

Was God's Law Abolished Part Two – Galatians

Context:

When Paul wrote to the Galatians, they were in turmoil and confusion because of different doctrines working their way into the church of God. Jews had come from Judea trying to convince Gentile members of the church to receive circumcision and keep the Jewish laws to be saved. (Galatians 5: 2-3) Recall that Jesus had condemned the Jews for all their traditions which they added to the Laws of God that were making His law void. (see Mark 7: 5- 9) Also, God's laws delivered through Moses were never intended for salvation from the penalty of sin which is death as its purpose was to reveal sin and teach how to live toward God and our neighbors. (see Romans 7: 7 and Matthew 22: 34-40) The animal sacrifices also did not save them from sin's penalty of death, for obedience to the sacrificial laws only covered their sins temporarily until the Messiah would come and be the ultimate sacrifice once and for all. These Jews were trying to bring in their corrupted form of Judaism into the church doctrine since they believed only Jews were God's chosen people, so the Gentiles needed to live and believe like them to be saved, and they believed they could only have salvation by keeping the law even though they were not able to keep the whole law themselves. drh

Galatians 5 NKJV ² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is ^(a) a debtor to keep the whole law.

Mark 7 NKJV ⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" ⁶ He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.' ⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." ⁹ He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

Romans 7 NKJV ⁷ What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." *(God's commandments were a tutor teaching what sin is, what God's character is and how to live a life that is pleasing to Him. To be under the law means you are still living in sin therefore you are in bondage to sin and subject to the penalty of sin which is death. To be under Grace means you have repented of what you know from the commandments to be sin, sincerely asked God for forgiveness and turned away from it in your life. drh)*

Romans 6: 23 NKJV For the wages of sin is death, but the ^(a) gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 22 NKJV ³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Galations 3 NKJV ¹O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ²This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ⁴Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed *it was* in vain? ¹⁹What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed (*Jesus Christ - drh*) should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator does not *mediate* for one *only*, but God is one. ²¹*Is* the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness (*or justification by God - drh*) would have been by the law. ²²But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (*or no longer under the law because by faith in God's word, we have turned away from the sin which the law (our tutor) taught us, asked God for forgiveness and are now led directly by God's Holy Spirit normally received by touching of holy hands at baptism, which leads us to God's truth. drh*)

In addition to Jews trying to impose Jewish laws on members of the church, there were also Gentile members who were reverting to paganism and accepting pagan traditions into the church. Some Gentiles in the church would have been confused and befuddled by all the different doctrines being pushed on the members, especially circumcision, so they found comfort by returning to the old pagan traditions they had known and lived with all their lives before Paul brought the truth of salvation through Christ to them. drh

Galations 4 NKJV ⁸But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. (*At this point Paul is speaking to the Gentiles pointing out how they worshiped pagan gods and idols before they came to Christ - drh*) ⁹But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? ¹⁰You observe days and months and seasons and years. (*pagans observed all of these times such as the day of Sunday for the sun god, Monday for the moon, Thursday for the Norse god Thor etc., and months of the year such as January for Janus the Roman god of beginnings and endings, February for a Roman purification festival called februa, which literally means "month of cleansing", March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war because the weather was mild enough to begin waging war, July and August were observed as emperor god worship for Julius and Augustus Ceasar, etc. The pagan seasonal cycle, also known as the Wheel of the Year, is based on ancient seasonal and celestial events. And finally the yearly observance of Yule is a key part of the life cycle of the 'Child of Promise', conceived in Ostara and born in the winter solstice as the 'Sun Child' who will defeat the powers of darkness in the coming spring, ushering in nature's triumphant return.- drh*) (Therefore Paul said to the Gentiles in the church in verse 11): ¹¹I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.

Galations 5 NKJV ¹Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. (*Paul is telling the church that they should hold fast to the doctrine that faith in Christ's sacrifice alone justified them to God, not the law, and faith in God's forgiveness of their sins made them free from the yoke of bondage to sin which the law defined. Paul is absolutely not saying they are free from obeying the ten commandments of God. See Romans 7: 7 above and 1 Corinthians 6: 9 below - drh*) ²Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is ^a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵For we through the Spirit

eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

1 Corinthians 6: ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *(receive the promise of eternal life at the resurrection – drh)* the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.