

Neither Went I Up To Jerusalem

***Freedom
From
Religious Bondage:***

Galatians

***as taught
by Neil Tolman***

Introduction

This e-book is not a verse by verse exposition of the book of Galatians. It is intended as an introduction to the major points that Paul addressed in his letter to the Galatian believers. Every verse of the letter to Galatians is provided to provide the full context and relevance of the issues addressed. I pray this knowledge will launch the reader into the knowledge of the true gospel of Christ. Most Christians have never heard the gospel that Paul taught.

If you are feeling particularly bold, ask your denominational pastor why he or she does not teach the mystery gospel of Christ. Paul's gospel is dangerous and radical. It challenges most of the accepted church practices and many church doctrines. Like Paul in his day, those who teach the true gospel are held in contempt by performance based religion's minions. But the Word of God still stands true.

We have been taught to study the Bible like a flock of chickens eating corn. At best, we've been taught to peck away, randomly taking the pieces that look best to us while scratching the small pieces into the dirt. At worst, we are fed selectively by our religious breeders with premixed doctrinal pressed pellets. Each religious denomination has its own mix. They distribute their chicken feed in the form of doctrinal textbooks, sermon outlines, Sunday-School lessons, pamphlets, magazines and by word of mouth.

Each group approaches the Bible with their own prewritten list of doctrines. Like the ramp that leads down to the plucking machine, the lists lead us to the conclusions the farmers planned for us. Deviate from the list and you will no longer be welcome in the chicken coop.

Not many chicken farmers are pleased with chickens that understand their freedom. The farmer would like very much to keep you inside the fence laying eggs and getting fattened up for the plucking. Beware: The book of Galatians will take you out side the fence and show you your freedom. May your wings never be clipped again.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1

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Galatians Chapter One

1 Paul, *an* apostle,
not of men, neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;

The book of Galatians opens with : “Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.”

Paul was an apostle by Jesus Christ. The Greek word transliterated apostle is *apostolos* which means “one sent with a message or one sent with a task to do.” Paul was sent by Jesus Christ with a message: the gospel of grace.

It is of great importance to note that in the very first sentence of this letter Paul emphasizes that he was not an apostle of men or by men. He was not sent as a religious representative of some organization with a religious message. He was not ordained as we would think of it as an apostle by a local church or a church organization. Paul had been an apostle of and through Jesus Christ for years before he went to visit the supposed church leaders.

The reason Paul makes this point so directly is that the believers in Galatia were being led astray by religious representatives sent by a religious organization in Jerusalem. The false teachers were representing men’s religion. Paul was a representative sent in and by the power of God by Jesus Christ.

As a young man I became first a licensed preacher and later an ordained minister. My licensing and ordination was by and through a religious organization. I have made countless thousands of “house calls” inviting people to one church or another. Almost all of those visits were not as a representative of Jesus Christ but instead as a sales person selling a church program or seeking to increase the membership of the organization.

Of course the elders that I respected and the professors at the religious universities I attended all equated the religious organization and hierarchy with God’s plan. Paul would beg to differ. I was taught well and learned to build religious organizations and lead others into the bondage of performance based religion.

Christian religions are very well organized. There are many denominations with varying doctrines. They each claim to have the best method to become

acceptable to God. But, according to Paul's gospel, it is God that has called us and made us acceptable to himself by way of Jesus Christ.

Religion is absorbed in qualifications and levels of achievement. What degrees do you have? Do you have valid credentials sanctioned by your denomination? Have you been duly appointed, licensed and ordained after successfully meeting the scholastic requirements of your hierarchical leadership? Have you metaphorically received the scepter of the clergy from the blessed leadership? This kind of inbred accreditation was equally common in the Jewish religion as it is in the Christian religion. These are apostles of men and by men.

What a world apart from the God-called son or daughter of God, with the spirit of Christ in them, manifesting the love of God while they carry out their God given ministry of reconciliation. These are apostles, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. Whose message do you carry?

Paul's letter to the believers in Galatia (and to us) is not a pleasant "hi-how-are-you" letter. It is a letter that asks the question: "Have-you-gone-mad?" Paul asks: "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (Gal 3:1) This letter to the young believers in the Roman colony of Galatia is the first New Testament document written. It is significant that the first written revelation from God to the early church comes out aggressively against religion. Yes that is right, religion.

Christianity is Christ in you, living in and through you, carrying out the Christly ministry of reconciliation. That is our calling, our life, our ministry. All who have the spirit of Christ are sons or daughters of God. Each has been graced with the power of Christ, with the authority of Christ, and the liberty of Christ. Man cannot give that to you. Only God has the ability and desire to bless us so. Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is the result of our being ransomed and set free from religion.

Actually the phrase "not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead" accurately describes every aspect of Christianity. We do not become a Christian because a church or other human organization bestows the title on us. Jesus said that we must be born again. No human has the authority or power to spiritually birth you. We were all born flesh and blood.

Jesus said flesh and blood can not enter the kingdom of God. To enter the kingdom of god or the spiritual realm we must be born again of God's spirit, his seed. As we are born the first time of our parent's seed, so we are born

spiritually of God's seed: God becomes our father eternally and Jesus becomes our brother and joint heir. Stop and think. Did you exert any effort in being conceived and born the first time? Why would think the second conception and birth is based on your effort? The bible states that it is by grace that we are saved, not of works lest any man should boast. Beware the man, woman, or organization that claims to have the authority to broker your salvation with God. They are blowing smoke up your.... well you know!

Religious representatives of human organizations abound. They are credentialed and sent by men to tell you that they can impart the power of God to you if you meet their conditions and follow their rules. To put it kindly, they are liars. They seek to ensnare you and entice you into bondage. God has called us into rest and hope in Christ. In stark contrast is religion: Which is not rest but is instead a struggle that takes us further away from God. Paul said in Gal 5:1: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

1 Paul, *an* apostle,
not of men, neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;

2 And all the **brethren**
which are with me,
unto the churches of Galatia:

In his letters Paul refers to his fellow believers as **brethren**. The King James word "**brethren**" is translated from the Greek word *adelphos* which literally means "of the same womb." It is a word that was used to describe one's siblings who were born of the same mother. It was also used in a broader sense to describe people of the same tribe or family. The connotation in this wider usage was of an equality and similarity with a reference to the unity of the group of people referred to.

In Matthew 23:8 Jesus says: "be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are **brethren**." We are brethren because we are of the same birth. We have all been born again with equality within the body of Christ. There is only one head. The rest of us are brethren. We are all one in Christ.

In the little letter to the Galatians Paul uses this word "brethren" eleven times. He is emphasizing our oneness in Christ, and our all being born into the family

of God. We all have Christ in us (Col 1:27). God has made us sit together in Christ in the heavenlies. We are one: Brethren.

Paul identifies the Judaizers as “false brethren.” “False brethren” is the Greek word *pseudadelphos* which means one who only pretends to be a family member: Fake, counterfeit, bogus, false, not real. In chapter two verse four Paul says: “...because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily [stealthily] to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage.”

“Privily to spy out our liberty” is a good description of the methods of the devil. Once you recognize the methods of our enemy it is easy to see the pattern of evil running through the performance based religious movement. By the end of the first century the Judaizers and their law based organized religion had proliferated. The next two centuries saw the spread of power hungry religions that stole, killed and destroyed (John 10:10) to gain and maintain control. The mystery gospel of grace that Paul was sent to proclaim almost ceased to exist. But God is faithful. God has always had a remnant. The truth of the Gospel is still available to all that believe and are willing to study and rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Gal 5:1).

1 Paul, *an* apostle, not of men,
neither by man,
but by Jesus Christ,
and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead;

2 And all the brethren
which are with me,
unto the churches of Galatia:

Since the second century A.D. there has been an ongoing controversy among so called “Christian scholars” concerning the time that this letter was written and the area it was written to. The confusion began when the “early church fathers” of the second and third century assumed that the area called **Galatia** was the same in their day as it was in Paul’s. They of course were ignorant of the changing of political borders in the area we now call Turkey. The history of the area is interesting and different than you would expect.

The letter of Galatians was written by Paul in A.D 49 from Antioch of Syria after the first missionary journey. The new believers in the Galatian area had been visited by emissaries sent out by the Jerusalem church question the veracity of the gospel that Paul's had taught them. Among other things the Judaizers claimed that Paul only taught part of the gospel and that they would have to become proselyte Jews and live under the law before they could be "real" believers. They also called into question Paul's validity to teach the gospel since he was not one of the original twelve.

The letter to the believers in Galatia answers the charges of the Judaizers. This letter is the first New Testament document written. It lays the firm foundation of the gospel of grace that was taught by Paul under the power of Christ. This is God's introduction course in the Christian life. Galatians is the beginner's class that leads to the ultimate in revelation to us: The book of Ephesians.

Galatia was a melting pot of cultures, religions and people. The word "Galatians" refers to "Gaul-peoples," or "the persons of Gaul." Celtic people had settled in the area now known as France by the sixth or seventh century B.C. They came to be known as the Gauls (Latin: *Galli*), and the territory they inhabited was designated as Gaul (Latin: *Gallia*), although some referred to the region as Galatia.

In the third century (approximately 280 B.C.) the armies of Gaul invaded Rome. The Romans were able to divide the Gaul armies and push them back. Most were pushed back up into Europe but a smaller contingent was pushed east out into the area that is now Turkey. These Gallic invaders stayed in the north-central part of Asia Minor (aka Anatolia) south of the Black Sea. The area is now known as the nation of Turkey. (See map 1)



Map 1 278 BC to 25 BC

Being a warrior people, they conquered the locals of that region and established their own independent kingdom. In 64 B.C. the Romans defeated these Galatians. The Galatian kingdom was managed by Rome as a minor kingdom under the jurisdiction of Rome, but allowed to maintain their own king.

When the king of the Galatian minor kingdom died in 25 B.C., the Romans changed Galatia into a province of the empire. They extended the borders down to the Mediterranean Sea (see map 2). This province was called Galatia. The vast majority of the people living in the southern part of Galatia were slaves that worked in agriculture, construction and mining. Very few could read or write. They were surrounded by pagan religions and superstitions. Disease and poverty was prolific. Life expectancy was less than 40 for women and about 45 for men. It was to these people in this Roman province that Paul evangelized and wrote the letter we know as Galatians. God truly is no respecter of persons.



Map 2 Roman Province of Galatia at the time of Paul's visits

Later in 137 A.D. a portion of the Galatian province was removed and added to Cilicia. Another portion was removed and added to Pisidia in the third century. This left only the original Galatian region identified as the Roman province of Galatia (see map 3). Christian commentators of the second and third centuries A.D. mistakenly identified the recipients of Paul's letter to the Galatians as residents of the northern area. Based upon their misunderstanding the time of Paul's writing was thought to be late in his life. This misunderstanding became the prevailing Christian interpretation for many centuries thereby minimizing the significance of the revelation of the book of Galatians.

The book of Galatians was the first New Testament document written. The issues that are addressed in this book are of utmost importance to every believer

from the day it was written until the return of Christ. At issue is the very nature of who we are in Christ. The question is, are we a continuation of the law driven Jewish religion or have we been born into a new race, created in Christ: Called to walk and stand in the liberty and freedom of God's grace?



Map 3 After 137 AD

3 Grace be to you and peace
from God the Father,
and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 Who gave himself for our sins,
that he might deliver us
from this present evil world,
according to the will of God and our Father:

5 To whom be glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

In verse four the word “deliver” is Strong’s # 1807 exaireō which literally means to “tear out.” He gave himself for our sins so that He could tear us out of the grasp of this evil world. The King James says that we are **delivered “from” the present evil world** but the word “from” is actually the little Greek preposition *ek* which means “out of.” The original statement is much stronger than the English. He gave himself so he could tear us out of the present age that is evil.

This tearing out of the present evil world system is not a future pie-in-the-sky promise but a real, right now reality. Religion would have you believe that this delivery is just a future possibility that can be progressively realized as we suppress our behavioral urges. Paul's very strongly placed statement is that we have been delivered from the devil's power at a definitive point in time: It is past tense. It has already been accomplished in the completed work of Christ. Our evidence of the deliverance is "Christ in us." (Col 1:27) God has "made us to sit in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph 2:6) In Christ we have been lifted up out of, and above, the diabolic dominion of the Evil One who presides over "this present evil age." We have been "saved from this perverse generation"(Acts 2:40).

There are two overlapping dominions during our time period. Two opposing world orders or ages overlap on a chronological time line. The rule of Satan, which has raged since the fall of Adam continues in the physical world. This evil world is the one that Jesus, in the flesh fulfilled each and every requirement to redeem his people from the malevolent clutches of the devil.

On the day of Pentecost with the coming of the 'life-giving Spirit," (1 Cor 15:45) a new heavenly race came into being and a new age began. The two ages or world-orders overlap and exist at the same time. The raging cosmic conflict between the satanic and divine spiritual beings is no longer about the final outcome. Although the end has been determined, the devil and his fallen angels continue to destroy, steal, disrupt, confuse, and kill all they can.

One of the most effective weapons Satan has in this time period is performance based religion. Performance based religion places the focus on the flesh, self achievement and sin. Although we are still physically in this evil world, we are no longer a slave to sin (Rom 6:16-18). Satan is overjoyed when we focus on self (Eph. 2:2). However we do have the choice to renew our minds and not surrender to the almost irresistible ideologies and methodologies of the present age. Since we "have been torn out of this present evil age," we don't have to "be conformed to this world, but can be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we might prove what the will of God is" (Rom. 12:2).

Religion is the devil's favorite snare. This letter was written because religion had reared its ugly head and was ravaging the new believers in Galatia. The Judaizers who were pursuing Paul were bent on casting the spell of religion over every new believer they could find. In another letter Paul depict these religious troublemakers as: "false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness." (II Cor. 11:13-15).

These religious workers are servants of Satan who were and continue to advocating performance of the Law as a counterfeit way of deliverance from the evil age. Paul declares law based religion to be “worthless” (Gal. 4:9) and hostile to the gospel of Christ.

The concentrated effort to squelch the gospel of Christ did not go away. Sixteen years after the writing of Galatians, Paul wrote to Titus concerning the same religious assault:

“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.” Tit 1:10-11

Those “of the circumcision” are the people “sent from James” to subvert the gospel of grace and bring believers under the Jewish law. Paul continues in Titus: “Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Tit 1:14 -16

In the last chapter of Titus Paul reminds us that: “...we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Tit 3:3-7

And then there is the witness of Peter who toward the end of his life had come to understand Paul's gospel of grace warns of false prophets and teachers: “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.” 2Pe 2:1-3

These words, though written two centuries ago are very timely and real in our time. Performance based religion thrashes through the present world like a crocodile in a pig pen. The “modern” prophetic movement is a mixture of eastern mysticism, pagan cultism with a thin bible veneer. Guided imagery,

hypnotism, and all the methods of the devil are mixed together to attract and hold the fleshly desires of the unwitting. This is not a new movement but is indeed the present face of the ever recycling works of the flesh.

Modern religion plops out of the same mold that religion has always fallen out of: Self worship. Performance based (law-based) religion is always about self: Self denial, self achievement, self control, self flagellation, self promotion, self power, self worth, self righteousness, self, self. It's all about what I have to do to gain God's favor so He will endow ME with power, ME with value, ME with recognition, ME with humility, ME with sincerity! In great contrast to the fleshly lusts and works of the law, Peter tells us:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 2Pe 1:2-9

We are partakers of the divine nature because we have Christ in us. The law never had the power to make anyone a son or daughter of God. Under the law the best hope was to be a servant of God. Peter says that those following the law are blind and have forgotten that Christ cleaned them completely of their sins. God has placed Christ in us, our only hope of glory (Col 1:27). God has granted His grace and peace to us by way of and in our Lord Jesus Christ. To God goes all the glory, honor and praise for ever and ever.

6 I marvel that ye are so soon **removed**
from him that called you
into the grace of Christ
unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another;
but there be some that trouble you,
and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

The word **removed** is translated from the Greek word G3346 *metatithemi*. It is a combination word made up of *tithemi* which means “to place” and the preposition *meta*. *Meta* means “with or against.” In this case it means “placed against.” In this usage Paul is saying that he marvels that some of the Galatians had placed their believing against God who had called them into the grace of Christ. According to verse seven they had been “troubled” or agitated by those that pervert the gospel. They had been convinced by the Judaizers that to be a real Christian you had to become a Jew first.

Fortunately we are sheltered in Christ as we have the seed of God within us. We were born into God’s family and our changing opinions do not preclude our birth right. If you think about it, your opinions have been ever changing since the moment you were born again. Our opinions change as we learn and grow in the word. The process of renewing our mind is a life long endeavor. As we learn what the Bible really says our mind begins to be transformed instead of being conformed to the revolving worldly opinions.

I Marvel: As a parent it is easy to understand the anguish Paul felt. As parents, we conceive, and birth our children, swaddle, feed, cloth, teach and nurture them. We teach them how to act and what is appropriate. We love them, guide them and coach them. But if at some point they are seduced by a movement, a political cause, a boy or a girl and suddenly you see them being led astray. You see them living in complete opposition to what you know is right. It breaks your heart! You wonder how they could be so foolish!

This is what happened in Galatia. Paul and his coworkers loved, taught, coached and witnessed the spiritual birth of many in Galatia. They demonstrated and taught the new believers their freedom and authority in Christ. A close knit community of believers, newly delivered out of this present evil age were learning, loving and experiencing the power of Christ in them.

When Paul moved on to another area, the Judaizers came waltzing in and seduced the new believers. They used all the classic performance based religion tactics to lead the newly born brethren into thinking that they were deficient because they were not DOING the rituals and traditions of the Jewish law. They used guilt, envy, doubt, jealousy, self righteousness and other lies to stir up the believers and distorted the gospel.

In verse six and seven Paul declares that the performance based pseudo gospel that the Judaizers were spewing was not the true gospel. Paul continues and warns against any who bring any “gospel” other than the grace gospel of the mystery. In verse eight he writes:

8 But though we,
or an angel from heaven,
preach any **other gospel** unto you
than that which we have preached unto you,
let him be **accursed**.

9 As we said before,
so say I now again,
if any man preach any other gospel
unto you than that ye have received,
let him be **accursed**.

The word **gospel** is translated from the Greek word *euaggelion* G2098 which means “a good message.” We have filled the word “gospel” with religiosity. It simply means the good message. Most would tell you that there is only one gospel but Paul writes about “**another gospel**.” There are two gospels mentioned in the Bible.

The true gospel is the gospel of the mystery. Paul calls it “my gospel” in contrast to another gospel. The gospel that the Judaizers were teaching was the gospel of works, curses, sacrifice, hierarchy and pride: Hardly a good message. Paul’s gospel, the gospel of Christ that proclaims the grace of God through the completed work of Christ with forgiveness of sins and redemption is indeed very good news. Sadly, the “other gospel” proliferates and infects the majority of those who call themselves Christian.

For more information on the mystery gospel as revealed to Paul please see the e-book: *The Book Of Ephesians: Part Four, pp 21-26* at:

http://www.neilshouse.com/docs/Ephesians_e-book.pdf

The mp3 version is available at:

http://www.neilshouse.com/files/mystery_of_Paul.mp3

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unto you than that ye have received,
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The word **accursed** in verse eight and nine is Strong's G331 *anathema* which was in the first century Greek a word that meant "something offered to God. The King James translated the word accursed and perpetuated the false medieval concept of Christian curses. Paul is just saying that these people who bewitch and confuse must be turned over to God because God is the only one that can help them. Just turn them over to God and walk on in the simplicity of Christ in you with the hope of glory.

Quit listening to their net of enchantment. There comes a point of knowing (God will show you) when you are not going to influence them to see the true gospel. So you prayerfully give them to God and move on to those God would have you minister to. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Eph 5:16).

10 For do I now persuade men, or God?
or do I seek to please men?
for if I yet pleased men,
I should not be the servant of Christ.

11 But I certify you, brethren,
that the gospel which was preached of me
is not after man.

12 For I neither received it **of** man,
neither was I taught it,
but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The mystery of Christ in you the hope of glory (Col 1:27) which is the gospel of grace that Paul proclaimed was not the result of study, human logic or teaching. Paul did not set down with his scrolls and figure out the mystery gospel. The mystery gospel can not be found in the Old Testament. Paul says in Ephesians 3:9 that the mystery was hid in God "from the beginning of the world." No man knew about it which is why it is called the mystery. But God revealed it to Paul **by 'revelation.'** The Greek word is *apokalupsis* which is Strong's G602. It means disclosure, appearing, manifestation or revelation. Revelation is information received by way of the Spirit and not by way of the five senses. All who have Christ in them receive revelation. If God called you and you believed, you received revelation. It was by revelation that Paul wrote: Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
(Col 1:26-27)

But it's not a mystery now. It has been clearly revealed in the writings of Paul. Which brings up a vital question: Which gospel are you living and preaching? Is it the pseudo-gospel of performance and law that is used to bewitch, steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10)? Or can you truthfully proclaim that you are living and preaching the gospel of Christ; the mystery as it was revealed to Paul.

Paul continues to explain his background and how he, the most unlikely of people came to receive the revelation of the gospel of grace:

13 For ye have heard of my conversation
in time past in the Jews' religion,
how that beyond measure
**I persecuted the church of God,
and wasted it:**

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.

Can you imagine a man guilty of conspiracy to murder and the **murder of every Christian** he could find being chosen to be the architect of the church and the author of most of the New Testament? God in his infinite mercy and as a demonstration of the depth and breadth his grace, stopped Saul, a rampaging murderer in his tracks on the road to Damascus. The risen Lord of lords, the king of kings, reached to the bottom of the barrel to lift a man of sin and pride out of the pit into the heavens with him.

Speaking of living under the law: Paul said was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He kept the law in great specificity. In fact, he was following the law when he was stalking Christians: He was a zealot, a jihadist; a perfectionist. Yet the law did nothing for him just as it does nothing for those who try to keep it today. Paul tells us that in spite of living in the sin of the law, God called him by His grace. Grace can't be worked for. Grace can not be earned. God gives His grace freely. Look at verse fifteen:

15 But when it pleased God,
who separated me from my mother's womb,
and **called me by his grace,**

One would think that the story of Paul began in the book of Acts when he was met on the road to Damascus by the risen Lord. Almost like God ambushed him with grace. But the calling of Paul, just like each one of us has been in the works since before the beginning of time. My fellow believer called by God into the grace of Christ, do you see your calling?

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

In this verse Paul talks about "**seeing**" **our calling**. The word see is the Greek word *blepo*. It's Strong's number G991 which is a primary verb that literally means "to look at." Paul is saying to the believers in Corinthians and to us to look at our calling. So if we are going to look at our calling we need to know what Paul is talking out when he says "calling."

The word "calling" is a noun and is the subject of this sentence. One would think that the word calling would be used as a verb because calling in English is the present tense of called. For example I called Bob; or I am calling Bob is the word being used as a verb. But here it is used as a noun. A noun is the name of a person place or thing. Perhaps an easy way to make this clear is to read Ephesians chapter four verse one.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Notice the word vocation. It's the same Greek word translated calling. Vocation is actually a good translation because your calling is what you have been called to be. Please note that I did not say what you are called to do. For example if you are going to build a house you will want to hire a carpenter. A carpenter does carpentry. But a carpenter is a carpenter whether they are doing carpentry or not. Sawing a board and nailing it up does not make one a carpenter even though one may be doing a form of carpentry. Although there are many who dabble in carpentry not all are carpenters. Carpentry is a vocation.

Traditionally a person became a carpenter after much training by a master carpenter. The apprentice could not declare him or herself a carpenter. Only the master could declare an apprentice a carpenter. The same is true of our calling. Only the master can call us into our calling. Only after we are declared justified, sanctified and righteous by the grace of our master are we firm in our calling or vocation. Now that we have been called and installed into the calling we can begin to do the work of the calling.

Conversely, there are those who dabble in the Christian religion but may or not be Christian. Doing a ritual or wearing a robe does not make one a Christian. No amount of religious work can make one holy. You must be declared holy by the master before you can begin to do holy work. What we do as believers is a result of who we are in Christ.

Let's go back to 1Co 1:26: Look at the first phrase in verse 26: "For ye see your calling, brethren." This is an awesome statement that reveals a central truth. If you miss this basic truth, you will be subject to the falsehoods that are perpetuated throughout Christendom. This small statement disproves the very foundation of organized performance based religion.

"For ye see your calling, brethren:" Calling is the only singular word in this sentence. Ye is you plural, referring to all the Corinthian believers and oh by the way, every believer that has ever read this: Plural as in, many believers are included in this little word ye. The word brethren is obviously plural and the word your in the Greek is plural and even the action verb see is plural in the Greek. Only the word calling is singular. Many believers who are brethren; each seeing or literally looking at a singular calling, that they have all been called into. There is only one calling.

There is only one calling: One and only one vocation. None are special, but are brethren. None are different, none are better than another. They are all brethren, equal in the calling: One and only one. Jesus said there is only one master and we are all brethren.

We have all been called into the same calling. Our calling is into Christ at the right hand of God. Our calling is to allow Christ to live in and through us. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Philippians Chapter three verse fourteen calls our calling "the high calling."

Paul writes: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phi 3:14 Please notice the word "the." We tend to be sloppy in our use of language but the Greek language was very specific. The definite article "the" identifies it's subject as distinct from all others. In other words Paul is saying that there is only one high calling. It is one of a kind. There is no other.

In Hebrews, the author refers to our calling as the heavenly calling, and our profession: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Heb 3:1

We are brethren, sharers in the one heavenly vocation. We all have been called into the one holy heavenly profession, the one and only heavenly high calling.

We are partakers. Literally we are sharers or partners in the one calling that is heavenly.

Now let's look at Second Timothy Chapter One starting in verse seven:

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Paul makes it abundantly plain in verse 9 here that we were not called into our holy calling because of what we have done. We did not earn the right to be called sons and daughters of God. He called us because of his own purpose and grace.

Look at your calling! We should look at our calling and understand that we have been called into a high and holy calling, a heavenly calling. We should be aware that it was not the mighty, not the powerful and famous that were called; but He called us.

Why did God pick and call us into his holy and high vocation? Because he loves us. He choose us before the foundation of the world by his mercy and grace in Christ Jesus our lord. Our hope is built on nothing less than Christ. In of our own self we are hopeless. But we have been called into the holy calling, placed in Christ, and given the greatest gift that the universe will ever know: Christ in us.

Look with me quickly at Ephesians chapter one: Have you ever wished that you could be prayed for by someone like Paul? Well, you have been. Here it is: In this passage Paul is praying for the Ephesians believers and you and I that our understanding will be enlightened and that we will know the hope of His calling. Lets start in verse 15:

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Verse 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling ...

You see, Paul was praying that we would understand that we have been called into the same calling as he was and that we have the same Christ in us as he does. If you have Christ in you ... how much Christ did you get? Either you have Christ in you or you don't. Look at your calling! Each one of us has been called into the holy calling, His calling. We have His profession, His vocation, His calling: His Calling is the one and only calling.

Have you ever wondered about the lasting effect of prayer? Paul's prayer is still in effect after 2,000 years. Do you suppose that his prayer is effectual? He prayed for you by revelation that you would be enlightened in your understanding of the hope that comes out of His calling.

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye (plural) are called in one hope of your calling;

There is one hope. No other. None. We tend to put our hope in the stock market, money, jobs, cars, houses other people, wives, husbands: But there is only one hope. Colossians Chapter one verse 27 identifies the hope succinctly: "It's Christ in you, the hope of glory."

There is one body: It is the body of Christ. There are not many bodies divided over men's doctrines. All who have Christ in them are a part of the one body of Christ. There is one Spirit: It is the spirit of Christ. The circus rages on, with folks running from meeting to meeting, false prophet to false prophet looking for a new and better anointing. There is only one. Christ in you. Look at your calling! Paul prayed that you would be enlightened to the hope of your calling in Christ. Some would have you believe that the spirit is doled out one dropper full at a time.

Denominational doctrine would have you running to the soda jerk at the church on the corner to get your weekly scoop of spirit. We received the gift of Spirit according to the measure of Christ. (Eph 4:7) How big is that scoop? It's big enough! Our calling, our vocation is Christ in us, the one and only hope of glory.

Let's go back to where we began in first Corinthians and read the context of the verse we started with. We will start reading in verse 17: It's always good to understand the context of verse to see the full meaning of what you are reading.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (preach: G2097 *euaggelizō* to announce good news)

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
(preaching: G3056 *logos*)

1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? (age) hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
(*kosmos*)

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world (*kosmos*) by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (foolishness: G3472 *moria* silliness, that is, absurdity)

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

The church is made up of those called. (*invited*) If you have accepted the invitation you have been called OUT of the *kosmos* and into the body of Christ. Christ in you, the hope of glory is your power, wisdom, purification, justification and payment in full of your ransom. You have been set free from sin and death. You are a free son of God in Christ.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

1Co 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world (*kosmos*) to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world (*kosmos*) to confound the things which are mighty;

1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, (*kosmos*) and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, (Which is our calling) who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (of: G1537 *ek, ex* out of)

1Co 1:31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Look at your calling! Do you see the high and holy calling that God has called you into? We are brethren, sharers in the one heavenly vocation. We all have

been called into the one holy, heavenly profession, the one and only heavenly high calling. We are partakers, sharers, partners with Christ in the one calling that is heavenly.

I pray the eyes of our understanding be enlightened; and that we may know that we know that we know what is the hope of his calling. It's Christ in you, the hope of glory.

13 For ye have heard of my conversation
in time past in the Jews' religion,
how that beyond measure
I persecuted the church of God,
and wasted it:

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.

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:

Please note that the text in verse 16 says that it pleased God to reveal his Son IN Paul not through Paul. Paul specifically tells us in Col 1:27 that the mystery is: Christ in you. Think about it: Religion talks a lot about Jesus. You can run rings around Jesus and dance on his book and never get to know Jesus. Just as history teaches about Genghis Chan and George Washington, it is common to teach about Jesus as a historical figure that started a religion.

Christianity is not a religion and Jesus did not start a religion. Men started a religion based on the teachings of Jesus. Jesus however came to set us free from the curse of religion and reconcile us to God. Christianity is Christ in you. God revealed Christ IN Paul. Where ever Paul went Christ was there. God reveals Christ IN us. Where ever we go Christ is there revealing himself in us. The ministry of reconciliation that we have been called into is the ministry of Christ: in us. We are witnesses of the glory of Christ in us.

17 **Neither went I up to Jerusalem**

to them which were apostles before me;
but I went into **Arabia**,
and returned again unto Damascus.

Paul is saying: “Don’t associate me with the Judaizers from Jerusalem!” My gospel didn’t come out of human wisdom nor was I taught it by any man. My gospel came straight from Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. The mystery gospel of grace was given to Paul by revelation. We don’t know how long Paul stayed in Arabia. But after Arabia he spent three years in Damascus teaching the grace gospel of Christ. **Paul’s gospel did not originate with the other “apostles” in Jerusalem.**

God’s grace flowed mightily in and through Paul in Damascus; the guy who a few years earlier was headed to Damascus to kill and destroy the Christians in accordance with the law. As Paul later wrote to Titus: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Tit 3:5-7

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.

Most theologies and writers perpetuate the idea that Paul spent 3 years in Arabia but we really don’t know how long the Arabia period was. We do know that when he left Arabia he returned to Damascus and spent 3 years there. The history and time line provided by Paul here in this letter is given as part of the logical evidence to support the validity of his gospel.

Biblically, Paul offers the account of Abraham who lived four centuries before the laws of Moses were etched into stone on Mt. Sinai. In addition, the believers of Galatia were witnesses to the power of God flowing in manifestation

through Paul confirming his proclamation of the good news. Manifestation and fruit of the Spirit had also been present in their lives. Paul brings to remembrance their beginning and birth into the heavenly family completely absent of the law.

Paul's history as a young zealous Pharisee is the perfect example the curse of the law and the works of the flesh at work in a man. Self righteousness was supreme. The religion of law was the overlord and traditions the whip wielding task master. There is no room for deviation or compassion: Comply or die. The absolute peak of Paul's law based religious carrier was to achieve command of the Sanhedrin's frenzy to kill all the believers of Jesus Christ.

But God, in his infinite mercy called Paul (and us) by his grace by the faith of Christ Jesus and paid our ransom and rescued us from the curse of the law. He then gave Paul the "blueprints" for how we should live and walk in this new life.

God is always the instigator of reconciliation. The flesh and blood human does not have the capacity. God chose Abraham and Abraham chose to believe. Because Abraham believed, God cut a covenant of blood with him. A covenant of blood is unbreakable and can not be broken. In the covenant God promised Abraham that his seed would bless all nations. Jesus is that promised seed. The law was temporary until the seed came. He has come and has consummated the promise. We each have the promised seed in us and are part of the fulfillment of that promise. That is why Paul says to stand fast in the liberty of Christ in us. And for goodness sake! Don't go back to the curse.

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.

Galatians Chapter Two

- 1 Then fourteen years after
I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas,
and took **Titus** with me also.
- 2 And I went up **by revelation**,
and communicated unto them
that gospel which I preach
among the Gentiles,
but privately to them
which were of reputation,
lest by any means I should run,
or had run, in vain.
- 3 But neither **Titus**,
who was with me,
being a Greek,
was compelled to be circumcised:
- 4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in,
who came in privily to spy out **our liberty**
which we have in Christ Jesus,
that they might bring us into bondage:

The word “Christian” was dubbed by early critics of believers due to their irritating practice of going on about having Christ in them. Having Christ in you (Col 1:27) and being in Christ is the very essence of the mystery gospel. In Christ and Christ in are two of the key concepts that Paul hammers home in his writings.

Religion defines itself with lists of doctrines, customs and traditions. Every sect, denomination, cult and coven has a list of doctrines that define their identities. Their lists are always cross referenced with scripture and quotes from those they consider to be “church fathers.” However there is only one requirement for being a believer: If God has raised you up from the dead and made you sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:6) then you are born of God’s seed and part of the family of God. God’s seed is Christ. If we are born again, we have Christ (God’s promised seed) in us. We are in Christ because God selected us and placed us in Christ at His own right hand in heaven. God also put Christ in us (Col 1:27).

In this little letter Paul uses the phrase “**in Christ**” 6 times along with other references of Christ with the phrase: “in him.” The phrase “in Christ” is used 74 times in Paul’s letters. The first letter of Peter uses the phrase only twice and Luke only once in the Book of Acts. The reality of being in Christ is a distinct, significant and vital component of the gospel (good news) of Christ that God revealed through Paul for our time period.

In Christ, we are all the children of God by faith (Gal 3:26), and that faith is not of ourselves it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8). In Christ we are all one: A new race, a new clan, a new family where old designations no longer matter as we no longer Jew, Greek, Italian, and so on but instead we are one in the family of God: One in Christ. In Christ there is no (.. gasp!) advantage or distinction of male nor female (Gal 3:28) because we are all one in Christ. Social standing is of no consequence in the body of Christ because we are all brethren in Christ. Every Joint supplies.

In Christ we **are free** (Gal 5:1) and there is no condemnation (Rom 8:1) because Christ Jesus took all our condemnation upon himself and became the curse for us. We are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Rom 3:24). All who are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written: “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them” (Gal 3:10). But praise God: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us (Gal 3:13). Instead of the curse, God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ (Eph 1:3).

More on “Christ in you” and “In Christ” can be found in the downloadable e-book: *Christ in You, You in Christ, Our Only Hope of Glory* by Neil Tolman at the following link: http://www.neilshouse.com/docs/in_Christ_in.pdf
The accompanying seven mp3 audio files can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.neilshouse.com/Christinyou.html>

4 And that because of **false brethren**
unawares brought in,
who came in privily
to spy out our liberty
which we have in Christ Jesus,
that they might bring us into bondage:

5 To whom we gave place by subjection,
no, not for an hour;
that the truth of the gospel
might continue with you.

6 But of these who **seemed to be somewhat**,
(whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me:
God accepteth no man's person:)
for they who **seemed**
to be somewhat in conference
added nothing to me:

In second Corinthians chapter eleven verse twenty six Paul list “perils from **“false brethren”** as one of the many methods that the devil used to try to stop the good news of the mystery of Christ in you the hope of glory. False brethren, *pseudadelphos*, Strong’s #G5569, is a combination word made up of two Greek words. The first is *pseudes* which means: untrue, erroneous, deceitful, wicked, or fake. The second word is *adelphos* which means “of the same womb.” (See chapter one verse two.)

True brethren by definition are those of us who are “of the same womb” that is born of the same seed. The promised seed is Christ. Those of us who have Christ in us and are in Christ are the true brethren. False brethren are those that were of the religious law based Jerusalem group that pretend to believe so they could infiltrate the fellowships of believers and bring them into bondage of the law. The Judaizers were sent from Jerusalem by James, one of those that Paul said “seemed to be somewhat.” But notice Paul is quick to point out that God accepts no man’s person or in other words, “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34)

James the eldest brother of Jesus by Jewish tradition assumed the leadership of Jesus’ ministry when Jesus ascended into heaven and was gone. Never mind that he was a Pharisee zealous for the law. You will notice further down in verse 12 that those of the “circumcision” or those that were followers of the laws and traditions were “come from James.” Peter was afraid of them because they would report him to James the pseudo-head of the church in Jerusalem. An abusive hierarchy assumed control of the Jerusalem believers almost immediately after Jesus left. These Judaizers dogged Paul for the rest of his life trying to discredit him and stamp out the freedom of the gospel of the mystery.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”
2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For more on Abusive Leadership please see the articles and mp3 audio files at:
http://www.neilshouse.com/abusive_leadership.html

6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat,
(whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me:
God accepteth no man's person:)
for they who seemed
to be somewhat in conference
added nothing to me:

One of the most blatant and persistent lies that performance based and law based religion perpetuates is that God is partial. It is inferred that God has conferred a special anointing on a few. We've all heard people claim to have a "special" anointing. They write books, hold conferences, spout false prophecies, and spread their pox among the unwary. The idea is that you need to go to them if you want something from God. The whole of organized performance based religion is based on this lie. Jesus taught that He is the one head of the body and we are all brethren. Every believer is exhorted to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Tim 2:15) and no person or organization has a right to set themselves up as the reigning authority or gate keeper of the truth.

God accepteth no man's person. When we are born into God's family we all receive the same seed. The promised seed is Christ. We all get the very same anointing. We get the anointing of Christ in us. There is no better anointing and it is the only anointing God gives.

Yet the religious movements are rife with hierarchies of leaders that claim to be ordained with special anointings, authority and rights to rule over others. Most denominations limit certain activities to only the clergy. In the body of Christ we are all royal priests. But, because of blatant disregard for the gospel of Christ, there is an acute pandemic of prophetic spewrey infecting the church. But this is nothing new:

Peter was shocked to discover that God is no respecter of persons in Acts 10:34 when the heathen Cornelius and his household received the same anointing that he and the other apostles received on the day of Pentecost. The fact that God is not a respecter of persons ran completely counter to the Jewish traditions. The Hebrew religion had a distinct priesthood with a hierarch of duties. There was a distinct separation of the people and only priests could do priestly work.

When Jesus died the curtain in the holy of holies was ripped apart from the top down and the holy of holies was exposed for all to see and access. This is

significant because religion and the fleshly priesthood was rendered unnecessary. Still the Jewish Christians perpetuated the organization and priestly function in the church. Thus was born organized performance and law based religion. This religion is the virus that has spread for two thousand years.

The gospel of grace by faith; the gospel of the body of Christ that was given to Paul is about Christ in you and not a religion. Since it was God that called each of us and He made each of us to sit in the heavenlies in Christ, we all have free access to God. Any who claim to have special access are liars and thieves. We are all brethren.

For more information concerning this subject please see:

One Master at: http://www.neilshouse.com/one_master.html

Prophetic Movement, at: http://www.neilshouse.com/prophetic_movement.html

7 But **contrariwise**,
when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision
was committed unto me,
as the gospel of the circumcision
was unto Peter;

8 (For he that wrought effectually
in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision,
the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

9 And when James, Cephas, and John,
who seemed to be pillars,
perceived the grace that was given unto me,
they gave to me and Barnabas
the right hands of fellowship;
that we should go unto the heathen,
and they unto the circumcision.

10 Only they would
that we should remember the poor;
the same which I also was forward to do.

Contrariwise or in spite of the false brethren's testimony and the sentiment of James and the other Judaizers they could not openly disprove the gospel given to Paul because of the evidential power of God attached to it. So they gave them the go ahead and agreed that Paul and Barnabas should go to the non-Jews and

Peter would continue to evangelize the Jews. They did not want Paul corrupting the Jewish believers with the grace gospel.

Of course they still wanted the heathen to send support Which Paul agreed to do since the Jerusalem area was experiencing a famine.

In spite of the agreement that Peter would go to the Jews and Paul would go to the heathen, Peter did come to Antioch and while there was confronted by Paul for supporting the Judaizers:

11 But when Peter was come to Antioch,
I withstood him to the face,
because he was to be blamed.

12 For before that certain came from James,
he did eat with the Gentiles:
but when they were come,
he withdrew and separated himself,
fearing them
which were of the circumcision.

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him;
insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away
with their dissimulation.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly
according to the truth of the gospel,
I said unto Peter
before them all,

The words spoken to Peter:

If thou, being a Jew,
livest after the manner of Gentiles,
and not as do the Jews,
why compellest thou
the Gentiles
to live as do the Jews?

15 **We** [Paul and Peter] who are Jews by nature,
and not sinners of the Gentiles,

16 Knowing that a man is not justified G1344 dikaioO to render just or innocent
by the works of the law,
but by the faith of Jesus Christ,
even **we** [Paul and Peter] have believed
in Jesus Christ,
that we might be justified
by the faith of Christ,
and not by the works of the law:
for by the works of the law
shall no flesh
be justified.

17 But if, while **we** [Paul and Peter] seek
to be justified by Christ,
we ourselves also are found sinners,
is therefore Christ the minister of sin?
God forbid.

18 For if I build again the things
which I destroyed,
I make myself a transgressor.

19 For I through the law
am dead to the law,
that I might live unto God.

20 I am crucified with Christ:
nevertheless I live; yet not I,
but **Christ liveth in me:** (Col1:27 ..it's Christ in you, the hope of glory)
and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by [in] the faith
of the Son of God, (genitive case)
who loved me,
and gave himself for me.

But Christ liveth in me: Is Christ living in you? Do you go to church because you hope to find “the presence of God” there? Or, do you have Christ in you. Do you invite God to show up to hear your prayers and accept your worship? Or, do you have Christ in you? Do you secretly worry that God doesn't hear and accept your prayers? Or do you have Christ in you? If you have Christ in you, the presence of God is always with you and your prayers are interceded by Christ in you. Do you see the difference? One is performance based religion; the other is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God:
for if righteousness come by the law,
then Christ is dead in vain.

We can be sure that **Peter** did eventually come to believe the gospel of grace and recognize that Paul was teaching the true gospel. Late in his life Peter wrote: "...even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16

Those that are "unlearned and unstable" are the Judaizers of that day. The words of Peter still ring true today. The Judaizers of today still twist the scriptures to avoid the gospel of the mystery. Without the law the great religious ministries of today and history would be rendered powerless and exposed as fraudulent. But if the law is still in effect, then as Paul just said in verse 21: "**Christ is dead in vain.**"

Galatians Chapter Three

1 O foolish Galatians,
who hath bewitched you,
that ye should not obey the truth,
before whose eyes
Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth,
crucified among you?

2 This only would I learn of you,
Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law,
or by the hearing of faith?

3 Are ye so foolish?
having begun in the Spirit,
are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain?
if it be yet in vain.

5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit,
and worketh miracles among you,
doeth he it by the works of the law,
or by the hearing of faith?

After spending two chapters establishing the intentions and false motivation of the Judaizers, Paul now turns to the Galatians and zeros in on the question at hand: **Have you really allowed these devilish demerits to bewitch you?** Were you not born into God's family by grace through faith? Were you not placed in Christ in the heavens? Have you not experienced the manifestation of Christ in you? Why then would you think that you NOW have to go back to the bondage of traditions and laws that no one can keep? Have you gone mad?

Paul goes even further and states that the law based performance gospel is bewitchment: "**Oh foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you..?**" The inspired words of the original letter were chosen with great specificity so the Galatian recipients would get the full impact of the message. The word translated "bewitchment" is Strong's G940, *baskainō* which means to malign and to fascinate by false representation. Bewitch is a good translation. Just like a cobra raises its head and spreads its hood to mesmerize its rodent prey, religion is ever stalking, waiting "by the slight of men and cunning craftiness" to deceive. (Eph 4:14) To "fascinate by false representation," *baskainō*, was the word used by early Greek writers to describe the pagan curse of the "evil eye."

Paul's charge of *baskainō* has been minimized, downplayed and translated to the point that it is mostly ignored. However as believers who study to rightly divide the Word of Truth, we must carefully weigh the gravity of evil in performance based, law driven religion.

Oh foolish Galatians: The word foolish comes from the Greek word *anoētos* (G453) which means unintelligent. Although not "politically correct," Paul is asking: Are you stupid? We have not been called to be foolish but instead to walk in the wisdom of Christ. He has abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence. (Eph 1:8).

Paul said to the Corinthian believers: "When I came to you, I came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, but I came declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of

man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (1 Cor 2:1-6)

Paul was confident that God would draw those that should hear the word of God and knew that some would believe. He walked in the Spirit going where God directed him to go and said the things God gave him to say. Paul did not spend a lot of time spouting philosophy or trying to impress people with his oratory. His confidence was in the Spirit of Christ that was within him.

Paul tells us: “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Cor 2:12-14)

The natural man is not capable of receiving from the Spirit of God. In his lust for power, natural man builds religions and consorts with the elemental spirits of Satan. The result is fleshly sensual religion designed with hypnotic imagery, lustful passions and self righteousness. There is always a hierarchy for the exercise of fleshly control. A labyrinth of laws and traditions always separate the controlled from the controllers. In Galatia the Judaizers were pedaling the Jewish traditions and laws.

When the law is mentioned the common response is the Ten Commandments but there are actually 613 old covenant commandments. Even if you wanted to you could not keep them all. And as the Bible tells us if you are guilty of one you are guilty of all. That is why Jesus came to complete, fulfill and end the law. Those who are of the works of the law are under the curse. Paul uses the example of Abraham to illustrate the inadequacy of the law in contrast to the blessing of faith:

**6 Even as Abraham believed God,
and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith,
the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture,
foreseeing that God would justify
the heathen through [ek – out of] faith,
preached before the gospel
unto Abraham, saying,
In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith
are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**10 For as many as are of the works of the law
are under the curse:**

for it is written,
cursed is every one that continueth not
in all things which are written
in the book of the law to do them.

Never mind any blessing: Just to keep the devourer away (Mal 3) you would be required to perfectly keep all 613 commandments. **If you are trying to live under the law**, tell me, do you know all 613 laws? For instance one of the commandments is to never forget what Amalek did. Um .. Do you remember what Amalek did? And to move on to the next law, have you killed any of Amalek's decedents? If not then you are deep into the curse. Fortunately Jesus Christ "blotted out (erased) the handwriting of ordinances, (the law) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. (Col 2:14) Paul continues in verse 11:

11 But that no man is justified by the law
in the sight of God,
it is evident: for,
the just shall live by faith.

12 And the law is not of faith:
but, The man that doeth them
shall live in them.

It doesn't get more direct than this: No man is justified, that is no man is made innocent by the law because the law is not of faith. Let that thought sink in for a moment: **The law is not of faith.** And worse still, according to Romans 14:23, "what ever is not of faith is sin." Should I say that again? Here: "**What ever is not of faith is sin.**" The law is not of faith therefore it is sin. Oh my! But it gets still worse. The law is a curse. Look at verse 13:

13 **Christ hath redeemed us
from the curse of the law,**
being made a curse for us:
for it is written,
Cursed is every one
that hangeth on a tree:

The curse of the law: Doesn't that have a nice ring to it. It's something every parent wants their children to grow up in. "Hi let me introduce my cursed son and daughter. We've taught them to live in guilt and shame. We are so proud of them because they share the curse with us. We live under the law."

Does redemption mean anything to you that desire to live under the law? There is no redemption in the law. There is no justification, blessing or hope: Only curses. But praise God **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.** He redeemed us: Redeemed is the Greek word *G1805 exagorazo* that means "to ransom." A ransom is the price paid to free a prisoner. Are you a prisoner of the law? Are you relying on your good works to connect with God? It is futile. Redemption is only in Christ. Ephesians tells us: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his (God's) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

13 Christ hath **redeemed**
us from the **curse of the law,**
being made a curse for us:
for it is written,
Cursed is every one
that hangeth on a tree:

14 That the **blessing of Abraham**
might come on [eis – into] the Gentiles
through [en – in] **Jesus Christ;**
that we might receive **the promise**
of the Spirit **through faith.**

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men;
Though it be but a man's covenant,
yet if it be confirmed,
no man disannulleth,
or addeth thereto.

16 **Now to Abraham and his seed
were the promises made.
He saith not,
And to seeds, as of many;
but as of one,
And to thy seed,
which is Christ.**

Christ is the promised seed but the Jews assumed that the promise to Abraham's seed was to them as the physical descendants. They took great pride in tracing their lineage back to "father" Abraham. But Paul sets the record straight by rightly dividing the Hebrew word translated in Genesis as "seed" as singular and not plural as "seeds." What a difference it makes. Bondage or freedom, grace by faith or works, blessing or curse; the turning of just one word changes everything. For generations and generations the lie was taught as the truth.

The wrath of the religious comes upon those who break the traditions with the simple truth of the word. Yet, do we dare comply with the traditions of man or do we live in the simplicity and power of Christ? The difference is astounding: Are we redeemed or under a curse? Are we complete or not yet complete? Are we God's beloved sons and daughters or are we yet slaves to Satan? In this life we reap what we sow. No man can serve two masters.

17 And this I say,
that the covenant,
that was confirmed before of God in [eis-into] Christ,
**the law, which was
four hundred and thirty years after,
cannot disannul,**
that it should make **the promise**
of none effect.

18 **For if the inheritance be of the law,
it is no more of promise:
but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**

19 Wherefore then serveth the law?
It was added because of transgressions,
till [until] the seed should come
to whom the promise was made;
and it was ordained by angels
in the hand of a mediator.

Four hundred and thirty years after God's covenant of the promised seed with Abraham, **the law was added until the seed should come**. The law was never meant to be a permanent fixture. It was temporary until the seed came. The law could not give eternal life. Only the promised seed would be able to accomplish, complete and rub out the law. Jesus "blotted out (erased) the handwriting of ordinances, (the law) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. (Col 2:14) We are no longer under the law. We should always refer to the law in the past tense because what the law could not do is accomplished in the promise in the faith of Jesus Christ:

20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one,
but God is one.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God?
God forbid:
for if there had been a law given
which could have given life,
verily righteousness should have been
by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin,
that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ
might be given to them that believe.

23 But **before faith came**,
we were kept under the law,
shut up unto the faith
which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster
to bring us **unto** Christ,
that we might be justified by faith.

25 But **after** that faith is come,
we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

To understand the "**school master**" example that Paul uses here we have to understand the culture of the first century. The school master was not a teacher but a family slave that made sure the child got to school. The Greek word for slave and child is the same. The child was of little value until they were old enough to contribute to the family enterprise.

The streets were exceedingly dangerous. A child alone could easily be stolen and sold into slavery or abused and killed. History is full of the horrendous abuse of children in those cultures. The school master was a slave that was assigned to protect and guide the child until they came of age. The birth of a child was a promise and hope for the future. But the child had to survive the hostile environment until the fullness of time came when they could carry on the family seed. Once the child comes of age, the school master's job is done.

To Abraham the promise of the seed was given. But while they waited for the fullness of time, the law (the school master) guided and moved Israel along through a hostile world. But when the fullness of time came, Christ the seed came into fruition. The school master (the law) was no longer needed. The seed has redeemed (rescued) us from the school master. If you have been called and born of God by the faith of Jesus Christ, you are not under the law.

26 For ye are all the children of God
by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized
into Christ have **put on** [to sink into] Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither bond nor free,
there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
(The original and only legitimate liberation movement.)

29 And if ye be Christ's,
then are ye Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians Chapter Four

1 Now I say,
That the heir,
as long as he is a child,
differeth nothing from a servant,
though he be lord of all;

2 But is under tutors and governors
until the time appointed of the father.

- 3 Even so we,
when we were children,
were in **bondage**
under the elements of the world:
- 4 But when the fulness of the time was come,
God sent forth his Son,
made of a woman,
made under the law,
- 5 To **redeem** them that were under the law,
that we might receive the adoption of sons.
- 6 And because ye are sons,
God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son
into your hearts,
crying, Abba, Father.
- 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant,
but a son; and if a son,
then an heir of God through Christ.
- 8 Howbeit then,
when ye knew not God,
ye did service unto them
which by nature are no gods.
- 9 But now, after that ye have known God,
or rather are known of God,
how turn ye again
to the **weak and beggarly elements,**
whereunto ye desire again to be in **bondage?**
- 10 Ye observe days,
and months, and times, and years.
- 11 I am afraid of you,
lest I have bestowed
upon you labour in vain.

So now the question remains. If God retired the school master, who is it that is pushing the law? As you read Paul's writings you will notice the reference to the "**elements of the world**" and similar terms. The Greek word **stoicheion** G4747 is simply translated as "elements" in the King James but the word carries a huge cultural and religious connotation. The elements are the principalities and powers, the rulers of darkness that are under the rule of Satan. For a more detailed study of the *stoicheia* please see the e-book: *Colossians, as taught by Neil Tolman* http://www.neilshouse.com/docs/colossians_ebook.pdf

The gravity of the **curse of the law** and the implications of living under the law can not be fully realized without understanding the powers that rule the physical realm until the return of Christ. These are not things the Judaizers would like you to know. When Paul writes about "bondage" he is not using it in a figurative way. He is talking about real spiritual bondage with debilitating effects in the physical realm.

12 Brethren, I beseech you,
 be as I am;
 for I am as ye are:
 ye have not injured me at all.

13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh
 I preached the gospel
 unto you
 at the first.

14 And my temptation
 which was in my flesh
 ye despised not,
 nor rejected;
 but received me as an angel of God,
 even as Christ Jesus.

15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of?
 for I bear you record,
 that, if it had been possible,
 ye would have plucked out your own eyes,
 and have given them to me.

16 Am I therefore become your enemy,
 because I tell you the truth?

- 17 They zealously affect you,
but not well;
yea, they would exclude you,
that ye might affect them.
- 18 But it is good to be zealously affected
always in a good thing,
and not only when I am present with you.
- 19 My little children,
of whom I travail in birth
again until Christ be formed in you,
- 20 I desire to be present with you now,
and to change my voice;
for I stand in doubt of you.
- 21 Tell me,
**ye that desire to be under the law,
do ye not hear the law?**
- 22 For it is written,
that **Abraham had two sons**,
the one by a bondmaid,
the other by a freewoman.
- 23 But he who was of the bondwoman
was born after the flesh;
but he of the freewoman
was by promise.

The **allegory of Abraham's two sons** must be understood in light of the Old Testament accounts and the political/geographical setting in the first century. The political balance of that area has changed many times since this writing and if we read the politics of the Middle East into this passage we will be confused.

Paul tells us the two sons can be seen as an allegory for the two covenants: The first covenant is of promise, faith, **freedom**, prosperity, blessing and Spirit. The other is a covenant made in the flesh, toil, bondage, desolation and curses. Remember, the law is not of faith and is referred to as a curse.

The point here is that because we have Christ in us (the promised seed) we are not in bondage to the covenant of law. But we need to be aware that “as then he who was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit.” Paul says: “Even so it is now.”

24 Which things are an allegory:

for these are the two covenants;
the one from the mount Sinai,
which gendereth to bondage,
which is Agar.

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia,
and answereth to Jerusalem which now is,
and is in bondage with her children.

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free,
which is the mother of us all.

27 For it is written,

Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not;
break forth and cry,
thou that travailest not:
for the desolate
hath many more children
than she which hath an husband.

28 Now **we, brethren,**

as Isaac was,
are the children of promise.

29 **But as then**

he that was born after the flesh
persecuted him that was born after the Spirit,
even so it is now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture?

Cast out the bondwoman and her son:
for the son of the bondwoman
shall not be heir
with the son of the freewoman.

31 So then, brethren,
we are not children of the bondwoman,
but of the free.

Galatians Chapter Five

**1 Stand fast therefore
in the liberty
wherewith Christ
hath made us free,
and be not entangled again
with the yoke of bondage.**

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you,
that if ye be circumcised,
Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again
to every man that is circumcised,
that he is a debtor
to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you,
whosoever of you are justified by the law;
ye are fallen from grace.

The renewed mind is the key to living by faith. How miserable we become when we desperately try to live by laws, traditions, denominational lists and taboos. In the last chapter (6:7) of this little letter you will read that we reap what we sow. When we try to live under the law we reap a thorny crop because we are not living in the faith of Christ. As a son or daughter of God we have Christ in us and Ephesians 1:3 tells us we have all spiritual blessings. Everything is about our believing. (faith) The “all spiritual blessings” that we possess are accessed by believing. Do you believe for the law to save you? The “all spiritual blessings” become of no effect to you because they lay dormant waiting for you to step out in the faith of Christ in you.

In Romans 12:2, Paul writes: “... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” A life that has the evidence of the perfect will of God is only possible by living in the faith of Christ in you. The

flesh can not be forced to be holy. It is not possible by the force of our will. It is only possible by the transformation that occurs as we renew our minds to Christ in us, the hope of glory. More about the renewed mind can be found at:
<http://www.neilshouse.com/renewed.html>

5 For we through the Spirit
wait for the hope of righteousness
by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ
neither circumcision availeth any thing,
nor uncircumcision;
but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well;
who did hinder you
that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion
cometh not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven
leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you
through the Lord,
that ye will be none otherwise minded:
but he that troubleth you
shall bear his judgment,
whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren,
if I yet preach circumcision,
why do I yet suffer persecution?
then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off
which trouble you.

13 For, brethren,
ye have been called unto **liberty**;
only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh,
but by love
serve one another.

14 **For all the law is fulfilled in one word,
even in this;
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**
(See 6:2)

Here Paul is quoting Jesus. If you remember, the Pharisees and other law-happy religious folks harassed Jesus continually because he did not follow the law in the way they thought he should. This quote is how Jesus answered the trick question of which of the laws of Moses were greater. “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Mat 22:37 -40

If we are walking in the Spirit of Christ there will be a flowing of love and praise for God our Father and our fellow man in all parts of our lives. It is not a performance or obligation as it was under the law but a supernatural part of who we are because of Christ in us. We are God's bountiful harvest that blossomed in Christ once the law was fulfilled. Christ in us was not possible until the curse of the law was removed. God's seed, the seed promised to Abraham has come into fruition in Christ in us.

When we do not renew our minds we walk in the lust of the flesh and reap the results. We have all experienced the performance of piety. On the surface it has the appearance of holiness but the reality is selfishness and fear of being exposed as a fraud. The show of generosity that is at its core a way to feed the ego is a work of the flesh that was acceptable under the law because it was about appearances and performance. Christ, the fulfillment of the law lives in and through us therefore we are not under the law.

15 But if ye bite and devour
one another,
take heed
that ye be not consumed
one of another.

16 This I say then,
Walk in the Spirit,
and ye shall not fulfil
the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh:
and these are contrary
the one to the other:
so that ye cannot
do the things that ye would.

**18 But if ye be led
of the Spirit,
ye are not under the law.**

19 Now the **works of the flesh**
are manifest,
which are these;
Adultery, fornication, uncleanness,
lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations,
wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,
and such like:
of the which I tell you before,
as I have also told you in time past,
that they which do such things
shall not inherit
the kingdom of God.

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit**
is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance:
against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's
have crucified the flesh
with the affections and lusts.

The original letter was inspired by God. The individual words were chosen with great specificity to ensure an accurate message to the original recipients. Today we tend to use words in a very sloppy and random way. The words of the Bible are not random but carry a minutely specific message. We must discover what the words meant to the original recipients if we are going to understand the Word of God as it was originally given. Otherwise we just get someone's opinion that is skewed by misunderstanding.

It was **not by accident that Paul used the two words, works and fruit to contrast the flesh and Spirit.** You of course understand that the law falls under the category of flesh because it is about work, effort and rituals. **The law is not of faith.** That statement is not opinion or conjecture because the Bible clearly states in Gal 3:12 that "the law is not of faith. The bible also clearly states in Romans 14:23 that anything not of faith is sin. That leaves the Law in the category of beggarly element and other fleshly traditions.

The word "work in verse 19 is *ergon* G2041 and it literally means toil. The word "fruit" in verse 22 is the Greek word *karpos* G2590 which literally means fruit and is used to mean "the result." Apples are a result or fruit of an apple tree. Tomatoes are the fruit of tomato plants. Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit. Joy is not a work of the flesh. How many times have you been told to "put on" joy? Any thing you "put on" that resembles joy is a sham because joy is the result or fruit of manifestation of the spirit. You can't just pick it up and put it on. Joy flows out of you as you walk and live in the spirit of Christ in you.

25 If we live in the Spirit,
let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory,
provoking one another,
envying one another.

Galatians Chapter Six

1 Brethren,
if a man be overtaken in a fault,
ye which are spiritual,
restore such an one
in the spirit of meekness;
considering thyself,
lest thou also be tempted.

**2 Bear ye one another's burdens,
and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

(See 5:14)

The “**law of Christ.**” Here is one of the little phases that the modern Judaizers point to prove we are still under the law. Obviously if you have read the book of Galatians up to this point you know that the Jewish laws and traditions have no value in our redemption, justification, sanctification or glorification. Paul is taking to people who already have Christ in them and are in Christ in the heavenlies. This is an instruction on how to love one another. We are to lift one another’s heavy weights, literally and figuratively. We are to “be there” for one another. When I am down you pick me up, when you are down I lift you up. The principle or law here is the admonition to “love God and love one another” that Jesus articulated. This statement has nothing to do with the Jewish laws, the traditions of men or the curses that go with them.

3 For if a man think himself to be something,
when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

4 But let every man prove his own work,
and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone,
and not in another.

**5 For every man
shall bear
his own burden.**

Verse two and five seem at first to be a contradiction but there are two different Greek words used that are translated “**burden and burdens.**” In verse two the word “burdens” is translated from the Greek word *baros* G922 that literally means “going down.” It is used here figuratively to indicate a load that is weighing you down. We are told to *bastazo* that load for one another. *Bastazo* literally means to removal or to lift off.

In verse five on the other hand the word “burden” is translated from the Greek word *phortion* G5413 which means an “invoice for freight.” The upshot is (as Paul tells us in verse seven) that we reap what we sow. We can come along side and encourage, comfort and build up one another but we each are responsible for our believing and actions. Although our final destination is assured and we have all the authority of Christ in us we can choose to walk in the flesh. Walking in the flesh reaps rotten or corrupt results. Manifestation of the Spirit produces fruit of the spirit. Our believing and renewal of our mind determines the crop.

6 Let him that is taught in the word
communicate unto him that teacheth
in all good things.

7 Be not deceived;
God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh
shall of the flesh reap corruption;
but he that soweth to the Spirit
shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing:
for in due season we shall reap,
if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity,
let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them
who are of the household of faith.

11 Ye see how large a letter
I have written unto you
with mine own hand.

12 As many as desire
to make a fair shew in the flesh,
they constrain you to be circumcised;
only lest they should suffer persecution
for the cross of Christ.

13 For neither they themselves
who are circumcised
keep the law;
but desire to have you circumcised,
that they may glory in your flesh.

**Here in one verse is the true summary of the letter to the Galatians:
Those who push for you to live under the law do not and can not keep
the law themselves. Their motivation is selfish. Religion is always
all about self glory.**

14 But God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whom the world is crucified unto me,
and I unto the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus
neither circumcision availeth any thing,
nor uncircumcision,
but a new creature.

16 And as many as walk according to this rule,
peace be on them,
and mercy,
and upon the Israel of God.

17 From henceforth let no man trouble me:
for I bear in my body
the marks of the Lord Jesus.

18 Brethren,
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit.
Amen.