of belief that wasn't necessarily in agreement with the Sadducees' system of belief. When we hear "law," we hear the "Law of God," not the law according to the Pharisees, not the law according to the Sadducees, not the law according to the Essenes, not the law according to the interpretations of the Zealots, and not the law according to Herod.

One of the things that really got to me is that in spite of what the Bible says that Paul teaches (by people who say that they follow Paul), Paul says that a soldier at war does not entangle themselves in civilian affairs. This is what he taught. Paul didn't get into politics. Paul simply focused on the call. He went from place to place.

You will notice that Yeshua never really dealt with the political leaders. He only dealt with those individuals who were responsible for teaching people the Law of God. He didn't confront Herod. Now John confronted Herod because Herod violated Torah. That's the only reason. That's why he ended up in prison.

But now you even have religion that wants to incorporate itself into politics. Now you have Republican Christians. You've got Democratic Christians. You have Independent Christians. You have Green Party Christians. You have KKK Christians. All of them have their unique view of the scriptures. He says:

Gal 2:15 – "*We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,"*

The statement that Paul is making here is that Jews are automatically (if there was a Rapture), raptured. There is no confession of faith. It is simply because they were born Jews. That's it. Yeshua addressed this issue. When they said:

“You know, we’re Abraham’s seed.”

He said:

“You’re not Abraham’s seed. If you were Abraham’s seed, you wouldn’t be doing what you are trying to do to me. Don’t say that you are Abraham’s seed.”

The fact of the matter is that there are people who believe that just because of their national identity, their national heritage, that they are better than everybody else.

Gal 2:15 – “We *who are* **Jews by nature,**
and **not sinners of the Gentiles,**”

That word again (*loudaios*) is “Jewish” as respect to birth or race. There is still a debate among Judaism whether or not being Jewish is a race or a religion. Those who are Jews supposedly practice the religion of the Jews. They don’t practice any other religion.

Some of you who were here on Thursday, I shared with you about the flight attendant on the flight that we took when we returned from Dallas. The flight attendant was a Jewish lady whose mom was a Catholic. They were not considered to be “Jews” by those who make the determination of who is a Jew. It made sense now when she communicated that she had no real interest in going to Israel.

The reason why you will find this I believe, is because Israel does not recognize her as a Jew because her mom, who is a Jew, was Catholic. The idea is that the only way you can cease being Jewish is that you start confessing Jesus. The moment you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are no longer Jewish, even if your Mama is a Jew. This is Judaism. You cease to be Jewish the moment you receive this so-called Jewish Messiah.

The reason why Judaism is so against the Messianic and even more so against the Christians is because they do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah – that Yeshua was the Messiah. If anything, he was a Jew who was a prophet. The idea is that a name has been given; which actually means “may his name be blotted out.”

So to accept Jesus as a Jew means that you cease to be Jewish. As a Catholic you see, those of us who consider ourselves to be Protestants, realize that Protestants are literally hybrid Catholics who broke away from the Catholic Church.

Therefore much of Catholicism was brought along with Protestantism, like Sunday church. The Pope established Sunday church as law. That’s like Christmas. Christmas, as important as it is, you can’t find it in the Bible. Like Easter and Good Friday, all of these things were established by the Pope, who is Catholic.

So Christians who practice what the Catholic Church practices, are actually Catholic at heart. Real Bible-believing individuals will keep the Sabbath of the Bible, not some hybrid Sunday Sabbath. **That is another gospel.**

The Jews did NOT believe they were sinners. You have to get this, ladies and gentlemen. They did NOT believe that they were sinners. Why? Because they considered themselves to be the children of Abraham and thus the children of God and thus the apple of God’s eye. There was “no need” for them to have to repent of anything.

When John came preaching repentance for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand, it was like:

“What? Repent? What do we need to repent for? We’ve got the law. We’ve got the temple. We’ve got the synagogue. We are the children of God. Repent for what?”

Therefore when you have the Torah, if you are practicing the Torah, why would they need to repent? They

weren't keeping the Torah according to Yeshua. He said that Moses gave it to them, but none of them were keeping it. Not only were they not keeping it, they weren't teaching it. Remember Yeshua with Nicodemus at night? He said:

“You are Israel’s teacher and you don’t know this? You don’t know what it means to be born again?”

The fact that Yeshua is chastising him for not knowing what it meant to be born again is an indication that Nicodemus wasn't teaching Torah. He wasn't teaching the prophets. Nicodemus was teaching the Pharisees' version.

They did believe that all Gentiles were sinners. The word here is *foosis*. When you begin to look at this word, [it refers to] natural Gentiles.

Gal 2:15 – “We who are **Jews by nature,** and **not sinners of the Gentiles,**”

He is saying this word is *foosis*, which is by germination. In other words, we were born into this. When we went to Israel and I was having a conversation with a woman in the airport at JFK, she actually used that term.

“We were born into this. We don’t have to do all of that stuff. I’m Jewish.”

You see, when people say:

“I’m Jewish.”

It’s like, what does that mean? Do you understand? You go to many people who are from different countries and they don’t tell you:

“I’m Italian.”

Unless you ask them.

“I’m from Botswana.”

“I’m Irish.”

If you never asked, chances are they will never tell you. The moment you meet a Jewish person it’s:

“My name is Such and Such. I’m Jewish. I’m Jewish.”

This is especially true in the Hebrew Roots movement. What does that say?

“I’m first class. I’m already a citizen. I already have a relationship with God. I was born into this.”

That is what he is saying – Jews by nature. Interestingly is the word here “sinners of the Gentiles.” That word is *hamartolos*, which means “devoted to sin.” Why was a Gentile devoted to sin? The Gentiles were devoted to sin because they didn’t have the Law. Sin is a violation of the Law.

Paul said he would not know what sin is if it wasn’t for the Law. If you don’t have the Law, you don’t know what sin is. And the Gentiles who did not have the Law were devoted to sin because they didn’t have the Law.

The Jews of Paul’s day and still today believe they were/are righteous simply because they were/are Jews. Everyone else is sinners. That’s the bottom line. So what happens to Gentiles who come into Judaism? They do everything they can to try to become first class.

They want to look the part. They want to act the part. They want to walk the part and they all want to make Aliyah. They want to move to Israel. Well, they at least go to Israel like the Muslims want to go to Mecca. It is like it is a holy place and you have to go at least once in your life.

Paul made it very clear in his writing that he is referring to Pharisaic Judaism (the Pharisees’ interpretation of the Law). However, YeHoVaH made it very clear in the Torah

that the tribes of Israel were not righteous in and of themselves. This is what he said:

Dt 9:4 – **“Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, ‘For my righteousness YeHoVaH hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations YeHoVaH doth drive them out from before thee.”**

It’s not that they were righteous. It is that there were some people that were more wicked. Do you understand? You have to understand that if they were so righteous, why did He want to kill them? He did want to kill them. He wanted to destroy every last one of them and start over with Moses.

Dt 9:5 – **“Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations YeHoVaH thy Elohim doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which YeHoVaH sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”**

Dt 9:6 – **“Understand therefore, that YeHoVaH thy Elohim giveth thee not this good land”**

I mean He just repeated one, two, three, bam, bam, bam, if you would.

Dt 9:6 – **“Understand therefore, that YeHoVaH thy Elohim giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy**

righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people.

These two words (stiff necked) mean back of the neck, of fleeing foe, **of apostasy**. Interesting – of apostasy, obstinate. Then the other word *qasheh* means difficult. You are an obstinate, apostasizing, difficult, stubborn people. This is YeHoVaH speaking. It is not me.

Dt 9:7 – “Remember, *and* forget not, how thou provokedst YeHoVaH thy Elohim to wrath in the wilderness: **from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against YeHoVaH**”

From the day that you came out of the land of Egypt until you came here, this is Moses’ writing at the end of his days. He says the entire time. You’ve got to understand. YeHoVaH brought them out to take them into the Promised Land, but it took forty years to get there – forty years! It didn’t take forty years to get from Egypt to the Promised Land.

And during that forty year period, every last one of them – YeHoVaH didn’t kill them. He just let them die of natural causes. Do you get this? He didn’t kill anybody. Well, He sent some snakes among some of them and then of course He opened the ground among some others. He says:

“From the time you came out of Egypt until you came into this place, you have been rebellious against YeHoVaH.”

Gal 2:16 – “Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the **works of the law,**”

Now, two things here. This word “justified” means to make righteous. And then this statement “works of the law” is not referring to the Law of YeHoVaH. Whenever you see “law” being used in the Bible, you must ask the question:

“Which law? Which law?”

Unfortunately in the New Testament, the Greek only has one word and that is *nomos*. *Nomos* is the Greek word for “law.” But how many of you know that the Pharisees had a version of the law? The Sadducees had a version of the law. And then there is the Law of YeHoVaH. Their versions of the law were *based* on the Law of YeHoVaH.

That is just like every denomination out there [today]. Their interpretation of the Bible is *based on their founders’ interpretation*. Some have deviated since their founders, but for the most part, they still look like somewhat like the organization that their founders established.

So when you see “works of the law.” You have to ask yourself, which law? That is because the average Gentile lumps it all together. Law, law, law law, law, it’s all one law – the Law of God. You have to ask yourself again. Logic dictates that Father gave the children of Israel a set of commandments. He promised them that if they kept them, He would bless them above all people.

Now there are people who want the blessings that were promised to those who kept the Law, but they reject the Law that the blessings were predicated on. How can you have the blessings of *Deuteronomy 28* when you reject *Deuteronomy 28*? Do you get it?

You hear it. I heard this all the time in my church. We were a Spirit-filled, prosperity kind of driven ministry when I first came into Pentecostalism. And oh, man folks would go around and make their confessions:

“I’m the head and not the tail. I’m blessed
in the city. I’m blessed in the field.

Wherever my feet shall tread, this ground
God has given me!”

They were just making all of these confessions, you see. They were laying hands on people’s cars and people’s houses and “claiming” stuff, based on the Law. But they were failing to realize that if you diligently hearken to keep all of these commands that I am giving you today, then all these blessings will come upon you. How can you separate the blessings from obeying the commands? Christianity has a “nice” way of doing stuff like that.

Gal 2:16 – “Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the **works of the law**, but by the faith of Yeshua Messiah, even we have believed in Yeshua Messiah, that we might be justified by the faith of Messiah,”

I wanted to get off into the difference between Messiah and Christ, because it is important. I just didn’t want it to detract from the message. But I think I will say this. Nobody in the Bible, nobody – the famous George Bush:

“Read my lips.”

Nobody in the Bible was looking for a “Christ.” Nobody! They were looking for a **Messiah, Maschiach, Anointed**. There are two places in the Bible that we see this. The most famous is the woman at the well.

“We know that when Messiah...”

And then the commentary, without even indicating that it is commentary, says “which is interpreted is Christ.” Now they let you know that *Messiah that is interpreted* is “Christ.” The Christ (*Christos*) is the interpretation from a Greek/Latin perspective of the Hebrew Messiah.

Messiah means **one who is anointed**. They were looking for an anointed one who would teach all things.

This was the one we must Shema. This is the one YeHoVaH said that He would raise up. They weren't looking for "Christ" even though we see "Christ" throughout *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John* and all of the New Testament. They were looking for **Maschiach**.

This Maschiach was of a certain lineage. This is why genealogy in the Bible (though you may find it boring to read), is so important. You can trace one's genealogy all the way back. When we get into *Galatians* 4 and look at some of 5 and some of the other writings of Paul, we are actually going to get into some of this today hopefully, if I can get beyond this. We'll talk about the seed.

Abraham had many sons. But only one son was the promised line. The only way you can distinguish which one of these was the promised line/seed, is through genealogy. Genealogy allows us to trace the Messiah's lineage all the way back to Abraham.

In Islam, they trace Allah or Muhammad or whatever, all the way back to Abraham, through whom? Ishmael. Now, many will say that Ishmael is the Father of Islam. That is what the Muslims say. We can't prove that from the Bible. The Muslims say that. And because they say it, we "accept" it. You see? Just like "Abraham was a Jew." Abraham was a Syrian! Halleluyah! Abraham was a Gentile! Yes he was. He was not the first Hebrew or the one "crossed over" as man will say. He was the Father of Faith!

So he says:

Gal 2:16 – "Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the **works of the law**, but by the faith of Yeshua Messiah, even we have believed in Yeshua Messiah, that we might be justified by the faith of Messiah, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Now the word here “justified” (*dikaioo*) mean to render righteous or such he ought to be. No one is made righteous by the Law.

Gal 2:17 – “But if, while we seek to be justified by Messiah, we ourselves also are found sinners,”

There is that word “sinners.”

“...is therefore Messiah the minister of sin? God forbid.”

What Paul is saying here is that the fact that I, a Jew, am looking for Messiah, is clear confession that I am a sinner. This is what he is saying.

Gal 2:17 – “But if, while we seek to be justified by Messiah, we ourselves also are found sinners,”

Now what he has done is that he has deviated from Judaism. He has deviated from Judaism, because to a Jew, only Gentiles are sinners. A Jew is “not a sinner.” They are righteous because they have been given the word of Elohim. That is their idea.

The fact is that it is “all.” This is where Paul makes a brilliant, brilliant, brilliant discovery and teaching when he says:

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of Elohim”

All – there is no distinction now between Jew and Gentile. What he is saying is that:

“You Jews who are so proud to be Jews and who look down on the Gentiles, guess what? You are right down there with them!”

He is saying here that the fact that I am looking for Messiah, I am acknowledging that I am a sinner. Now, is therefore Messiah the minister of sin? No! What is he saying here?

He is saying that if I am following my understanding and version of the law and I have now rejected my understanding and version of the law which you interpret as my rejection of Phariseeism to be the Law of God, then I am saying that I am rejecting, or people will say that Paul is “rejecting” the Law.

But how many of you know that Paul didn’t grow up as a Sadducee? Paul didn’t grow up as an Essene. Paul grew up as a Pharisee. Therefore he was taught; just like if I grew up as a Baptist, I’m going to be taught like a Baptist. If I grew up as a Pentecostal, I’m going to be taught like a Pentecostal.

Paul grew up as a Pharisee and he went to the school of the Pharisees and excelled above all the other Pharisees. So Paul’s understanding of the Law was through the lens and the eyes of a Pharisee. When he rejected Phariseeism because he realized that Phariseeism was not the Law of YeHoVaH but the law according to the Pharisees, he rejected that law. He realized that he too was just as guilty as all the Gentiles that they looked down upon. Let’s keep looking.

Gal 2:18 – **“For if I build again...”**

Now this is so incredible. This is incredible. It drives home the point that I made.

Gal 2:18 – **“For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.”**

What Paul is saying, is listen. Well, here’s the question. What did Paul destroy? If he says:

“For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.”

This word here “destroy” (*kataluo*) is to dissolve, to disunite (what has been joined together), to destroy, to demolish, to render vain. He says:

“For if I build again the things which I destroyed”

Paul is saying that I have left my belief system and I have received Messiah. Remember when he said in *Galatians* chapter 1:

“If I or an angel come to you with any other gospel than that which I have already delivered, let them be accursed. Let them be Anathema.”

Paul is reinforcing. He says:

“If I come back to you and start teaching you the things that I walked away from, then now what I am doing is that I am going back to my former way of life. I’m going back to the very thing that I left, and therefore I am going back into sin because I literally have to turn my back on Messiah in order to do that.”

Let me drive this home. Paul stated in *Galatians* 1:13 through verse 16:

Gal 1:13 – “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion,”

Remember?

“...how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:”

Gal 1:14 – “And profited in the Jews’ religion”

He keeps emphasizing this. He says:

“Listen, this is the Jews’ religion. It’s not the Law of God. This is the Jews’ interpretation of God’s Law.”

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.”

The Jews’ religion was based on the traditions of the Fathers.

Gal 1:15 – “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace,”

Gal 1:16 – “To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:”

Paul was saying:

“I was going in one way.”

Now understand something. The Pharisees just like the Sadducees, were looking for Maschiach. The question is why didn’t they recognize him? The reason is that they were blinded. Who blinded them? Their traditions blinded them. That’s who blinded them; their traditions. They saw YeHoVaH through their traditions and through their

traditions they could not recognize the individual that they supposedly were teaching and preaching.

Paul also stated in *Philippians* that what he had gained in knowledge and stature as a Pharisee, he now considered **dung**. This is a strong word, ladies and gentlemen. This is strong. How many of you would like some dung? You pass on the dung.

The word here *skubalon* means refuse, as the excrement of animals, rubbish, dregs, worthless, detestable. Paul says that when I came to the knowledge of Messiah, I now saw what I had taught as absolute rubbish – absolute rubbish.

You have to understand something, ladies and gentlemen. **Paul was the epitome of Judaism.** If you looked up “Judaism” in the day of Paul (if they had a Hebrew version of Webster’s), you would probably see Paul’s picture!

Phil 3:1 – “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.”

Phil 3:2 – “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers,”

Then he uses this word in the King James:

“...beware of the **concision**.”

The word here is *katatome*. It means to cut up, mutilation. He says:

“Beware of the mutilation. Beware of them that have an outward bris, an outward cut; an outward circumcision of the flesh.”

Phil 3:3 – “For we are the circumcision, which worship Elohim in the spirit, and

rejoice in Messiah Yeshua, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Now you can take this flesh to mean one of two things, meaning in the natural human nature, or the fact that because I have circumcision in my flesh; because there is a cut on me. He is saying:

“We who worship him in spirit are the circumcision.”

When you see Paul referring to circumcision, he is usually meaning this word *peritome*; the act or rite of circumcision. “They of the circumcision” **is a term used of the Jews.** Paul says:

“We who are Jews – for we are the Jews (if you would) – Yehudin, which worship Elohim in the spirit”

He is not trying to make people [to be] Jews, but he is saying that the Jews consider themselves to be Jews because of the circumcision.

Phil 3:4 – “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:”

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

Now here is a key piece right here, ladies and gentlemen. Paul is saying:

“My version of the law is from the Pharisees’ perspective.”

“...as touching the law, a Pharisee;”

What he is saying here is:

“I learned the law as a Pharisee.”

Do you get this? Those of you who were brought up in denominationalism for instance, how many of you were brought up in a denomination that said that the gifts of the Spirit had ceased? Let me see your hands. If you were brought up like that, would you be looking for the gifts of the Spirit to manifest?

How many of you were brought up in a denomination that says that the gifts of the Spirit, especially tongues, are for us today? So you sought tongues, you sought to speak in tongues because that is what you were taught.

How many of you were taught that healing is for today? Anything that you were taught, you actually looked for and expected. If you weren't taught it; if you were taught against it – how many of you were taught against it and that speaking in tongues was “of the devil?” Let me see your hands. Nobody?

There's a hand. There's a hand. Let me raise mine. Oh yeah, so anybody who speaks in tongues, what are you going to think? That's a demon. They've got demons. Let me get out of here, the devil is here!

All of these things are what we have been taught. Whether we realize it or not, we have dragged this stuff throughout our spiritual journey. In order for us to embrace something that is in opposition to what we have been taught, we have some dilemmas.

First of all, in order for me to let that through, I have to examine what I have believed all these years. If my foundation is built upon what I believed all these years, can I now afford to relinquish that, knowing that if I do that, I now have to examine everything else?

As touching the law, what did Paul say? A Pharisee. The word here is *Pharisaios*. This is a sect that seems to have started after the Jewish exile. In addition to Old

Testament books, the Pharisees recognized in oral tradition, a standard of belief and life. They sought for distinction and praise by outward observance of external rites. They wanted their tzitzits long. They said loud prayers in the marketplace. When they came, they wanted the chief seats in the assemblies. They sought for distinction and praise by outward forms of piety such as ceremonial washings, fastings and prayers.

“Yeshua, how come your disciples eat without washing their hands?”

You begin to judge everybody else based on your beliefs. They sought for distinction and praise by fasting and prayers and alms giving and were comparatively negligent of genuine piety. They prided themselves on their fancied good works.

Paul says concerning zeal:

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

Paul says:

“I was blameless.”

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

Phil 3:8 – “Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Lord; **for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung,** that I may win Messiah,”

Now ask yourself the question, is Paul saying that the Law of YeHoVaH is poop? Because that is exactly what

those who teach that “we are not under the law” are saying – that it is doo-doo, poo, feces, excrement. Some even use stronger words than that. Anybody who goes and tries to keep the Law; any iota of it..

“If you try to keep one law and you break one law, you’ve broken them all so you shouldn’t try to keep any of them.”

This is what they are saying. When you call them out on it, they say:

“That’s not what I am saying.”

“Well, what are you saying? Because what you are saying is that I shouldn’t try to keep any laws – none of them. If I try to keep one and I don’t keep another one...”

Then they want to go off into all of these crazy conversations.

“So, let me see if I’ve got this straight. You keep the law, right? Well, if somebody doesn’t keep the Sabbath, do you stone them?”

They go all the way to the extreme, you see.

Phil 3:9 – “And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law**, but that which is through the faith of Messiah, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

Gal 2:19 – “For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God”

I want to touch on some of this. The law according to the Pharisees – by adding to the Law of YeHoVaH, the

Pharisees destroyed the Law. The moment they began to add all of these washings and the interpretations of the oral traditions, and they began to put this on the people, they destroyed the Law. This is what the Bible says.

Dt 4:2 - "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it,"

The moment that you add one thing to the Law, you destroy it! The moment that you diminish one thing from the Law, you destroy it. Now the beauty of keeping the commandments of YeHoVaH is that there are ordinances. There are judgments. There are precepts. If I somehow violate a certain aspect, there is a requirement that I have to make. There is an offering. There is a sacrifice. That is for the individual.

But the Day of Atonement was introduced. Every year, the entire nation was now atoned for all of their sins. You see, this is what YeHoVaH incorporated into His Law; that if there were violations among the people, He Himself made provisions for the people to be atoned.

Atonement has always been in the heart of the Almighty. Forgiveness and love; reconciliation, the fact that Yeshua came is because of YeHoVaH's reconciliation among His people. He gave them a Law to keep holy, but they continually violated it and violated it.

Do you know one of the number one reasons why the people violated the Law? It was because they began to surround themselves with people in the world. As soon as the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt and they established themselves, they began to cry out to Samuel.

"Give us a King!"

Just like the nations around us.

“Give us a King!”

The biggest challenge for many of us today is that we live in a society where we are surrounded by people of the world. To live out your faith today in the world that we live in, you have to be really strong in your faith and be willing to suffer the persecution and the ridicule of the people around you. They ridicule you because of your strange beliefs. They make statements like:

“That’s old fashioned. That’s Old Testament. That’s outdated. That’s the law.”

I mean they make it seem like trying to keep the commandments and trying to be in right standing with the Almighty is bad! That’s the picture they paint. So if you try to live out your faith in this world, you will be ridiculed.

What some people try to do is that they pull in their family and they go into some enclave and they do home schooling. They don’t want their children to mingle or to interact. They are afraid to even go out into public. They certainly don’t want their children going into places.

Our role ladies and gentlemen, is to teach our children! That’s it! Your role is to teach your children. My role is to teach my children the word, the commandments of YeHoVaH – to train them up, to dedicate them so that when they get old, they will not depart. If they have a foundation of His word, YeHoVaH knows they are going to go into the world. They are surrounded by the world. We’re supposed to be in the world, but we’re not supposed to conduct ourselves like the world.

The thing about that is that the world’s stuff looks shinier. It looks more glittery. It looks – their gold seems to look shinier than ours. Their grass seems to look greener. They seem to be having more fun. They are failing to realize that there is no one who loves a good party like

YeHoVaH. He incorporated. Then you have people who want to come to the party and violate it. They are talking about how:

“You all are drinking wine...”

You have met some of the “Torah Terrorists.” They want to condemn people because they have a sip! The Bible is very clear that we are not to be drunk wherein is excess. In other words, drink but don’t allow your drinking to cause you to act like a fool. Don’t get drunk. Don’t start slurring and stumbling and hitting on other people’s wives and husbands.

The Bible lets us know that Father desires His people to party. But this is the difference between His party and the world’s party. The world wants to party in darkness. Father wants us to party in the light. He says:

“Listen, get your stuff. Get your strong drinks. Get your wine. Buy whatever you want and come into my presence and party. I want to party with you!”

But oh no, the world wants to go into – have you ever wondered why bars are so dark? People don’t like partying during the day. They want to wait until it’s night time.

So the people of Israel, because they were surrounded by the world, felt that the world had more fun. Do you know what the world had? No Law! The world had no Law. They had no restraint.

That is why there are a lot of young people getting pregnant and having sex before they are married, and drinking and getting drunk and passing out and waking up and not knowing how many people have had their way with them. They are surrounded by people who have no morals, no values.

And you have people in the Kingdom who want to surround themselves with those kinds of people. Then they

are surprised when those kinds of people take advantage of them. And unfortunately some of those kinds of people wander themselves into the Kingdom and they are not fully “saved” yet, so we have to help them.

We have to dress in such a way to where we are not tempting them or causing them to stumble. We have to make sure that we are not turning their heads the wrong way by them looking at our bodies – dressing skin tight so that your shape can be seen or looking in such a way to the point where a wife is now watching her husband and a husband is watching his wife.

People come out of the world into the kingdom and they haven’t learned how to conduct themselves. You will find that this is one of the main reasons why there is so much fornication, adultery and all kinds of other things going on in the so-called “Houses of God” – because these individuals have thrown away the Law.

Dt 4:2 - “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it,”

Father was very serious about us adding to the Law. The reason why Pharisaism was a curse was because it added to the Law. The Bible says:

“Cursed is him. Cursed is him.”

You have to understand something, ladies and gentlemen. If Yeshua said that nobody was keeping the Law, then who was keeping the Law? Weren’t there people practicing the Law? So if Paul says:

“I was blameless concerning the law.”

And he wasn’t keeping the Law of YeHoVaH, then whose law was he keeping? Do you understand this? If the people were in the temple celebrating the feasts in accordance to the Torah, they were doing the things that

YeHoVaH required of them as far as going up. But who was teaching them? The Pharisees. So the laws of the Pharisees were *based* on the Law of YeHoVaH. The people were keeping “the law” but they weren’t keeping the Law of YeHoVaH. They were keeping the Pharisees’ *interpretation* of the Law of YeHoVaH, which Yeshua says was the “traditions of men.” Paul says it was “the religion of the Jews.”

You have to understand this if you are going to read *Galatians* and not come away with some perverted Christian interpretation.

Mt 5:17 – “Think not that I am come to destroy”

There’s that word again.

“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.”

What Yeshua is saying is that:

“I’m not coming to add one thing to the Law. And I’m not coming to take one thing away from the Law.”

That is because to destroy the Law is to *add to it or to diminish from it*.

“I’m not coming to cease it. I’m not coming to bring it to an end.”

But that is *exactly* how it is interpreted! It’s amazing that Yeshua can say:

“I’m didn’t come to destroy the law.”

But then they say that Paul teaches that we are no longer under the Law! It is like Paul is greater than Yeshua!
When did Paul become greater than Yeshua?!

“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.”

Again is that word *kataluo*. He is saying:

“I didn’t come to dissolve it. I didn’t come to disunite it. I didn’t come to demolish it. I didn’t come to overthrow it. I didn’t come to render it vain. I didn’t come to bring it to nought.”

So if he didn’t come to destroy it or to do away with it, why do people want to do away with it? Because if he didn’t come to destroy the Law, ladies and gentlemen; if he didn’t come to destroy it, then the fact of the matter is that he came to curse us! If the Law is a curse and he didn’t come to destroy the curse, then obviously he came to leave us under a curse! Does that make sense to anybody?

It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever.

Yeshua didn’t come to put us under a curse. He came to set us free! He came to set the captives free. He came to relieve us from prison, to open the eyes of the blind. Who did he refer to as blind people? It wasn’t just a physical blindness. He said that if the blind is leading the blind, then where are they going to end up? The ditch. Who did he call blind guides? Pharisees!

If they are blind and they are guides and they are teaching the law, then shouldn’t the people follow them? No! They were teaching *their version of the law, which made them blind*. This is why they couldn’t recognize the Messiah that they were supposed to be looking for. They were blind!

Gal 2:20 – “I am crucified with Messiah: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Messiah liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

What Paul is saying is that his life is now hidden in Messiah. What we should be saying is that our lives are also now hidden in Messiah. As I have stated a few times in this teaching, it is important for us to understand that Yeshua taught two ways. He taught by what he said and he taught by what he did. What he did is he came to show us how we are to walk in the kingdom of YeHoVaH according to the Law of YeHoVaH.

Every city, every state, every nation, every community, and to some degree neighborhood (especially those under homeowner’s associations and townships), operate by a system of laws. These laws are to govern the conduct of the people who live in those communities. Where there is no law, there is lawlessness. Where there is a violation of the law, there are law breakers.

The last thing we want to be in is a community of lawlessness. People have identified certain communities of lawlessness. Most of these communities are run down. You will find that the grass doesn’t grow that green. You will find that in some places, the grass doesn’t grow at all. There are always police sirens, ambulance sirens, gun shots, dog fights, drug trafficking, prostitution and everything else that keeps the police on full-time alert.

People who want a life better than that do what they can to move out of those communities. Why? Because they want to be in a place that is safe. They want to be in a place where people follow the law. They don’t want to live in a neighborhood where folks have their cars sitting on bricks in the front yard. They don’t want to be in a neighborhood

where people let their children run all over the neighborhood; breaking things, destroying things. They don't want graffiti all over the houses.

People want to be in a place where there is some kind of security; where they can raise their family, where children can go outside and play and where they can sleep at night without having to bar their doors.

I remember the first time that I went to Chicago and I went to my sister's house. It is like most of the houses in Chicago. They had big metal screen doors and four or five locks. Once you get through that door, you have to go through another door. It is like a system. It is almost like going into a fortress. Anybody know what I'm talking about? It is because you want to secure your stuff. You don't want people breaking in on you. You don't want people coming in at night.

We want to live in a place where there is safety, where there is peace. The only way we can really have peace is that the Prince of Peace is dwelling in the midst of us. This is exactly what YeHoVaH wanted. He wanted the children of Israel to live in peace and safety and harmony; governed by laws that would maintain the peace, safety and harmony.

What was required was that the people first of all, had a right relationship with the Almighty. The way that we have a right relationship with the Almighty is that we approach Him *the way that He instructs us to approach Him*.

Not only do we have a right relationship with the Almighty, we are supposed to have a right relationship with one another. The only way we're going to have a right relationship with one another is that we have a right relationship with Him. It will begin to show itself through the relationship that we have with one another. As a matter of fact, the Almighty says:

“How can you say you love me whom you can’t see, and you hate your brother whom you do see?”

In other words, this is how the world is going to know that you are mine: by the love that you have for one another. And this love ladies and gentlemen, is loving Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. We love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

In other words, we learn to love ourselves because He who is love, lives in us. When He who is love dwells in us, He begins to address the issues in us that cause us to see things from a wrong perspective.

He wants us to see through His lens, not through the denominational lense and not through a religious lens. Not through the lens of your teacher, but through the lens of His Spirit with the eyes of Messiah, with the mind of Messiah and the ability to hear and obey.

His desire is to lead us. Where He leads us, guess where He is leading us? He is leading us to green pastures, not to a war zone. He wants us to lie beside still waters. He is our shepherd. Do you understand what I am saying?

When we are in right relationship with Him, and we keep our eyes focused on Him, we can handle anything that comes at us from the world. That is because we know that just as He went before Israel and destroyed the Anakims, He was able to destroy our enemies.

He is still able to destroy your enemies. He is our fortress! He is our high tower! Guess what? He is still fighting the battles of those who keep their eyes on Him! He is our healer, our deliverer, our protector, our provider. He is our everything! How can He be our everything and we reject His Laws?!

Instead we adopt the laws of our state and adopt the laws of our city. We have a form of law from a Democratic

perspective and a Republican perspective and a denominational perspective.

This is no different than what the Israelites had in the day of Yeshua where their perspective caused them to be blind and not to see the Messiah who was clearly in the midst of them.