

“Galatians 1:6-24”

All Scripture is KJV: Galatians 1:6-24

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Today we continue with the preaching series on the Book of Galatians.

Galatians addresses the issues of following after Jesus for salvation and not following after the Jewish Laws and fables for salvation.

In the Epistle written to the Galatians Paul addresses many issues relating to salvation.

He refutes and exposes the false way of salvation, brings those people to task who teach the wrong way of salvation.

He exposes the Jews for their lies and rebukes them for trying to get Christians to return to the way of the law which was never able to save.

- **All though the book of Galatians there are three things that Paul hammers home.**
 1. False- Works based salvation - Salvation is by faith alone.
 2. Exposes the Jews for their lies about the law saving. Jewdiasers, trying to get Christians to follows Jewish customs, feasts days etc..
 3. People trying to please people rather than pleasing God.

Galatians is a letter of rebuke, to anyone who thinks that reentering into Judaism can somehow make them more spiritual, and turn the into a Christian believer.

- ✚ And let me add this. There is no such thing as a Christian Jew, or a Jewish Christian.
- ✚ You are either a Jew or a Christian. Because each one of them is a religion.
- Because the word Jew refers to a religion, it does not refer to an ethnic people.
- Yet people will use this statement of being against the Jews as being anti-Semitic. But here is nothing anti-Semitic here, because people are forgetting that “Jews” are not a people but simply refers to the religion that they are practicing.
- ❖ And in fact a Jew is nothing more than a Pharisee which is mentioned in the bible. They believe the same thing.
- ❖ Pharisee, *noun*, : **Pharisee**; plural noun: **Pharisees** a member of an ancient Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written law, and commonly held to have pretensions to superior sanctity.
 - a self-righteous or hypocritical person.
 - They are the spiritual fathers of modern Judaism.
 - Their main distinguishing characteristic was a belief in an Oral Law that God gave to Moses at Sinai along with the Torah.
 - The Pharisees believed that God also gave Moses the knowledge of what these laws meant and how they should be applied. This oral tradition was

codified and written down roughly three centuries later in what is known as the [Talmud](#).

- ❖ So the Jews are nothing more than Pharisees of the Bible. They are deniers of Jesus, and have a works based salvation message.

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

1. If Paul could not make it in the Jews religion, then he says nobody can.
2. Because he was more determined and zealous than everybody put together.
3. But he said.....God changed all that.....and turned him around to see the real truth of Jesus Christ.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

1. When Paul saw the truth he says he immediately knew it was not just a man made religion.
 2. He said "**immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:**
 3. He knew it was God who had changed him.
 4. He knew it was it was God who separated him, and called him into his grace.
 5. He knew that is was God, who had revealed his Son unto him, that he might preach Jesus Christ to the heathen.
- So as we get into the reset of the message this morning on Chapter 1. Notice what Paul said about the Jews in verse 14. He called their religion "traditions of my father's".
 - This is the same tradition that Jesus spoke out against in Matthew 15.

[Matthew 15:2](#)

Why do thy disciples transgress the **tradition** of the elders? For they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

[Matthew 15:3](#)

But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**

[Matthew 15:6](#)

And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. **Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**

- So according to Jesus, the Jews had made their own religion, and had turned against worshipping the true God.
- Because Jesus said to them "**Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**
- In contrast Paul said that Jesus ha called him out of this "fake Jewish religion" unto his grace.

In Mark 7 we see Jesus scolding the Jews even to a greater degree.

[Mark 7:8](#)

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

[Mark 7:9](#)

And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God**, that ye may keep your own **tradition**.

[Mark 7:13](#)

Making the word of God of none effect through your **tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

- So according to Jesus they knew full well that they were rejecting God.

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

21 Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.

24 And they glorified God in me.

- The last few versus of Galatians 1, maintain to confer and highlight the fact of the matter concerning Gods word.
- 1. Paul said that in verse 17, that at first he did not go up to Jerusalem where the other Apostles were, but rather he went into Arabia and returned again into Damascus.
- 2. Damascus was the largest city and the capital of Syria at the time, and it was here that Paul spent a lot of his time preaching to the lost, because as he said the other disciples were already in Jerusalem preaching the word of God in that area.
- 3. So basically Paul journeyed around the south east of Jerusalem from Damascus to Arabia and back again on his first journey.

Damascus is a very ancient city mentioned early in the Bible (Genesis 14:15, 15:2) and was considered the capital city of Syria (1Kings 20:34). King David not only conquered the Syrians but also had the city occupied and the people pay him tribute money (2Samuel 8:5-6). Later in its history, Damascus was conquered by the Assyrian Empire and its people taken as captives (2Kings 16:9). At the time of the New Testament the city was walled (2Corinthians 11:33).

4. So Damascus for Paul was an important city also because it was here that he had persecuted the church and it was also here that he had received his conversion to Christianity.
5. After 3 years Paul goes up to Jerusalem to see the apostles, but the only apostles that he got to see was Peter and James the Lords brother.
6. Then after the 15 days he returned from Jerusalem to and **came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.**
7. These were two of the regions where Paul spent a lot of his time preaching. Again this was the area in which he had originally persecuted the church. This was also the area in which the Jews had tried to prevent the message of the gospel from going out.

When we read the book of Acts 15, we get a greater insight on how his ministry to these heathen nations took place. It is here in Acts 15 that we see the struggle between the church and the Jews.

It is here that we can see how the Jews were trying to keep the Christians in bondage, not under the "Moral Law", but they were trying to keep the Christians under their own Laws. (Traditions of Men).

Lets read Acts 15.....

Acts 15 King James Version (KJV)

1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, **Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**

2 When therefore **Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined** that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

5 **But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**

6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

⁷ And when there had been much disputing, **Peter rose up**, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, **that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

⁸ And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, **giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;**

⁹ And put **no difference between us and them**, **purifying their hearts by faith.**

¹⁰ **Now therefore why tempt ye God**, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

¹¹ **But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

¹² Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

¹³ And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

¹⁵ And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

¹⁶ **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:**

¹⁷ That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

¹⁸ Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

¹⁹ Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

²⁰ But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

²¹ For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

²² Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

²³ **And they wrote letters by them after this manner;** The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

²⁴ Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

²⁵ It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

²⁶ Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷ We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

²⁹ That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

³⁰ So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

³¹ Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

³² And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

³³ And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

³⁴ Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.

³⁵ Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

³⁶ And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.

³⁷ And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

³⁸ But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

³⁹ And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

⁴⁰ And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

The ministry of Paul was a tough ministry because many people did not want to believe that Paul had changed as he said he did.

And many people still wanted to hold onto traditions, which is also what is seen today in the church with people wanting to bring with them traditions they learnt from other religions.

Case in point.....the Hebrew roots movement, Catholic with paganism, and so on.

1. People still battle with the concept of God's grace and our faith.
2. People chose what they want to believe from the bible and reject that which goes against their will.

And so what we find in the closing verses of Galatians 1, we also find in the closing verses of Acts 15:41.

3. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

✚ It is clear from Acts 15:41 that Paul spent those years in Galatians 1:21-22 making himself known to those church's whom he had persecuted.

✚ Making then aware of the gospel of Gods grace into which they were called.

It is only "God" (Jesus) who can truly change the heart of a man.

PRAYER.....CLOSE