

GALATIANS CHAPT 2 HANDOUT

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT was God's promise to Abraham Gen 12:1-3 God didn't choose a nation, He chose a man. Then God's grace was bestowed on what will be a specially selected lineage; to become God's very own. "God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession" Deut 7:6 and eventually, to all the earth. (all of us not yet chosen). (SEE: GALATIANS Chapt 2 HOW COVENANTS WERE MADE attach - 1 and GALATIANS Chapt 2 COVENANTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT attach - 2)

COMMANDMENTS are not Mosaic works/laws but God's moral code. It is *commanded* so in a sense it they are law, but they transcend that simple description. Commandments are repeated in the New Testament, contrary to current progressive cultural changes saying otherwise. (GALATIANS Chapt 2 **COMMANDMENTS STILL REMAIN; Jesus and the Apostles - attach 3**)

"WORKS" AND "LAWS" mentioned by Paul, were *edicts*. God gave them to Moses and we call them Mosaic laws. These refine how to carry out their end of the Covenant. The difference is one is a category of thou shalts and the other is the thou shalt nots.

(Of 613 laws, 365 are prohibitions and 248 are positive injunctions, according to Maimonides (a medieval Jewish religion scholar who has wielded great influence in Jewish philosophy even today. He wrote *Mishneh Torah*, a 14-volume compendium of Jewish law.)

God's intention is to segregate his chosen people from the surrounding cultural filth with these laws. God would teach and judge their: self-control, patience, trust and faith in, and obedience to Him. 'Do this to see your Covenant fulfilled'. (We'll see those test scores later.)

Being Jewish was/is an entire way of life, with Mosaic laws governing specific things to be required, avoided, practiced, performed, etc. For this reason, these edicts were numerous and quite varied in what each addressed. (SEE: GALATIANS Chapt 2 FINDING THE 613 LAWS in the Old Testament - attach 4) See for yourself what it took to remain in God's good grace.

But, in their sandals, they didn't know how or when the Covenant promises will kick in. Over time some lost patience or faith or trust at different times. They allowed themselves to try an alternate route from the roadmap of works and laws. Trusting in one's own ability to keep the Law is a reliance on the "flesh" and an attempting to establish one's "own righteousness" Rom 10:3, Ephe 2:8-9, Philip 3:3-9 <--(my personal fav), Col 2:20-23 <--('nother great), 1 Cor 13:1-3, Rom 3:20-30 <--tell it, Paul, tell the truth and shame the devil, Rom 4:1-7 <--what say you now, Judiazers?!, Rom 9:31-32, Acts 13:39 <--are you getting it now, Judiazers?!, Rom 8:3 <--killin' it now, Bro, Rom 9:16, Rom 11:6, Grand finale --> 2 Tim 1:9, Titus 3:4-5, Heb 6:1-2, James 2:10-11, Rom 3:20, Lk 18:9-14, Matt 5:20 (small explosion!), Psalm 49:7-8, Psalm 127:1-2, Is 64:6, Ezek 7:19

Remember when mom said, "That was wrong, now apologize to your brother" and you didn't really feel sorry but mouthed the word only because you had to follow mom's rules?

Take on circumcision and you take on ALL Mosaic Law. You won't keep to it. And you cannot pick and choose what is in it to keep. It's all or nothing! And for your failure in the laws, grace will be denied to you and you will lose salvation. The God of Abraham has shown YOU His mercy and granted YOU, all people, a grace but you are about to lose it.

Did God fail? No. The people did. However, merciful God, full of grace and forgiveness, sent Jesus to take all their sins into/unto Himself. So bad were sins, that He HAD to suffer that horrible, horrible torture, shame and death to equal them...to neutralize them. Everyone "died" with Jesus so that we'd be born again in Him, a fresh start, no penalties for the past. The debt was paid by Him in torn flesh and the blood and water flowing from His flesh.

NOTE: Peter, Simon and Cephas are the same one we call Peter.

Paul must show the Galatians that we are under the New Covenant. And watch how he leads them to understanding. These are a mostly Gentile nation, clueless of Jewish tradition, so they could be easily misled, and are as they trust the Jerusalem-sent Judiazers. I mean, they came from Jerusalem, right? Paul has to teach the Galatians enough Judaism to help them understand this why that teaching is wrong.

In Chapter 2, Paul begins by recounting going to Jerusalem and taking his missionary partners Barnabas (a Jew) Acts 4:36-37; 11:22, 25, 30; 12:25; 13:1-3; 15:2 and Titus (a Gentile) 2 Cor 2:13; 7:6, 13-15; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18 Gal 2:1, Acts 15:2 to meet with some powerful and respected people Gal 2:2 about why some are teaching circumcision Gal 2:4 particularly for Titus and **who Paul did not compel to be circumcised. Gal 2:3**

He tells them his gospel had not deviated from the previously “Jerusalem-approved” leaders Gal 1:7-10, See notes in Acts 15:6-12, 13-35

To the Galatians, **“They didn't send me, God did”**. Explaining how he had again argued with the “pillars” why circumcision isn't necessary and would, in fact, be detrimental. 'I've wasted my time if *they* were correct'.

These traitors to the Lord's teachings are insisting that Gentiles must become Jews before they can receive the Lord's blessing. Gal 2:4, Acts 15:1

The truth of the gospel, **THE true** gospel, in contrast not the bogus one of the fakers. Gal 2:5 and 1:6-9

In Gal 2:7-9 **Paul defends his apostleship to the Gentiles Gal 1:16, explaining that his teaching was recognized/approved** along with Peter's apostleship to the Jews. That all are aligned with exactly the same Word. **AND** the truth in proclaiming the gospel is without requiring circumcision or any Jewish law and **by a handshake**. Nothing was made of the apostles preaching to the Gentiles and didn't preclude Paul's preaching to the Jews, too. Rom 1:13-16, There were no restrictions on Peter in Gentile areas. 'Tell it to any/everyone'.

2:9 James and Peter and John: (see notes Gal 1:18, 19 on Peter and John as leaders in the Jerusalem church, Acts 3:1, Acts 8:14). James becomes the lead in Jerusalem after Peter leaves Acts 12:17.

2:10 The poor were Jerusalem Christians Rom 15:26. The collection was extremely important to Paul Rom 15:25-28; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8-9 as sign of the new brotherhood of love in Jesus.

In Jerusalem, Gal 2:3-7 decision was settled regarding the freedom of Gentile Christians from the Jewish law. Somehow the table fellowship between Jewish Christians, who were still keeping kosher laws created a problem for what to do with Gentile believers. When Peter first came to the racially mixed community of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Antioch Gal 2:12, this wasn't a problem. **Once the Jerusalem brigade comes to town, all of a sudden it becomes a problem. He and Barnabas drew back.** Because that display was public, it was incumbent on **Paul to publicly rebuke Peter for his failure in the gospel Gal 2:14.** Paul's rebuke and corrective reasoning: Gal 2:16, 21.

2:11 Peter was way out of line and “stood condemned,” **by his own self and that of Paul.** Breaking table fellowship was especially heinous if it involved eating the meal at the Lord's supper 1 Cor 11:17-25.

2:12 Some people came from James (leader of the Jerusalem church) and were strict Jewish Christians Acts 15:1, 5; 21:20-21, **either sent by James Gal 1:19; 2:9 or claiming to be.** “The

circumcised”, presumably Jewish Christians, not Jews.

2:13 Jewish Christians, like Barnabas, what hypocrisy!

2:14 Compel the Gentiles to live and follow Jewish practices Gal 2:3-5 or regulations about food Gal 2:12. right out of Mosaic Law.

2:15-21 It's critical to understand that after Paul's argument, whether to Peter at Antioch, that Galatians and other **believers were getting circumcisions Gal 6:12-13** and being **lured into other Jewish laws**. Remember, Gentiles don't know Jewish law and are trusting these folks straight out of Jerusalem (trained and sent by them, or simply infiltrators!) to teach Gentiles, and probably lay Jews, how to be Christians. And **those anxious to partake in The Grace will do whatever it takes to follow our Lord**. Paul continues to insist that salvation is by faith in Christ, not by works of the law. Just as he had said while preaching in Galatia. He taught that **Gospel concerns justification by faith Gal 2:16** in relation to sin Gal 2:17, law Gal 2:19, life in Christ Gal 2:19-20, and by the grace of God Gal 2:21.

2:16 No one will be justified Ps 143:2 is reflected.

2:17 In an incredible twist of logic, these evil advocates of lies Rom 15:8 would have Galatians believe that justification on the basis of faith in Christ makes Christ an accomplice to sinning Christians! Paul calls foul. Rom 6:1-4.

2:18 To go back to the law for salvation guarantees inevitable transgressions of it AND be an admission that it never should have been abandoned!

2:19 I died in this law. My sins were revealed, as the law intended to show. Rom 7:7-9 I suffered **spiritual death in the law Rom 7:7-9 until I saw that law does not justify Gal 6:2 but only belief in Gal 2:16; Ps 143:2 the “law of Christ” Gal 6:2** I was led to abandon the Mosaic law, the law which caused Christ to have to die to provide a way to salvation; through baptism into Christ, through which we all die (crucified with Christ) Rom 6:6.

Apostle Paul cited Gen 15:6 as evidence that Abraham was justified by faith rather than works Rom 4:1-3. Circumcision isn't what justified Abraham or made him righteous. His faith and obedience in and to God was. He was already a righteous/justified man to God. Remember that Abraham's was called by God to sacrifice his own beloved son, and would have! What faith! What obedience!

Paul tells the Galatians that circumcision came much later and was Abraham's confirmation of keeping the covenant.: “He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness granted by God for Abraham's faith while he was still uncircumcised” Rom. 4:11.

Sealed with flesh (as would be the future divine Covenant) was evidence of obedience to, and faith in, God and His promises to them.

Bear in mind what the treasure is that awaits the chosen people. In this covenant, Abraham and all his lineage, is beholden to abide by the works and laws developed to define what they could or could not do to hold up their end.

Circumcision was required for all in the lineage that followed as daily reminders. God promised Abraham offspring in the covenant. And God promised that one day He would send From Abraham would come *The Offspring* (The Messiah) and through whom He would bless all the families of the earth. Since the covenant promises offspring this may be why God put the mark of his covenant promises on Abraham's reproductive organ!

Circumcision is a prelude to the coming Christ's death, too. The bloody cutting away of the flesh pointed to a future event; Christ's bloody sacrifice, when His own flesh would be pierced and His blood spilled. Jesus was God's conclusion to the Old Covenant. All through Him. All for us. What greater love?

Judiazers claimed, "Hey, Paul forgot to tell you that you have to include Jewish practices. Here, start with circumcision". Paul hadn't said those things because they aren't true. Those works/laws were attached to the now satisfied (expired) Old Covenant.

Jesus removed the "yoke" of laws by his death. 'Don't put on the yoke! It's no longer necessary. This is not where salvation is found', Paul warns, because to follow old works/laws is to make the sacrifice by Jesus useless. He did NOT die for nothing, He died to complete the Old Covenant and to be the New Covenant.

People cannot justify themselves, but only by being united by faith in Jesus Christ and by accepting the grace won for them by Christ Rom 5:1-2. Justification is not won by following the Law, but people can only be made right with God and set free from a life of immorality by accepting God's reconciling grace as a free gift.

Baptism

The flow of His own blood and water spilled. This is why the covenant sign changes from the Old Covenant (physical circumcision) to the New Covenant (circumcision of our hearts). Baptism purifies us. But baptism is not a one and done sacrament for salvation.

Righteousness and justification is a continuous focus on faith and obedience (which we stumble over from time to time). However, we recover through the sacrament of reconciliation; confession, repentance, prayer and feast of the Eucharist.

How we we demonstrate to God our commitment to Him; love of and trust in Him by how we practice living. All believers are one with each other and Him. But all people are His children so we treat everyone with respect, kindness, love and forgiveness as He does us. AND we participate in the Sacraments...just as He does at every Mass. These are not the least of our demonstrations. We are charged with ensuring the coming generations know these things, too. This is a tall, tall order.

Numerous times in the Bible we see Him always with us as Our Father, asking little and even failing Him, He STILL LOVES, CARES FOR, AND IS WITH US. He waits our repentance, boundlessly forgiving with unimaginable grace and mercy. Second chances...and even the 2 millionth ones. A parent loves the child...regardless of how wayward, misguided, disrespectful, angry, destructive or mean. A parent loves and hopes for the best; over and over forever. This is Our Father, too! What a gift!

Not just for God's 1st chosen people, but to and for, us! No wonder Gentiles received Him with such gratitude and joy!

Robin's notes

GALATIANS Chapt 2 HOW COVENANTS WERE MADE - attach 1

GALATIANS Chapt 2 COVENANTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - attach 2

This is a list of only those covenants between man and God.

GALATIANS Chapt 2 COMMANDMENTS STILL REMAIN; Jesus and the Apostles - attach 3

This presents the arguments that Commandments are still in force. Many "religions" claim that the Old Testament is concluded and preach only from the New Testament. Wrongly, they preach that Commandments expired, too. "Faith is all one needs". You can now argue from a point of logic, knowledge and proof using New Testament scripture.

GALATIANS Chapt 2 FINDING THE 613 MOSAIC LAWS - attach 4