

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians

Laying the Foundations



- The Jerusalem Conference
- The Mystery of the Gospel
- The Book of Romans

- Paul's belief concerning the imminent return of the Messiah
- Purpose of the Synagogue
- Circumcision
- Phrases –
 - Under the Law
 - Works of the Law



Jerusalem (Acts 15) Conference

- Gentile Torah observance – not an issue
- Circumcision – not an issue
- Conversion to Judaism in order to have a place in the Kingdom of God – the BIG issue
 - Conclusion – conversion not required

Mystery of the Gospel

How is God going to fulfill His purpose for Israel if Israel is a scattered people?

- They will fulfill it by :
 - Israel teaching a message (though somewhat incorrect) about Jesus – Israel's messiah
 - Judah teaching about Torah (though it's been both negated and added to)
 - Eventually being drawn together – bringing both messages into harmony

Romans

- Written after Galatians
 - Shows where Paul continues to stand in respect to the Torah
 - Reveals Paul's understanding of who the true identity of the "Gentiles" who were returning.

Paul's end of days belief

^{ESV} **Isaiah 11:11-12** In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people . . . ¹² He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Paul's end of days belief

^{ESV} **Jeremiah 23:5-6** ⁵ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Paul's end of days belief

ESV Jeremiah 32:37-39 ³⁷ Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.
³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

Paul's end of days belief

ESV 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that **we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

Paul's end of days belief

^{ESV} **2 Thessalonians 2:1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him . . .

Paul's end of days belief

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

The Synagogue

- Worship at the Temple
- Study at the Synagogue
- Conversion not required

Synagogue Tradition:

- Reading of Torah
- Reading of Haftara
- Commentary afterward



The Synagogue

^{ESV} **Luke 4:16-17** And he came **to** Nazareth, where he had been brought **up**. And as was his custom, he went **to** the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he **stood up to read**. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

The Synagogue

ESV Acts 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.“

ESV Acts 18:1-4 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. . . . ⁴ And he reasoned in the **synagogue every Sabbath**, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Circumcision

ESV Malachi 3:6 ⁶ "For I the LORD do **not change**; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are **not consumed**.

ESV Genesis 17:10-11 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be **circumcised**. ¹¹ You shall be **circumcised** in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

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

Circumcision

NEED WE SAY MORE?

Under the Law

- Used 10 times by Paul, 5 times in Galatians
- Contrasts Law and Grace

Under the Law

^{ESV} **Malachi 3:6** ⁶ "For I the LORD do **not change**; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are **not consumed**.

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

^{ESV} **Romans 7:12** So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Under the Law

^{ESV} **Romans 3:19** Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

Context:

- The value of being part of the “circumcision”
- Being a Jew is of no value when you sin
- Sin brings death, and Torah convicts the sinner

Under the Law

- **Torah** is not the problem
- **SIN** is the problem
- Torah purpose is to reveal sin –
- not to **JUSTIFY** (make righteous) the sinner

- Those who try to find justification in Torah are “Under the Law”
- Those who try to find justification by Grace (as Abraham did) are “Under Grace”

Under the Law

ESV Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

ESV Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your **righteousness exceeds** that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

ESV Exodus 14:30 Thus the LORD **saved** Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Under the Law

Relationship with God –

- YHVH wants a relationship with His people
- Not like pagan “gods”
 - No contact with their subjects
 - No concern for their subjects
 - Always needed to be appeased
- When YHVH’s people fall short . . .
 - He will lift them up
 - He will extend mercy – IF THEY COME TO HIM

Under the Law

Under Grace –

- Realizes that when he sins, he has no recourse except to be forgiven

Under Law (Torah)

- Believes he can repair the damage of sin through Torah observance
- Must observe Torah perfectly

Works of the Law

- Based on the same foundations as “Under Law”
- Paul is speaking about the Torah, not . . .
 - Oral Torah
 - An Essene code of law
- You cannot earn salvation by works, but as James said –

^{ESV} **James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם

Shalom Alecheim

Peace be Unto You