



Galatians Chapter 2

So lets just recap a little bit of what we learned in Galatians chapter 1 in our last study. We first spoke about who many of the people in the church at Galatia were, and from 1st Peter verse one we learned that many of them (not all but many) of them were from the northern Kingdom of Israel that was still in the process of being scattered among the nations because God had divorced them because of their adultery, and mingling themselves with other gods and idols.

We also learned that the Northern Kingdom was often referred to as “The Lost Sheep of The House of Israel” and that this was who Yahshua actually came for, and we learned that Yahshua himself said that he was sent only to the “Lost Sheep of The House of Israel”, and we can find that in Matthew 15:24, and also in Matthew 10:5 through 7.

We also learned the prophecy of the two sticks of Ezekiel found in the book of Ezekiel chapter 37 verses 16 through 23. And we know that this all has to do with the “New Covenant” which was made not with the Gentiles mind you.. but only with “The House of Israel”.

We also learned that the “New Covenant” is all about God writing his laws in our hearts and in our minds as we can clearly see in Jeremiah 31:33 in the Old Testament and again in Hebrews chapter 10 verse 16 in the New Testament.

We also learned that there is no Jew there is no Gentile, there is no slave nor free, theirs not even a man and a woman for we are all one in the Messiah according to Galatians chapter 3 verses 27 through 29, and that if we are in the Messiah.. then we are all Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise.

We also learned early on in Chapter one.. that there were those who came from the Circumcision group... those Pharisees who wanted to spy out the church at Galatia and who were following after Paul trying to destroy the gospel message that he was trying to deliver to them. And Paul was trying desperately to pull them out of the deception that these wicked men were trying to captivate them with.

And these are just some of the things we learned in chapter one of the book of Galatians so if you missed that teaching I highly suggest you go back and watch our study on chapter one before moving into chapter two, because if you don't have a firm grasp of chapter one, it will be even harder to understand chapter two and the rest of the book. Chapter one is where Paul lays

the foundation.. of his letter to the church in Galatia.

Now with that being said.. and I hope that that's enough to wet your appetite to go back and take a look at our study of chapter one before moving on if you haven't already. With that being said.. lets get into Acts chapter 2.

Lets read:

Gal 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

Gal 2:2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

Now I want us to understand that what Paul is talking about here is what happened in Acts chapter 15. If we read the beginning of Galatians chapter two with out knowing what happened in Acts 15 we're going to be confused and left guessing at what he's talking about, so lets take a look at what meeting Paul was talking about that he had in Jerusalem with James the brother of Yahshua who was the head of the Jerusalem council at that time. Lets take a look at what that meeting was about.

Act 15:1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Act 15:2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Act 15:3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

Act 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

So first of all before we go any farther we need to take note of what this meeting was all about. If we read Acts 15 verses 1 and 2 we can clearly see that this meeting was all about this "Circumcision Group" that was trying to force the new converts into being circumcised in order to be saved. Hats what the meeting was all about and this has everything to do with the Law of God as written about in the Torah.

So because of this big argument between Paul and these die hard Pharisees (this circumcision group).. Paul took the matter to James who was again the head of the Jerusalem council so that they could straighten out this argument about whether or not you could force someone to be circumcised in order to save them.

Now I want us to understand something here. Paul never preached against circumcision, and James decree about this matter does not preach against circumcision either. If we would simply read the text and stop letting others tell us what it says we would already know that.. but just to stay on the right track we need to understand what James decree was concerning circumcision.

Notice that James says Acts 15:19 through 21:

Act 15:19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

Act 15:20 but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

Act 15:21 For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

First of all he says in verse 19 he says "Therefore my judgment is" so what is this? It is James judgment.. this is the decree that James has decided concerning whether or not a new convert can be forced to be circumcised in order to be saved or not. And what does he say?

He gives them four things to do directly from the Torah. All four of these things are from the Law of God and I want us to see this.

- 1.) Abstain from things polluted by idols
- 2.) Abstain from sexual mortality
- 3.) Abstain from things that have been strangled
- 4.) Abstain from blood

All four of these things are directly from the Levitical Laws of the Torah, and then what does James say? Does he say you don't have to be circumcised? No.. he does not! He says that Moses is read in the Synagogues every Sabbath!

So what is he saying? James is simply giving these new converts four easy things from the law to do right now so that they can begin to worship in the synagogues, and then he says you all know that Moses is read in the synagogues every Sabbath so these new converts will hear the law being read every Sabbath and then they will understand the importance of circumcision, and will be moved to be circumcised on their own by the Ruach Hakodesh the Holy Spirit.

You see you can not force someone to be circumcised any more than you can force someone to be baptized. If I take you down to the water by force and dunk you in the water does that make you baptized? No.. of course not.. because you did not go to the water on your own accord. You did not choose to be baptized. You did not make that decision in your mind and in your heart to follow after the Messiah.

To be baptized or not comes from the heart of each individual and it can not be something that is forced on someone or it is of no effect.. and so it is with circumcision. You can not force someone to be circumcised in order to be saved any more than you can force someone to be baptized in order to be saved, and this is what Paul was trying to tell them.

A person must choose of their own free will to be or not to be circumcised, and or baptized and no one can force it upon them. Both circumcision and baptizim were commanded by our Messiah.

Now many will ask “when did Messiah command us to be circumcised?” Well lets take a look at Matthew chapter 23:

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 the Scribes and the Pharisees sat in Moses seat which was also known as the “Bema Seat” which meant that they could only quote from the Torah and the writings of Moses they could not expound upon the scripture or ad any of their own commentary. They had to get up and move away from the seat of Moses in order to give any commentary on it.

So what does our Messiah say? He says they sit on Moses seat “so do and observe whatever they tell you”. What are they telling people? To observe the Laws of God. Remember they did not have the New Testament.. it had not been written yet. The New Testament wasn't written for a hundred and 20 years after the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah.

They were not reading from the New Testament... they were reading from the Torah and Messiah commands them to do and observe the Torah because that's what they're reading from.

So what were they reading from? The Torah! Is circumcision commanded by God in the Torah? Yes it is and what does Messiah say? **DO AND OBSERVE WHAT EVER THEY TELL YOU!**

Just don't do what they do because they don't practice what they preach.

Who was the Messiah? He was the Word made flesh that came down to preach among men:

Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Yahshua did not only command us to keep the Word.. he was “The Word” made flesh and what

did he say again?

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.

And we covered this in Chapter one concerning the word “fulfill” and what it does and does not mean so I won't go back over that here for times sake.

So getting back to James decision concerning circumcision.. how do we know that this was James decree for sure? All we have to do is to read the scripture for ourselves.

Paul and Timothy were going on after their meeting with James to deliver James decree and his judgment concerning circumcision to all the churches.. so what does Paul do? He personally circumcises Timothy!

Act 16:3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

So here we have Paul personally circumcising Timothy! Why would Paul circumcise Timothy if they were delivering a decree from James that said “you don't have to be circumcised”? Does that make any sense?

What does the very next verse say?:

Act 16:4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

So why did Paul circumcise Timothy? Because Timothy had a Greek father who did not allow him to be circumcised and he had not been, but obviously Timothy had it in his heart to be circumcised and so Paul circumcised him.

Now many foolish scholars will proclaim that the only reason Paul circumcised Timothy was to fool or to trick the Jews. They will try to sell you a load of total hogwash... that Paul and Timothy were being deceitful and were tricking the Jews by circumcising Timothy but I ask you plainly... where is it written that the Apostles were to lie and be deceitful and trick people into receiving Yahshua's Gospel message?

Would God the Father or his son Yahshua have permitted them to lie to his people or would he allow them to trick the Jews into believing? Think about it! You know better than that and so do I.

Paul circumcised Timothy because they were delivering the decree from James that was for circumcision not against it. The only thing that James said was that they should not be forced to be circumcised and that circumcision does not save anyone, only the grace of God saves a man.

Once again my friends we are not saved by our works this is true, but that does not negate or do away with our works, and we covered this in chapter one last week. James clearly states that faith with out works is dead. (James 2:17)

We do not obey the laws, commandments, precepts and appointments of God to be saved. We obey them because we are saved, and because the scripture tells us very clearly what the love of God is.

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

What does Paul himself tell us in Romans chapter 8 verse

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.

What else does Paul say?

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

And I could go on and on and on, but I want us to understand what Paul really taught concerning the Laws of God. Paul never preached against the laws of God. Paul simply preached that one was not saved by keeping the law and he was absolutely right, but our faith does not nullify the law just as he just said in Romans 3:31.

Now Paul said a lot of things about the law but we must understand what law Paul was talking about!

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



If we are going to understand the book of Galatians or any other book in the New Testament we must first understand that warning that Peter gave concerning the writings of the Apostle Paul:

2Pe 3:15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

2Pe 3:16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

2Pe 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

We must not be lead astray by “LAWLESS PEOPLE” and loose our own stability my friends.

We're going to hear Paul say some things that sound like he's talking against the Laws of God, and it may seem to those who are young in the faith that Paul is two faced, or skitsofrenic, or that he's preaching two different gospels.. but that's only because we haven't read the whole book, and we do not understand the context of what Paul was trying to teach.

We must understand who he was talking to, where he was, what law he was talking about, and why before we can even begin to understand what he was saying in his writings. And this is why we're taking it very slowly and why it's important to really get a strong grip on what Paul taught and why. And we'll talk more about this as we move forward in the book of Galatians

So now that we know more about the meeting that Paul is talking about in Galatians chapter 2 verse one we can safely move forward through the scripture.

Lets begin again and go a little deeper:

Gal 2:1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

Gal 2:2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

Gal 2:3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

Gal 2:4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—

Gal 2:5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

You see here comes this language about circumcision again and whats he talking about?.. he's talking about the meeting that hey had in Jerusalem and James decree concerning circumcision.

And what does Paul say about Titus? Once again we see that Titus was not “forced” to be circumcised why? Because you can not force someone to be circumcised and then claim that that circumcision has saved them.

Circumcision does not save us any more than baptizim saves us. It is only the Grace of God that saves us, but what did our Messiah say?

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.

If you love me.. you will keep my commandments. How much more clearly could he have put it? You see we are saved by the “grace” of God, and because we love God we turn from our sin which is the transgression of the law, (the violation of Torah) with out the law there is no sin.

And when we repent and turn from our sins.. from transgressing the law... he gives us his Ruach Hakodesh.. his spirit. And that “Spirit” leads us to all righteousness.. that “Spirit” shows us how to love God our Father.

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

Titus was a new convert not yet ready to be circumcised because he was still young in the faith and needed to grow and learn the laws, commandments, Precepts, and appointments of God, and he was not yet ready to move towards circumcision on his own, and so Paul did not “FORCE” Titus to be circumcised like he did Timothy who was older and more mature in the faith.

You see Titus was still drinking the “milk” of Gods word not yet ready for the “meat” of Gods word, and we've all been their and many of us are still drinking the milk of Gods word not yet ready to take hold of what is truth.. and so it is with each reading, with each prayer, with each lesson, the Ruach Hakodesh continues to feed us until we come to the full maturity of the gospel of our Messiah.

SALVATION AND BEING SAVED:

God through his GRACE.. and the giving of his Ruach Hakodesh (his Holy Spirit) gives us power. Power to do what, what kind of power do we receive? The power of the Ruach Hakodesh. The power that is bestowed upon all believers who are truly saved and have been baptized in both the water and the spirit. Notice what Messiah says:

Joh 3:5 Yeshua answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Why is it important to be baptized by both the water and the spirit? The water represents being buried in the grave along with our Messiah and raised up a what?... A NEW CREATURE:

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation—the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!

The Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) is the “Spirit” that Yahshua is talking about in John 3:5, and this Spirit, (this Ruach).. is what makes the change with in us. How? This Ruach, this “Spirit” is what writes the laws of God in our hearts and in our minds.

Heb 10:16 " 'This is the covenant which I will make with them after those days,' says Adonai: 'I will put my Torah on their hearts, and write it on their minds . . . ,' "

It is the fulfilling of this “New Covenant” that happens when we are baptized with the Ruach Hakodesh, the Holy Spirit of Yahovah the Father. When this “Spirit” enters into us, it leads us to

all righteousness through the obedience of Faith that Paul talks about in Romans Chapter 1 verse 5.

So we must then define what is the “Obedience of Faith”? Obedience to “Faith” is obedience to the “Truth”. Who's truth? Our truth? NO! But God's “truth”.

You see this Grace given to us freely by our Father in Heaven teaches us to be obedient through love.. not through works. Why do we obey the Laws, Commandments, Precepts, and Appointments of God? Do we obey them to be saved? NO! Absolutely not! We know that no man can “earn” his way into Heaven by works.

We obey the Laws, Commandments, Precepts, and Appointments of God our Father through love. It is our love for him that drives our obedience, not that we might earn anything.. but rather that he would know that we love him. What is the Biblical Definition of the “Love of God” according to the Scripture?

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

*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.*

What is sin again? Sin is the transgression of the Law (1st John 3:4)

*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?*

I don't know about you my friends but I do not want to continue sinning.. violating his Torah.. transgressing his law. And for those who teach and preach that you can continue to sin.. and that it matters not how you live or what you do.. they are the ones who are trampling underfoot the Son of God... they are the ones who are profaning the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified and they are the ones who are outraging the Spirit of Grace.

No my friends.. the laws of God still stand and those who continue to break them are only showing their disdain for God and his Son Yahshua Hamashiach our Messiah.

Turn away from them... set them outside of the church.. don't even eat with such a one says Paul. Anyone who calls himself brother and continues to teach and preach things that are contrary to the gospel that has been given by the Apostles are accursed and unless we want to take part in that curse we can not abide in what they teach and preach.

My hope.. is that you would love the lord your god with all of your heart, mind and strength, and that you know that his laws are written on your hearts and in your minds.

And that you would talk about them when you walk by the way and when you lye down and when you rise.

That you would teach them to your children diligently and that you would bind them on your hand, and put them as frontlets between your eyes, and write them on your doorposts and on your gates.

Because then and only then.. can we be sure that we are in him and that he is in us.
