



Galatians Chapter 2 Continued

Before we get started, I just want to take a few minutes to go back over what we had talked about during our last study of chapter 2, so let's take a few minutes to just reflect on what we already know.

As we moved through the first few verses of chapter 2 we realized that Paul was trying to explain to the church at Galatia what had happened at his meeting with James and the emissaries at Jerusalem. And we took a look at what that meeting was all about in Acts chapter 15 and we saw that this meeting was all about this "circumcision group" that was trying to badger the new converts into being circumcised.

Many of the die hard Pharisees were trying to tell the new converts that they were not saved until they were circumcised and Paul knew that this was not true and so after trying to reason with these die hard Pharisees who were still zealous for the law he took the matter to James who was the brother of Yahshua and who was the head of the Jerusalem Council.

There.. we find that James makes a decree, and a judgment not against circumcision, but for circumcision, and we see that Paul circumcises Timothy who had a Greek father and had not been circumcised, as they were delivering this decree... this "Judgment" from James to the churches.

Now I want to stop right here and just say this.. If this all sounds strange to you.. and if you've been taught that Paul always preached against circumcision... you need to go back to last week's lesson and pay close attention to what we learned just last week because we've already been through all of the scriptural evidence showing clearly that neither James nor Paul nor any of the other Apostles ever taught against circumcision or the laws of God.

So if that sounds wrong to you, or if that sounds different from what you've been taught in your houses of worship.. I urge you to go back and watch our study from last week as we will not be re-hashing those topics again this week for the sake of those who have already sat through our study last week.

In a nut shell we learned that Paul circumcised Timothy because they were delivering a judgment from James for circumcision, to the churches in Acts 16:4. And we also learned that Paul did not circumcise Titus because Titus was not ready to be circumcised yet. And once

again you can not force someone to be circumcised anymore than you can force someone to be baptized in order to save them. It must be done of their own free will, and because their own heart leads them to do so.

In Galatians chapter 2 verses 4 and 5 we see that Paul was not going to submit to the wishes of this “circumcision group” who were sent in as spy's to try and change the gospel message that Paul was trying to give them so he did not force Titus to be circumcised. Once again.. we are not saved by works, we are saved by the grace of God through faith, but that does not negate our works as James the brother of Yahshau clearly says in James 2:17 again in James 2:24, and a gain in James 2:26.

So with the proper understanding of scripture.. and the history of what had happened at this meeting in Acts 15 that Paul was talking about in Galatians chapter 2: 1 through 5, we're just about ready to continue on through the rest of chapter 2.

Galatians 2:6 through 21:

Gal 2:6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

Gal 2:7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

Gal 2:8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),

Gal 2:9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Gal 2:10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Now remember the the only people at that time who would have been circumcised would have been the Jews who were keeping the commandment of Torah, so what they were agreeing to was that Peter and his group would go the Jews, and that Paul would go to the Gentiles who had no idea what the Torah was and had never heard the Gospel message of the Messiah. So Paul was to go to those who had never heard of the God of Abraham Issac, and Jacob let alone the Messiah Yahshua.

So Paul really had his work cut out for him because at least the Jews knew the basic understanding of Torah... but the Gentiles had no understanding of anything.. this was completely new to them. Remember the Gentiles were into all kinds of pagan worship. They worshiped the Sun, Moon, and the Stars, they were worshiping the Greek gods of Zeus, and Hermes, and the goddess Diana, and they were into Gnosticism, and Platonism, and all kinds of different idolatry.

So keep this in mind, and remember who Paul was talking to in this letter. He was talking to the church at Galatia where he had already been, but they were being infiltrated with this “circumcision group” from Jerusalem that was trying to undo the Gospel message that Paul had already taught them.

Lets continue:

PAUL SETS PETER STRAIGHT:

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

Gal 2:12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

Gal 2:13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Gal 2:14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

So here in verses 11 through 14 we find that Paul is upset with Peter because Peter was eating with the Gentiles and getting along with the new converts just fine until the “Circumcision Group” from Jerusalem arrived, and again we have to remember who the “Circumcision Group” was.. they were the die hard Jewish elite who were still very zealous for the law.

Now I want us to understand something here. It was a law of the Pharisees that a Jew could not even enter in the same house as a Gentile. A Jew according to the law of the Pharisees could not even eat with a Gentile and this is what was taught for several generations even though... this was never taught anywhere in the Torah.

No where in the Torah does it state that a Jew could not enter the house of Gentile or eat with a Gentile. This was another man made, man created, man fabricated law handed down by the Sadducee's and Pharisees of their time, it was not commanded by God anywhere in scripture.

So Peter because he was afraid of these Pharisees would not eat with the Gentiles as long as these Jewish elitists were around. Peter got up from the table with the Gentiles and went over to eat with the Jews and this angered Paul when he saw Peter being a hypocrite because he knew how this was going to effect the new Gentile converts, and Paul knew that these new converts were going to feel like they were never going to be able to fit in with these Jewish elitists, and this was going to effect their salvation and their faith in the Messiah so Paul was angry with Peter for doing this and he confronts him in front of everyone.

So Paul says to Timothy:

"If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

So what Paul is telling Timothy is that if he's going to live like some Gentile sinner and be a hypocrite and not live like the Jew he was born to be.. then how could he expect the Gentiles to live like a Jew who follows after the Messiah and loves God?

Here Paul was trying to convert these Gentiles to the Jewish faith in the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob and the truth of his sons Gospel message and Peter was treating these new Gentile converts as though they were second hand dirt by showing these Jewish elitists favor over the new Gentile converts and trying to show that he was obeying the Pharisees man made laws that said it was unlawful to eat with a Gentile. And this angered Paul and so Paul was calling Peter out as a hypocrite for what he was doing.

Now notice that Paul does this in public, and he does it this openly because it needed to be done publicly so that everyone would know the truth and so that everyone would be on the same page.. and the point that Paul was trying to make was not just to Peter but to everyone in the room.. and that was that if we are believers in the Messiah.. then we are all one in the Messiah and the last thing that an Apostle should do is to show favoritism for one group over another.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

In other words.. you have been grafted into the Olive tree of Romans Chapter 11 which is the "House of Israel" the only people that God ever chose to be his people anywhere in the scripture. You're either part of the "House of Israel" or you're not.

Now I'm just going to say this in light of what happened just yesterday when 12 Dallas Texas police officers were shot.. five of them murdered in cold blood in the street because of the division that many people who sit in high places, and who sit in offices of authority in both governmental positions and as the head of certain faith organizations are trying desperately to perpetrate.

As Christians.. as the body of the Messiah, knowing that there is no Jew or Gentile, no slave nor free, there's not even a man or a woman if we are one in the Messiah.. knowing that we have all been grafted in to the Olive Tree that is the "House of Israel" Gods only chosen people found anywhere in Scripture.. how is it then that we can be so easily divided?

My point is this my friends.. Don't make the mistake that Peter made. Don't shun your brother because of his ethnic background, or his shade of skin, or his position in life or because he's too wealthy or he's too poor, or because he's wearing one color t-shirt or another that you may not like.

Now I don't know what happened to those two black men that were shot point blank by those two police officers that caused this whole outrage.. I don't know the facts and at this point no one does.. and I don't know what made this man murder 5 men in cold blood in the streets because we don't know all the facts but I do know one fact my friends.

I know one fact that is a fact just as sure as I am sitting here on God's 7th day Sabbath. And that is that all these misfortunes had one thing in common. All of these murders and all of this blood has one thing in common. An "evil" presence was there.

An evil presence was involved in all of this blood shed. And the one who should be convicted as guilty of these murders is the same one who caused the fall of man in the first place. He is the father of lies, he is the prince of the power of the air, he's known in the scripture as the "god of this world" in 2nd Corinthians 4:4, and he is like a prowling lion lurking in the shadows to see whom he may devour, and because he has done this thing he is now feasting on the hearts and minds of many people in this nation.

Know this my Christian brothers and sisters.. "division" is a trick of the Devil.

Our own Messiah says in Mark chapter 3:24 and 25 that a kingdom divided against itself can not stand, and that if a house is divided against itself that house will not be able to stand, and you just can't make it any more clearer than that my friends.

Because you wear a black skin suit and I wear a white skin suit makes no difference in the eyes of God we are all one in Messiah and these biological skin suits are going to rot back into the Earth one day soon, and we will all be given new bodies

Php 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Php 3:21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Knowing that our bodies will be transformed and that our skin will return to the Earth how then can we hate one another because of a color? Do not make the mistake of Peter my friends.. my brothers and my sisters... stay vigilant, and be sober minded thinking not on the flesh, but in the spirit. We do not save up our treasures here on this Earth but in the kingdom that's soon to come.

And that's all I have to say about that.

Okay.. now lets continue.

(BREAK HERE?)

WE ARE NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW BUT THIS IN NO WAY NEGATES THE LAW:

Gal 2:15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;

Gal 2:16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Gal 2:17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not!

Gal 2:18 For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

Gal 2:19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Okay now lets prove everything that I just said to you here:

This is where we have to do our homework, because this is where many of today's modern day Christian denominational charters of men in their grand academic wisdom get completely and utterly lost. What's Paul saying here?

He says "A person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Yahshua the Messiah" so that's pretty clear and fairly easy to understand but remember what Paul said back in Romans chapter 8 verses 6 through 8:

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Now lets stop and study these two verses. On one hand Paul says that we're not saved by the works of the law in Galatians 2 verse 16.. but back in Romans chapter 8 verse 7 he just said that if we don't submit to Gods law then we can not please God.

*Gal 2:15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners;
Gal 2:16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

- OR -

Rom 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.



So if we look at these two verses it would seem like Paul's a little skitafrinic wouldn't it? So one has to be true and the other false right?.. or could it possibly be... that both of these statements are true and correct? Could the problem possibly be... that you and I simply are not understanding what Paul is saying here?

The problem is that today's modern day version of Christianity wants you to believe that Gods laws are all dead, nailed to a cross and done away with and they will completely ignore what Paul said in Romans 8:7 and 8.

The truth is.. that if we look at these two verses in these two chapters in the right context we can know and understand that they are both right!

We are not saved by the works of the written “Law” because we are dead to the written “Law”. When we were baptized in the water we died with our Messiah to the written “Law” and the written “Law” now has no authority over us why?

Because our Messiah did away with the penalty of the written law. So what was the penalty of the written law? The penalty of the written “Law” was death!

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Because our Messiah was the last Passover Lamb that we would ever need to atone for our sins the penalty for breaking the law has been paid in full thereby transferring the authority of the written law that was written down on parchment.. to our Messiah. The written law no longer has authority over us, our Messiah does. And what does our Messiah say?

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Joh 14:24 "Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

The written Law has no more authority over us, the written "Law" can not judge us any longer once we accept our Messiah and are baptized in both the water and the spirit.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

I'll tell you a secret my friends.. there are many professing Christians out there today who have been baptized in the water but have never been baptized in the "Spirit", and with out the "Spirit" you have no chance of obtaining the free gift of Salvation that our Messiah is offering you, and you can not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

This is a hard pill to swallow for a lot of professing Christians today who think they have it all figured out because their favorite Pastor told them that once they come to the front of the isle and say a 60 prayer of confession that their "once saved always saved".

Why is this "Spirit" this "Ruach Hakodesh so important?

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Joh 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

Joh 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Joh 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

What did Messiah say to us?

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come

to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Mat 5:18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Mat 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

Mat 23:2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

Mat 23:3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

You see today's modern day version of Christianity almost always leaves the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) out of the equation... why? Because it neither sees him nor knows him.. that's why.

You see it is that Ruach, that “Spirit” that “Holy Spirit”.. that teaches us how to love God our Father. We don't keep his laws, commandments, his precepts and his appointments to be saved or to earn anything.

We keep them because we love him:

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

You see we don't keep the law because it's written down on parchment, because that written law with out faith in the Messiah still has a curse connected to it.. what is that curse?... DEATH!

If you are still keeping the written law with out faith in Messiah Yahshua then you are still under the written law and when you break it you have sinned, and the wages of sin is death.

We have been freed from the bondage and the curse of the penalty of the law, the debt has been paid and so the written law has no authority over us because we have faith in our Messiah. But you see the written “Law” was a schoolmaster. It was given to teach us how to love God our Father and it was given to protect us from the tricks of our adversary.

Is the “Law” bondage or a curse? Here's what Paul says about the “Law”:

Rom 7:12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Now is Paul talking about the written law written on parchment, or is he talking about the spiritual law that's written in our hearts and in our minds? He's talking about the spiritual law that has been written in our hearts and in our minds which is the exact same law as the written law minus the penalty.

So the next time that someone wrongly proclaims to you that Paul said that the law is bondage and a curse simply show them Romans 7:12 and ask them “how do you reconcile this” scripture if the law of God is nailed to a cross and done away with? Paul says the law is holy and righteous and good?

Trust me.. they won't be able to. What they will do is jump to their next favorite candy stick scripture never answering your question about Romans 7:12.

You see that's what they do when they have no answer to offer you. They simply find another candy stick scripture that supports their twisted understanding hoping that you won't notice that they never answered your last question.

And by the way if there is any question in their minds after that.. show them what Paul said in Romans 3:31 where Paul asks that very all encompassing question:

Rom 3:31 Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

You see this is why Messiah tells us that we must be born of both the water and the Spirit or we can not enter into the kingdom of heaven.. listen closely to what he says:

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Mat 7:22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Mat 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Mat 7:25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Mat 7:26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Mat 7:27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Not everyone who says to me Lord Lord.. not everyone who says a 60 second prayer of confession will enter the kingdom of heaven. So then who will? The one who does the will of his Father that's who.

And when he tells them to get away from him what does he call them? “You workers of Lawlessness”.

So not lets get back to the “Law” that Paul says in Romans 7:12 is “Holy and roughhouse and good”. You see the written law has no more authority over us because the written law can not judge us anymore.. that authority has been given over to our Messiah so the written law can no longer judge us but who does have the authority to judge us? Our Messiah does because he now has the authority to judge and he only can judge us because our Father gave him that authority:

1Pe 4:3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

1Pe 4:4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

1Pe 4:5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1Pe 4:6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

Let me ask you something my friends does God sin? And how does Peter say we are to live again in 1st Peter 4:6? “For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does”.

So what is Yahshua going to judge us by (both the living and the dead)?

If there is no “Law” then there is nothing to judge us by is there? And yet all the day long the lost will proclaim that they will not be judged because they are “saved”! But does that hold water when it comes to Hebrews chapter 10?

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

OH BUT IM ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED!! Not if you continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth your not.

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Heb 10:30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

So if you're continuing to sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth then you are trampling underfoot the Son of God and you are profaning the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified and you have outraged the Spirit of Grace! And what does he say?

there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Oh I'm not going to be judged Pastor because I'm saved!.. Even though our Messiah says in Matthew 24 verse 13 that it will be those who endure to the end that will be saved. Have we endured to the end yet?

You see as soon as I hear someone say those words I know immediately they've been deceived. They've been lied to.. they've taken the bait like a big mouth bass and our adversary is reeling them into the boat as we speak.

He's made them believe that they can “do as thou wilt” and that they are “once saved always saved” no matter what they do because they've never sat in their prayer closet asking God to teach them Hebrews chapter 10 verse 26 and 27.

Most of them have never even heard that scripture before.. You see their not really big on teaching that in a lot of denominational Churches today.

You see the law that Paul says is a curse and bondage is the written law of sin and death. That written law that condemns all who try to live by it to death because they do not trust in the Messiah. You see the “Law” that has been written on parchment has become the “Spiritual Law” that is written on our hearts and in our minds for those of us who have faith and trust in the Messiah Yahshua.

Heb 10:15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

Heb 10:17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

You see if you have the Ruach Hakodesh the Holy Spirit of God is in you... you will be driven to do and keep Gods laws and all of his commandments, precepts, and appointments. He will teach you how to do them.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

So how is then that we can tell a true man of God from a wolf in sheep's clothing?

1Jn 2:4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1Jn 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1Jn 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Yahshua kept all the feast days, the commandments, precepts and appointments of his Father and he commanded us to do so as well.

Mat 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

So what is it exactly that is a curse and bondage? It is the “Law of sin and death”:

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Now stop! Does he say that the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Messiah Yahshua from the “LAW OF GOD”?.. - OR -.. does he say the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Messiah Yahshua from the “law of sin and death”? Which one, you decide.

What is the “Law of sin and death”? It is the “Penalty” of the law that Yahshua paid once and for all. You see the “Penalty” of the law was the curse and bondage.. not the “Law” itself. The law is Holy and righteous and good according to the Apostle Paul.

You see when the Apostle Paul spoke about the “Law” he wasn't always speaking of the whole “Law of God”. Often times Paul speaks of laws that are with in the “Law of God”. So lets take a look at some of the laws that Paul speaks of in his letters:

THE LAWS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL:

1. **The Law Of God:** Rom 3:31, 7:22-25, 8:7
2. **The Law Of Sin:** Rom 7:23-25
3. **The Law Of Sin And Death:** Rom 8:2
4. **The Law Of The Spirit Of Life:** Rom 8:2
5. **The Law Of Faith:** Rom 3:27
6. **The Law Of Righteousness:** Rom 9:31
7. **The Law Of Christ:** 1st Cor 9:21



So once again which law is a curse and bondage? Number 3.. “The law of sin and death”, and this is the law that was a curse and bondage because the penalty for sin is death... but... that penalty has now been paid in full, and the authority of the written code of the law now resides with our Messiah, so the written “Law” can no longer judge us... only our Messiah can judge us, and will judge us.

You see there are “unrighteous works” and there are “righteous works”. “Unrighteous works” are done by people who think they can keep the written law with out faith in the Messiah and earn their way into heaven. Like many of today's Jews who won't accept Yahshua as their Messiah. They are doing “unrighteous works”.

And if they themselves would simply understand the Torah they would already know that they have not been sacrificing animals in atonement for their sin as the Torah commands them... so they are already condemned because the written law says you must atone for your sin through animal sacrificing. Are they doing that? No they are not.

“Righteous works” are works done by people who love God with all of their heart, mind, and strength and want to please him. We have the laws of God written in our hearts and in our minds.. How do we know this?:



The Biblical Definition Of: Works



Pauls

Unrighteous Works:

- **Rom 3:28** Faith apart from works of law.
 - **Romans 4:2**
Abraham not justified by works.
 - **Romans 11:6**
By grace, not works.
 - **Romans 3:20**
No one is justified by works of the law.
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- **Rom 3:31** We uphold the law.
 - **Rom 2:13**
Not the hearers but the doers.

James

Righteous Works:

- **James 2:17** Faith with out works is dead.
- **James 2:21**
Abraham is justified by works.
- **James 2:24**
Justified by works, not just faith.
- **James 2:26**
Faith with out works is dead.

Gen 26:4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

Still think that Abraham was not justified by his works? Sure he was.. but they were works of love not works of vanity. He wasn't keeping the written law to earn anything he was keeping the laws of God because he knew that Gods laws meant something to him, and as a son of God Abraham wanted to be like his Father. Abraham knew how to keep the law by faith.

You see my friends not all "works" are the same. There are unrighteous works and then there are righteous works. Whats the difference? The difference is why you're doing them. Are you doing them because in your vanity you think your going to earn your right to enter into the gates of Gods Kingdom?... or are you doing them because you love your Father and he said so?

Rom 9:30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Rom 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,

So could Israel have attained righteousness through the law? Yes! If they would have kept it by “Faith” instead of keeping it as though it was based on their “Works”.

You see the laws of God were never written on their hearts and in their minds.. the law meant nothing to them, it was nothing but work to keep it... it was a burden to them. They could care less that Gods laws were a hedge of protection for them that guarded them night and day against the evil tricks and schemes of their adversary who prowls around like a lion looking to see whom he can devour.

The law was given to teach us the difference between good and evil!

And that's the difference between the early Israelite's and today's Christians. We have his laws written in our hearts and in our minds.. we keep them because it is the very biblical definition of the love of God.. that we keep his commandments and that they are not burdensome to us, and his Ruach Hakodesh leads us, reminds us, teaches us, and drives us to practice them because we love him.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Note: there's your curse and bondage)

Rom 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

*Rom 8:4 in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Once again what did Paul say:

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Primed with this foreknowledge of scripture.. we can now move into the 3rd chapter of the book of Galatians with confidence and in truth.