

GALATIANS 2 vs 1

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As the House of Israel prepared for Assyrian captivity 700 years after having rejected the 10 commands, the Lord said: Though I wrote ten thousand, they are regarded as a strange thing -- Hosea 8; as the House of Judah prepared for Babylonian captivity, He allowed them onerous manmade traditions and said: So, I permitted them statues that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live -- Ezekiel 20.



But Paul knew what Moses originally told the people of God in order that they prosper and live long in the land first promised to Abraham. Rejecting the Covenant God wrote of 10 commands and no more; rejecting God's blessings, they inherited God's curses.

In the previous chapter we learn, Paul was taught of the Lord for 3 years in Arabia; and revisited Damascus; then he traveled to Jerusalem for 2 weeks; long enough to size up what was the state of the faithful who had been taught by the Lord. So he went to the northern regions where the House of Israel had been resettled; to strengthen the fledgling assemblies with the word of God – starting with Moses and the prophets pointing to Jesus Christ -- the Messiah sent by God.

¹ Then after fourteen years, I went again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus also.

² I went up because of a revelation, and submitted to them (but privately to those who were of reputation) / at this time, 14 years later, Paul went to Jerusalem discretely and with respect for those brothers and sisters who were prominent figures in the early church; notice it was a heavenly summons – by special direction from heaven; not some brilliant idea he thought up; and certainly not being summoned by anyone in Jerusalem; bible scholars seeking to harmonize events suggest more about this encounter seems to be found in either: Acts 11 or Acts 15.

I went up (privately to those who were of reputation) and submitted to them...

the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, lest somehow I should run, or had run, in vain. Acts 21 tells us that many believed, yet they were still zealous to keep ceremonial laws; and knowing traditions die hard; Paul wanted to see if he was still advancing on the way; or missed a turn somewhere.

³ But even Titus, who was with me, being Greek, was not compelled to be circumcised: isn't it interesting, when entering the land, God gave them 10 commandments and no more, and then Moses said, circumcise your heart... which was not one of the 10 commandments; and for all these years, they keep circumcising the wrong member of the body. That should be a good enough reminder to read carefully.

⁴ yet because of false brothers secretly brought in -- who came privately to spy out our liberty, that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into bondage / their ministry did what? Apparently, there were men of the Jewish tradition who were checking out Titus in the public urinal; reporting back to their CIA chief... who among the strangers in town was circumcised... and who wasn't:

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⁵ to whom we gave place by subjection, **no, not** for an hour, so that the truth of the gospel might continue with you / Paul says, they did not yield to any in submission... not even for a minute; open the door for a traditionalist and a whole army will march in;

⁶ But from those who seemed to be special, (whatever they were, it makes no difference to me: God shows no partiality) for I say, those who seemed reputable added nothing to me.

⁷ But on the contrary, seeing I was entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, as Peter was to the circumcised;

⁸ (for He who effectively worked in Peter -- in his sent / apostolic ministry to the circumcised, worked also in me to the Gentiles),

⁹ and when James, 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.

¹⁰ Only they asked that we should remember "**the poor**"; what I was eager to do / and who was "**the poor**"? It was the historic congregation in Jerusalem, led by James – the ½ brother of Jesus; who never followed the Lord until after the resurrection; he led the synagogue that was fast dying out, still clinging to their traditions. It's as if the religious leaders said: the foreigners can send us money.

¹¹ But when Peter came to Antioch, I withstood him to the face because he was to be blamed / clearly Paul opposed Peter on some issue, which doesn't sound like Peter held some sacred position in the church Jesus is building, does it?

¹² For before some men came from James, he ate with the Gentiles: but when they came, all of a sudden he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those of the circumcision.

¹³ And the other Jews joined in this hypocrisy with him; so that Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy / they all started acting no different than the religious pharisees of the day.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they walked **not** according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of them all, "If you, being a Jew, live like a Gentile, and **not** like a Jew, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth, and **not** Gentile sinners / which is sort of funny, Paul appeals to the high calling that was given them of the House of Judah, of which they were thankful; and not as those Gentile sinners; Paul was choosing words to ameliorate the intense confrontation, knowing full well we all are sinners... being saved by God's grace,

And Paul quickly adds:

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16 yet we know that a person is **not justified by works of the law** / there is no civil or ceremonial law that can ever justify us; that can count us righteous, and thereby give us the ability to stand in the presence of the living God who is holy; it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin; but the one sacrifice offered once for all time – the blood of Jesus Christ covers our sin – **Hebrews 10**.

but through the faith of Jesus Christ / Jesus was the Architect and pacesetter of faith – He paid a price we could not pay in a million years. So, acting in faith, taking God at His word; standing on the promises of God; in spite of our performance; only through Him we are justified; only through Him we are legally considered: **just like Him**, not that we are just like Him, because we are not, but we are legally to be considered just like Him, because He paid the appropriate price to cover our failure,

so we have believed in Jesus Christ / our confidence is in Jesus alone,

that we are justified by the faith of Christ / by faith we are counted righteous; judicially determined to meet the legal requirement through what we have come to believe He did for us,

and **not by the works of the law** / there is nothing bad about the LAW, it lets us know God has ordered creation; like a good Father, what God wrote for His people came with blessing and curses; if they did those 10 commands, they would be blessed – notice the word ~~perfectly~~ wasn't part of what He wrote – those 10 words remind us what God says is important to be in His presence. Read them: write them on your heart and mind, put them on your hands where you work, and talk about them day or night.

To fear and love and serve the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul... is **not** a bad thing to do; to **not** make graven images – the manmade idolatrous works of our imaginations that we worship and slavishly serve is **not** a bad thing to remember **not** to do; to **not** lightly lift up His name, is **not** a bad thing to remember **not** to do; to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy is **not** a bad thing to do; to honor our father and mother all the days of our lives is **not** a bad thing to do; to work 6 days is **not** a bad thing to do; to **not** murder, to **not** adulterate, to **not** steal, to **not** falsely accuse our neighbor, to **not** covet anything that is our neighbors – **all** are **not** bad things to remember **not** to do.

Jesus said to His students: Do not think I came to destroy the Law... whoever keeps and teaches them, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven -- **Matthew 5:17**. **And notice**, none of this Covenant says anything about justification or sanctification, righteousness, or salvation. But the Lord said, those who keep and do these 10 commands and no more... **will prosper and be blessed here on earth**.

so we believed in Jesus Christ, that we are justified by the faith of Christ / we are counted and declared by God to be righteous because of His faithfulness,

and **not by the works of the law, because by works of the law **no** one will be justified** / by the bloody sacrificial works of the Law, no one of us ever was... or ever will be justified and counted as right.

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17 But if, in our endeavor to be justified by Christ / if by Christ we seek to be counted righteous, we too are found to be sinners, is Christ the servant of sin?

Absolutely not!

18 For if I rebuild what I destroy, I prove myself a transgressor.

19 For through the law I died to the law / forever put to death the notion that any check-list of activities half-heartedly done at best... will ever judicially cancel our debt to God for our sin and failure,

so that I might live to God / we can die to our performance, and live to put on Christ and do what He said; He already took our failures; keep throwing them behind you; don't let failure get in the way of going to our great Savior who gave His life for us.

20 I am crucified with Christ.

It is no longer I who live; **but Christ lives in me** / through His Spirit:

and that life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God / I do not nullify, I do not cancel or quash God's grace: **for if rightness comes by the law, then Christ died in vain /** then Jesus the Messiah died needlessly, and for no purpose.

Jesus said, do not think I came to destroy the law, not the smallest letter will pass away from the law, until all is fulfilled: whoever keeps and teaches these will be called great in the kingdom of God – Matthew 5.

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.

Moses was given 10 instructions, that help us know what our great God says is orderly in society. Only by faith in what Jesus the Messiah did for us, are we saved.

1. Do not have other gods before Me.
2. Do not make graven images or idols to bow down and worship.
3. Do not lightly use the name of the Lord your God.
4. Keep the Sabbath and keep it holy; 6 days you will work; the 7th day is to rest and remember the Lord.
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not adulterate.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not falsely accuse your neighbor.
10. Do not covet your neighbor's wife; house, or cattle, workers, or anything that is your neighbors.