

# Galatians Series II

## By Works of Law Shall No Flesh Be Justified

(Galatians 2)

Fred R. Coulter—February 8, 2020

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

**Advertisement:** Book: *The Christian Passover: When Observed 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>?* There is no way you can ever get away from it continually coming around, because that's just the nature of it.

I got an e-mail from a man in Argentina who is a Seventh Day Adventist and he read the Passover book online. It blew him away, he was so impressed with it that he asked for a copy of it. So, I sent him two and *A Harmony of the Gospels*. I forwarded that onto Eduardo Elizondo who is going to try and contact him.

It's interesting in little ole Hollister and we don't know who is coming online. We know what they're downloading, because we run monthly statistics on it, and in the Feb. letter we will have the yearly totals of everything. But we have the time for visits between 12-15 minutes. That's means they're on the website for a good deal of time.

The average for websites is if you're on for over a minute that's pretty good. If you're on it two minutes that's really, really good. If you're more than that, that's counted as a great visit. Here we are consistently through the years with all of this.

So, what we do here in Hollister reaches out to many, many more people and we're very thankful for that and that we have the means to do it today.

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We started a short series in the book of Galatians and we got through chapter one. Let's just review a little bit, and I want to show you what a powerful thing that it actually was to call the Apostle Paul. With the dispute that we have in Gal. 2 between Peter and the Circumcision Party, and the Jews and Gentiles, we can see that ***God called Paul***, and one of the main reasons was ***to keep Judaism out of the Church!***

The book we have concerning the Passover still comes around, because the Jews ***do not acknowledge*** the 14<sup>th</sup>. This explains, like no other book in the world, why the Jews believe that, and why—because they reject Christ—they are correct when they're outside the area of the geography of what is called Israel in the Middle East. Jesus kept the 14<sup>th</sup> Passover. Why does the Church keep the 14<sup>th</sup> Passover in any land wherever we are in the world? Yet, the Jews understand that the command is that you cannot keep a 14<sup>th</sup> Passover if you're in the Diaspora, which is true!

That has been such a longstanding tradition that they don't believe in the 14<sup>th</sup> except if there's going to be something at the temple when it's built.

- Why does the Church keep the 14<sup>th</sup> and rejects the Jews' 15<sup>th</sup>? *Because Christ kept the 14<sup>th</sup>!*

- What did He tell the disciples to do? *'Go into all the world and teach them everything that I have taught you!'*
- What is the most important thing in the whole Gospel? *Over one-third of the Gospels is related to the Passover Day and the whole meaning of the Passover Day vs the works of law!*

The works of law includes the sacrifices, and of course, the temple is destroyed and you can't offer those. ***We will see that those could never take away sin!***

That's one of the main things as far as it relates to us. But back in the time of the apostles, they had to go to the Jews first, and they were always confronted with the traditions of the Jews. It is true that the Passover is the foundation for all of the Holy Days after the Sabbath.

The structure of Lev. 23 starts out with the Sabbath and then the Passover. If you don't have a proper Passover, then everything else is eschewed.

Galatians 1:13: "For you heard of my former conduct when I was in Judaism..."

*That's what it means in the Greek.* I think the *King James* translates 'religion of the Jews.' That is not wrong, but Judaism is far better.

"...how I was excessively persecuting the Church of God and was destroying it; and I was advancing in Judaism *far* beyond many *of my* contemporaries in my *own* nation, being more abundantly zealous for *the* traditions of my fathers" (vs 13-14).

*So, Paul was explaining the basis for God's calling him!*

The Pharisees had a strict religion, absolutely strict! Paul said that he was 'a Pharisee of a Pharisee' (Philip. 3). Let's see what Paul was doing, and let's see how very important that this is, *and why God called Paul and not somebody else!*

We will see that if it had been left up to Peter, he would have politically caved into the Circumcision Party from Jerusalem.

Do we, today, still have encroaches of Judaism, Messianic Judaism? *Yes!* We've had people visit us who wear the prayer shawls, and some of them have the blue ribbons on the borders of their clothes, *thinking that it makes them more righteous!*

What the New Testament is concerned with is not the outward appearance or the physical things, but the inward mind and heart toward God.

After Stephen gave a tremendous witness, that was something! Before we get into it, I just want to rehearse a little bit. Remember that after receiving the Holy Spirit the apostles were preaching in Jerusalem. Peter, James and John were doing miracles. They were called before the Sanhedrin, and the last time they were called before the Sanhedrin was when they healed a man tremendously from being crippled from birth.

Then they were teaching in the temple and were arrested and put in prison. Overnight an angel came and let them out and told them to go into the temple and start teaching.

So, the Sanhedrin got together to render their judgment on them the next morning and said to bring them in. the officer went down to the jail and said, 'I went there and the guards were standing outside, but nothing was inside! Then someone came running and said that they were in the temple teaching. So, they went and got them gingerly and brought them in.

What was the witness that Peter and the apostle said when the Sanhedrin said, 'Didn't we tell you to quit preaching in this name'? *The apostles said, 'You judge! Should we obey man or God?*

That was a tremendous witness to them! After that there were great miracles that were being done by Peter and the apostles: healings and things like this. So, when Stephen came, here is one of the last powerful witnesses to the Sanhedrin and the leader of the Jews before God permanently decided to destroy the temple.

Acts 7:51: "O stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!....

[this is Stephen telling all the leaders: the chief priests, the scribes, the Pharisees]

...You do always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so also *do* you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of Whom you have become the betrayers and murderers" (vs 51-52).

See what happens? This happens so many, many times. When the establishment religion gets its power, or the establishment government as we've seen here in America get their power, they will do anything to hold it, *even kill and murder if they can get away with it!*

Verse 53: "'Who received the Law by *the* disposition of angels, but have not kept *it*.' And when they heard these things, they were cut to their hearts, and they gnashed their teeth at him. But he, being filled with *the* Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven *and* saw *the* glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (vs 53-55).

***To them, this was in incredible! What an absolute blaspheme!***

Verse 56: "And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right *hand* of God.' Then they cried out with a loud voice, *and* stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord, and cast *him* out of the city *and* stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man called Saul" (vs 56-58).

*So, he was right there to kill the Christians!*

Verse 59: "And they stoned Stephen, who called upon *God*, saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And he fell to his knees *and* cried with a loud voice, '**Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge.**'

And after he had said this, he died” (vs 59-60).

That’s quite a thing! You talk about a perfect example of loving your enemies, right when they’re killing you!

Acts 8:1: “Now, Saul had consented to killing him. And that day a great persecution arose against the Church that *was* in Jerusalem; and all *the believers* were scattered throughout the countries of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the Church, *going* from house to house...

[talk about a Gestapo]

...entering in and dragging *out* men and women, *and* delivering *them* up to prison” (vs 1-3).

*Then it gets into the thing concerning Simon Magus.*

Now it gets into how God called Saul, and Paul refers to that in Gal. 1.

Acts 9:1: “Now Saul, still breathing out threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest.”

That tells you how high ranked that he was, that he went to high priest to get the legal orders to arrest the Christians and put them in jail! Not only in the area of Judea, but now he was going to Damascus, several hundred miles north of Judea.

Verse 2: “Asking him *for* letters *to take* to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who were of **that way**...

[a way of life, not a religion]

...he might bring *them* bound, both men and women, to Jerusalem.”

*And God selected the right moment!* Here Saul is going along. I don’t know if he was on a donkey, a horse, or walking, but he had his arrest party with him.

Verse 3: “But it came to pass while he was journeying, as he drew near to Damascus, that **suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him. And after falling to the ground, he heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?’**” (vs 3-4).

*Anytime a true Christian is persecuted, they’re persecuting Christ!*

Verse 5: “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. *It is* hard for you to kick against *the* pricks.’ Then, trembling and astonished, he said, ‘Lord, what will You have me to do?’ ....” (vs 5-6).

*Think about the instantaneous repentance! From persecuting to doing the will of Christ!*

“...And the Lord *said* to him, ‘Get up and go into the city, and you shall be told what you must do.’ Now, the men who were traveling with him stood speechless; *for* they indeed heard the voice, but they saw no one. Then Saul arose from the ground; but when he opened his eyes, he saw no one. And they led him by the hand and brought *him* to Damascus. But ***for three days he was not able to see...***” (vs 6-9).

Just kind of put yourself in Saul’s position: blind and persecuting the Church. Jesus Himself knocked Saul to the ground, spoke to him, corrected him and now he is completely humbled! Saul has no power, no authority and has completely lost everything. And he’s blind for three days!

Then the Lord, by vision, told Ananias to go to such and such a house and he would find Saul, and ***‘he’s a chosen vessel for Me.’*** Ananias said, ‘Lord, he’s persecuting all the Christians.’ *Nevertheless, you do what I say!* So, Ananias went and:

Verse 17: “Then Ananias went away and came into the house; and after laying *his* hands on him, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, *even* Jesus, Who appeared to you on the road in which you came, so that you might receive sight and be filled with *the* Holy Spirit.’ And it was as *if* scales immediately fell from his eyes, and he instantly received sight; and he arose *and* was baptized” (vs 17-18).

Verse 20: “And in the synagogues he immediately began to proclaim Christ, that He is the Son of God.”

*This was absolutely unbelievable!*

Why did God choose Paul? *Because he knew more about Judaism and the problems of the laws and traditions of Judaism than any other of the apostles!* That’s why God called him!

Acts 26 shows the mission that Saul was to have, especially going to the Gentiles. We won’t go through all the things concerning his three years in Arabia where he was taught in dreams and visions; but he was taught of the Lord. That’s why he said that he was ‘taught of no man,’ because he was taught of God.

This had to be so that he could learn all of the spiritual things necessary for the New Covenant, and to understand that you can’t carry over into the Church the traditions of Judaism.

Acts 26:15: “And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. Now arise, and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you ***for this purpose: to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of what you have seen and what I shall reveal to you.*** I am personally selecting you from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you ***to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the authority of***

**Satan to God, so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance** among those who have been sanctified through faith in Me” (vs 15-18).

Let’s see how that operated in Acts 13, right after he was ordained as an apostle, sent on a mission, which was to go to the Jews first, and then to the Gentiles.

In every synagogue there were proselytes. Those were the first believing Gentiles when they came out of the synagogue.

Acts 13:38: “Therefore, be it known to you, men *and* brethren, that through this Man [Christ] *the* remission of sins is preached to you.”

*The remission of sins by repentance and baptism **vs** the works of law!* There are two kinds of ‘works of law’:

1. the sacrifices at the temple
2. the works of Judaism

*All of those laws could not forgive sin in heaven above! **The key is:***

- repentance of heart
- faith in Christ
- belief in God

*That’s entirely different than Judaism!*

Verse 39: “And in Him [Christ] everyone who believes is justified from all things...”

Under the Old Covenant and under the *works of law* with Judaism, people were justified to the temple. Everything came to the temple and was left there. For those who were converted—repentant and received the Holy Spirit—you’re justified before God the Father in heaven above through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by repentance and faith!

*Those are the **spiritual works** that we are to do!* The physical works are much like the Catholics have today. If they sin then the priest says to go do 200 ‘our fathers’ and 200 ‘hail Mary’s.’ The Jews would have: separate yourself, take so many hand-washings, burn so many candles and then you’re okay. *Completely different!*

“...from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses” (v 39).  
*Remember, the Law of Moses included all of their traditions as well!*

Verse 40: “Take heed, therefore, lest that which is spoken in the Prophets come upon you: ‘Behold, you despisers, and wonder and perish; for I work a work in your days, a work that you will in no way believe, *even* if one declares it to you.’” (vs 40-41).

Notice what happened. Almost every time that Paul went into a synagogue it split! When he came to Corinth there was a riot.

Verse 42: “And when the Jews had gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles entreated *him* that these words might be spoken to them on the next Sabbath.”

Notice this very carefully and use this with anyone who is a Sunday-keeper, who says that Paul changed the Law. What are we talking about here? *Gentiles!* If Paul changed the Law why didn't he tell them not to wait for Sabbath, but come tomorrow, because the next day was Sunday. He didn't!

Verse 43: “Now, after the synagogue had been dismissed, many of the Jews and the proselytes who worshiped *there* followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And on the coming Sabbath, **almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the Word of God**” (vs 43-44).

*That's astonishing!*

Then the Jews were losing everything so they setup people to persecute Paul, and even stoned him.

Note our Church At Home ([churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org)) series: *Was Peter Ever in Rome?* and *Was Peter the First Pope?* You will find, historically speaking, the Truth! Peter never went to Rome!

After James was beheaded, Peter was put in prison and an angel let him out. He came to Mark's house. Mark was the nephew of Barnabas, who was a Levite before he became an apostle. So, when Peter was let out and Came to mark's house, it says 'he went to another place.'

- Where would Peter go? *His mission was to the circumcision!*
- Where was the greatest number of Jews at that time? *In Babylon!*
- Where did Peter write his first epistle? *From Babylon!*

That tells that the other place he went to was Babylon, because there were the Jews there, the circumcision people.

Let's see what Paul teaches in Rom. 2. This is important because lawlessness is not Christianity. Everyone who deals with God has laws and commandments to keep. Isn't that what we find with Abraham? When the covenant was passed on to Isaac, it was because '***Abraham kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My Law. and obeyed My voice!***'

It's not a matter of commandments or no commandments, ***it's a matter of commandments and how you keep them!*** Under the covenant with Israel, the commandments of God were in the letter of the Law. Just stop and think, in this nation today look at the great divide that we have between those who want to have law and order and those who want no laws at all. Look at what it causes without laws. Look at all the crime and sin.

So, keeping the commandments in the letter of the Law for the general society is a good thing! But that does not mean they're converted. Look at how many Christians in Sunday-keeping Christianity keep some of the commandments of God. Even our Constitution is based upon many of the principles that are in the Bible, which work good for the society as they keep them.

But that does not convert you! Even if you keep them in the letter of the Law, that does not convert the mind. But keeping the commandments of God and the laws of God are paramount to begin with when you come to God.

Romans 2:13: "Because the hearers of the Law are not just...

[justified]

...before God..."

**Justification** in one short sentence is this: *right standing with God*:

- because you have had your sins forgiven
- because you have believed in Jesus Christ as the ultimate sacrifice of His shed blood for the forgiveness of your sins

That's not based on a temple in Jerusalem, but is based on the Holy of Holies in heaven above. It's not just keeping it in the letter of Law. **God wants the conversion of the mind**; that's the whole thing with Christianity!

I heard Sean Hannity saying 'I believe in the Bible, I believe in God, I believe etc.' But he is a 'merry Christmas' man and an Easter man gung-ho! So, even if they keep part of the things that are in the Law, they have a 'certain amount' of blessings and understanding, **but that has nothing to do with true Christianity!**

"...but **the doers of the Law shall be justified**" (v 13).

What does this mean? *You first have to be convicted of sin and you repent, and you start keeping the Laws of God because you repent!* Then you have to follow-through with baptism!

Verse 14: "For when the Gentiles, which do not have the Law, practice by nature the things contained in the Law, these who do not have the Law are a law unto themselves"

—**but it's not unto conversion!**

Verse 15: "Who show the work of the Law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasoning's also as they accuse or defend one another."



Verse 17—Paul is talking to the Jews:

“Behold, you are called a Jew, and you yourself rest in the law, and boast in God...

[which they do, but do they keep it?]

...and know *His* will, and approve of the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law; and are persuaded *that* you yourself are a guide of *the* blind, a light for those in darkness, an instructor of *the* foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of the knowledge and of the Truth *contained* in the Law” (vs 17-20).

*Typically true with the Jews today:*

- they claim the Law
- they claim their traditions
- they claim special status with God

***But they have none as far as God in heaven above is concerned!*** They may have high positions in the world, they may have a lot of money in the world, they may be very smart and understanding and doing a lot of different things, that is true. But in talking to Michael Heiss, he was telling me that how his family business would make certain things for the Gentiles for Christmas, and they made a lot of money doing it.

I asked him, ‘Does this prove that the Jews like the Gentiles to have Christmas so they can make money.’ He said, ‘Yes, they even promote it for them!’

They don’t keep the Law. They keep some of the things of the Law in the synagogue, but how many go to synagogue or temple? *Very few!* Those who are the ultra, ultra-orthodox are the most ridiculous of all.

Verse 20: “An instructor of *the* foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of the knowledge and of the Truth *contained* in the Law. **You, then, who are teaching another, do you not teach yourself also?....**” (vs 20-21).

*A great principle for anyone, but especially for elders and teachers!*

- How is it that you teach yourself? *By prayer and study, study the Word of God!*
- Will God give you understanding of His Word as you study it through His Spirit? *Yes!*
- Will you learn things from the Word of God that you didn’t know before? *Yes!*

That’s happened time and time again down through history! But the important thing is that this is a main focus so that the teacher does not become a hypocrite. That’s what we’re dealing with in Gal. 2.

**“...do you not teach yourself...”**

- If you read that you should have no other gods before you, ***do you examine your life to see if you have any?***
- If you read that you shall not make any graven image of any likeness, or bow down to it, ***do you have things that are idols before God?***
- If you read that you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, ***do you do it?***
- Do you say God says thus when He didn't say it? *If you do, that's taking His name in vain!*
- Isn't that what the preachers do on TBN, every program you watch?

They say *the Lord says*, they read some Scriptures.

Randy has put on one of our Church At Home segments a preacher speaking about the Law has been done away, and he has a picture of the Ten Commandments, the tablets, and it just disappears.

They preach love. But what did John write? *This is the love of God that we just be nice!* ***NO!*** John wrote, ***that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome!*** This is a tremendous thing, ***teach yourself!***

“...You who preach, ‘Do not steal,’ are you stealing? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ are you committing adultery? You who abhor idols, are you committing sacrilege? You who boast in law, are you dishonoring God through your transgression of the Law?” (vs 21-23).

***Think about that!*** If you're breaking the Laws of God while you're professing to know God, ***you're dishonoring God!*** Most people never look at it that way.

Verse 24: “For through you the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles, exactly as it is written. For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the Law*; on the other hand, ***if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision***” (vs 24-25).

There's nothing more dastardly to tell the Jews than to say that! Think of how powerful that this is. But that's exactly how God sees it.

Verse 26: “Therefore, if the uncircumcised is keeping the requirements of the Law, shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision?”

How can that be? *In the New Testament the circumcision is still required!* ***That's the circumcision of the heart!*** That's greater than the circumcision of the flesh! This means that the carnality of the mind has been changed through the receiving of the Spirit of God, that you're no longer hostile against the laws and commandments of God, and against the ways of God. But you are eager to do them and want to do them. *Entirely different!* This is telling the Jews that they're no better than all of those Gentiles that they denounce all the time.

Verse 27: “And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law, judge you, who, with *the letter and circumcision*, are a transgressor of *the Law*?”

*Paul knew this!*

What was he doing before he was converted? *He was high in Judaism, keeping the traditions of the fathers and more zealous for them than anything else!* He was going out killing, arresting, and dragging into prison those who were Christians, thinking he was doing service to God.

When Paul writes this, he's writing from his own experience that he learned after he was converted. Then he gives the summation of it:

Verse 28: "For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision which *is* external in *the* flesh; rather, **he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, in the spirit** and not in *the* letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God" (vs 28-29).

*A whole different approach!*

I want you to see how important that it is and what happened when Peter kowtowed to the Circumcision Part from Jerusalem.

Rom. 10:4 is one that 'Christians' of this world use over and over again, because it says in the *KJV* that Christ is the end of **the** Law. That's what it says!

However, the Greek translation says that Christ is the end **of law**. What does that mean?

Romans 10:4: "For Christ *is* **the end of works of law**..."

Romans 9:30: "What then shall we say? That *the* Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, have attained righteousness, even *the* righteousness that *is* by faith."

This righteousness is *right standing with God* through repentance and baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Verse 31: "But Israel..."

[includes the Jews]

...although they followed after **a law** of righteousness..."

*The KJV says "*

...**the law** of righteousness."

*That's incorrect! **There's no definite article in the Greek!** This is where the *King James Version* messes people up all the time. They insert the definite article when it is not there.*

If you insert any word that is not in the Greek, it must be in italic. That way the reader knows that

it's not in the original and we will see that that is also proper for clarification, which is the meaning of Rom. 10:4.

Verse 32: "Why?....

[did they not attain to a law of righteousness?]

...Because *they did* not seek it by faith, but **by works of law**..."

The *KJV* says, "...**the works of the law**..." *But that's not true!* The Greek is: "...**by works of law**..."

*That's very important, because that means the **traditional laws of Judaism!***

"...for they stumbled at the Stone of Stumbling, exactly as it is written: 'Behold, I place in Sion a Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of offense, but everyone who believes in Him shall not be ashamed'" (vs 32-33).

Romans 10:1: "Brethren, the earnest desire of my heart and my supplication to God for Israel is for salvation. For I testify of them that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**" (vs 1-2).

***That is not according to the knowledge of God, but according to their own traditions!***

Verse 3: "For they, being ignorant of the righteousness *that* comes from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness...

[through their works; this is their oral law]

...have not submitted to the righteousness of God."

- What happens with the oral law?
- What did Jesus say?

Mark 7 will help us to understand what Paul is talking about with justification and so forth.

Mark 7:6: "And He answered *and* said to them..."

—*the scribes and Pharisees:*

Verse 5: "For this reason, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, *saying*, 'Why don't Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?'"

Verse 6: "... 'Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me."'"

So, if you have an oral tradition and claim that it's as good as God's, ***you're trying to establish a righteousness that is equal to God and you can't do that!*** Nothing that a man can do would be equal to what God has said that we are to do.

Verse 7: “‘But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men.’ For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men...”

- Isn't that the way that it is?
- What does that do for the Jews even to this day?

Listen carefully to how they explain everything. You can start with

- the Holocaust
  - the destruction of the temple in 70<sub>A.D.</sub>
  - the Roman invasion leading up to that and later in 135<sub>A.D.</sub>
- Why did all of these things come upon them?
  - Why did it come from God?

Remember the parable of the wedding feast! The word went out that everything is ready. They sent out the messengers to invite them and come. This one had this to do and another had that to do and they didn't come. They sent out to get more to come to the wedding feast.

Those who were invited did not come. So, finally the result of it was that those who did not come, God was going to destroy their city. In that parable, it was a prophecy of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

- How often do you hear the Jews say, ‘We’ve been scattered abroad in the world because of our sins’? ***Never!*** It's always ‘the enemy coming to get us’!
- Why is the enemy coming to get them? *Because of their traditions!*

What's one of the worst sins that anybody can do, Jew or Gentile? ***Reject Christ!*** It's the same way today. They're going to fight off all of their enemies, they're going to build their temple and it's going to bring the world peace. ***NO! It's going to bring the worst catastrophe in the world!***

Verse 8: “For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast **the tradition of men...**”

—*the righteousness of works that's talked about in Rom. 9!*

Verse 9: “Then He said to them, ‘Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your *own* tradition. For Moses said...’” (vs 9-10).

***So, they're rejecting Moses while claiming Moses!***

What's a counterpart of that today? *Catholicism and Christianity claiming Christ, but are rejecting Christ! Exactly the same thing!* It begins with Sunday-keeping, which is a Roman institution. Cardinal Gibbon wrote about that in *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants*, his diatribe against the Protestants.

Verse 10: "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and 'The one who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man shall say to *his* father or mother, 'Whatever benefit you might receive from me *is* corban'" ... " (vs 10-11).

In other words, *I'm not going to take care of you, but I'm going to dedicate it to the temple, because I'll get a blessing for dedicating it to the temple.* Yes, and all the rabbis will say, 'Look, that was a wonderful gift that you gave.

"... (that is, *set aside as a gift to God*), 'he is not obligated to help his parents' " (v 11).

### **Isn't that the way the traditions of the Jews are?**

Have you ever read what the Jew is to do in the morning when he gets up? *He is immediately to wash his hands!* He is to take and hold the pitcher of water in his left hand and pour it on his right hand, and alternate it three times. He must do this before he even goes to where he needs to go when he gets up in the morning.

I'm going to have to get *Code of Jewish Law* and read some of those. {Note book: *Judaism: Revelation of Moses, or Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal} There are many of the Jewish laws written there. There are many such things. There are special prayers when you see something:

- if you see a midget
- if you see a giant
- if you see a giraffe

*Everything like that!*

They also have two sets of plates, because they are not to mix meat and milk products together. So, they have a set of dishes that they eat things that have meat and a set for the things that have milk.

They also have a law that if you have a Gentile who is a servant, and he works in the kitchen, that if a Jew watches the Gentile make the bread—because Gentile hands are supposed to be so unclean—then it's permissible to eat as 'common' food. But it cannot be used for making unleavened bread for 'Pascha' because it's unclean. If a Jew is not there to supervise it, the bread is unclean.

Well, that's not a Law of God! Christ said that they have many such things to do. That is a *law of righteousness* that's contrary to the *Laws of God!*

Remember that every time that one of these laws was kept, that was *a work of law*. They have many works of law.

Romans 10:3: “For they...

[the Jews]

...being ignorant of the righteousness *that* comes from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For **Christ is the end of works of law for righteousness...**” (vs 3-4).

*Not the end of all law forever!* How do we know that that is not true?

Hebrews 10:16: “...**I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.**”

Is that doing away with law? *No! That’s making it permanently inscribed in your mind, so that’s how you automatically live your life! Not an exterior law of righteousness; **Christ ends all of that!*** Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhism, Mohammadism, Hinduism; ***they all have their works of law.*** Christ is the end of that!

Romans 10:4: “For **Christ is the end of works of law for righteousness** to everyone who believes. For Moses wrote *concerning* the righteousness that *comes through* the Law, ‘**The man who has practiced those things shall live by them**’” (vs 4-5)

—*that’s the letter of the Law!* That’s what they should have done, but they weren’t following Moses.

Verse 6: “But the righteousness *that comes* through faith speaks after this manner: ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who shall ascend up to heaven?”’ ....”

*Then he brings out about believing and faith after that!*

I mentioned last time about Peter going to Cornelius’ house. When he first met Cornelius he said, ‘*You know that it’s an unlawful thing for a man who is a Jew to keep company with a Gentile.*’ They could not even go in. ‘*But God has shown to me that I should call no man common or unclean!*’

Think about this: None of the Italians were circumcised. God sent Peter there because God wanted him to understand that He was calling Gentiles, and going to give the Holy Spirit to them without circumcision of the flesh. This was a revolutionary thing. So, Peter having done this, knew exactly what God wanted.

When we come to Acts 15 and the conference that they had there, Peter said, ‘You know that God, at first, had me go to the Gentiles.’ That was to Cornelius. Look what happens when different ones come, because Peter had a streak of politics in him.

Galatians 2:12: “For, before certain *ones* came from James...”

—*the brother of the Lord and was in charge of things in Jerusalem!*

As long as the temple was standing, it was perfectly all right to pay a vow, or make a vow. But they were telling those in Jerusalem that Paul out with the Gentiles is saying ‘don’t circumcise your children, don’t do any of these things.’ But that’s not what was happening!

Verse 11: “But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to *his* face because he was to be condemned.”

How important is Truth and doctrine? *Very important!* I had a man tell me to take him off our mailing list because he didn’t ‘like the way I bash those other ministers of God with their different doctrines.’

- What did Paul do to Peter and preserve it in the Bible?
- How important is doctrine? *Very important!*

Verse 12: “For, before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles. However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the* circumcision *party*.”

*He didn’t want James to get a bad report!*

Verse 13: “And the rest of *the* Jews joined him in *this* hypocritical act, insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy....

[publicly]

...But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles,,

[eating with the Gentiles, mingling among them without any traditional laws to separate themselves]

...and not according to Judaism...

[that’s what Judaism is]

...why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize?”

In other words, make them separate from the rest of the Jews.

Verse 15: “We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—knowing that a man is not justified **by works of law**...” (vs 15-16).



The *King James* has ***the works of the law***, which is false! Is there a work of a Law of God that says that you shall not eat with a Gentile? ***NO! That's a work of law of Judaism!*** They were seeking their own righteousness through it.

- the separation was hard
- the separation was difficult

Verse 14: “But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to the Truth of the Gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, ‘If you, being a Jew, are living like the Gentiles, and not according to Judaism, why do you compel the Gentiles to Judaize? We who are Jews by nature—and not sinners of *the* Gentiles—knowing that a man is not justified by works of law, but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ...” (vs 14-16).

Your standing is the standing with God in heaven above through Christ, not your standing among groups of people that you go by their traditions that are contrary to the Word of God and think you’re doing well in the name of Christ. *Never work!*

What are the biggest ones they have today? *Not the Jews, but Christianity! Sunday and Christmas! They have great hymn and services!* Same thing as this.

Verse 16: “Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law, we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ...

[with God the Father in heaven above]

...and **not by works of law**...

[by men, to impress men]

...because by works of law shall no flesh be justified”

—*to God! That's the whole meaning of it here!*

Verse 17: “Now then, if we are seeking to be justified in Christ, *and* we ourselves are found to be sinners...

[which Peter was in doing what he did]

...*is* Christ then *the* minister of sin? MAY IT NEVER BE!”—

*because Christ never recognized that!* That’s the important thing to understand.

Verse 18: “For if I build again...

[speaking of his experience in Judaism]

...those things that I destroyed, I am making myself a transgressor.”

*Works of laws of men end up transgressing the Laws of God, and making you a sinner before God!*

Verse 19: “For I, through law, died to *works of law*, in order that I may live to God.”

### **How do you live to God?**

- by loving Him
- by obeying Him
- by keeping His commandments
- by trusting in His mercy and forgiveness
- by having your sins forgiven when you repent

Verse 20: “I have been crucified with Christ...”

why does he say that? *You are co-crucified with Christ (Rom. 6)!*

He wasn't on the same cross with Christ, not literally, but when you're baptized you're conjoined to His death! ***So, you are crucified with Christ!***

“...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me....” (v 20).

*That's what is to lead us and guide us!*

“...For *the life* that I am now living in *the flesh*, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20).

Notice what happens when it gets into human traditions vs God:

Verse 21: “I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness *is* through *works of law*, then Christ died in vain.”

If you do by works of law then you're breaking loving your neighbor as yourself and loving the brethren as Christ has loved us. That's actually happened in the Church of God.

There are ministers who would set themselves up and separate from the brethren. Tell the deacons at the potlucks to ‘bring us the best food.’ I was even invited to go up on the stage and I refused. I was a ‘bad, bad boy’ and got a bad report for that. There were those who had their works of law.

What was one of the works of law? *That the minister is above the people! **NO!*** The minister is below the people, to serve the people! They would have the deacons go down and get the best of everything

and bring it to the elder up on the stage. Parking also!

It's the same way with some Churches of God that they say that if your family is not in the Church you cannot associate with them, you cannot talk to them or go see them. That's exactly the condemnation of the *works of law* that Paul is talking about right here.

- Of course you should see them!
- Of course you should help them!

In that Church I know of three suicides because those who were so emotionally distraught that they couldn't see their fathers and mothers, or grandfathers and grandmothers, that they killed themselves. That blood lies right at the feet of the minister. That church is called the Philadelphia Church of God. They are the exact opposite of brotherly love.

When we get into Gal. 3 we are going to find a very interesting translation that proves that they were writing the New Testament early.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Galatians 1:13-14
- 2) Acts 7:51-60
- 3) Acts 8:1-3
- 4) Acts 9:1-9, 17-18, 20
- 5) Acts 26:15-18
- 6) Acts 13:38-44
- 7) Romans 2:13-15, 17-29
- 8) Romans 10:4
- 9) Romans 9:30-33
- 10) Romans 10:1-3
- 11) Mark 7:6, 5, 6-11
- 12) Romans 10:3-4
- 13) Hebrews 10:16
- 14) Romans 10:4-6
- 15) Galatians 2:12, 11-16, 14-20

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Galatians 1
- Leviticus 23
- Philippians 3
- Acts 15
- Romans 6
- Galatians 3

#### Also referenced:

#### Books:

- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Judaism: Revelation of Moses, or Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin

Church At Home (**churchathome.org**) series:

- *Was Peter Ever in Rome?*
- *Was Peter the First Pope?*

Booklet: *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants* by Cardinal Gibbon

FRC:bo

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