

Galatians 2:3-8

3-5. Yet **NOT** even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was **COMPELLED to be CIRCUMCISED**. But this occurred because of **FALSE BRETHREN secretly brought in** (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, **that they might BRING us INTO BONDAGE**), to whom **we did NOT yield SUBMISSION even for an hour**, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

- **Titus 1:4** "To _____, my true _____ in our common faith: grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior."
- **Acts 15:1-3** "And certain men came down from Judea and _____ the brethren, '_____ you are _____ according to the custom of _____, you cannot be _____.' Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension (argument) and _____ with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to _____, to the _____ and elders, about this question. So, being sent on their way by the _____, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the _____; and they caused great joy to all the brethren."
- **Acts 15:5-11** "But some of the _____ of the _____ who _____ rose up, saying, 'It is _____ to circumcise them, and to _____ them to _____ the _____ of _____.' So the _____ and elders came together to _____ this matter. And when there had been much dispute, _____ rose up and said to them: 'Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the _____ should _____ the _____ of the _____ and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, _____ their _____ by _____. Now therefore, why do you _____ God by putting a _____ on the neck of the _____ which neither our fathers nor we were able to _____? But we believe that through the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be _____ in the same manner as they.'"
- **Acts 15:24 & 28-29** "Since we have heard that some who went out from us have _____ you with words, _____ your _____, saying, 'You _____ be _____ and _____ the _____' - to whom we gave _____ such _____....." "For it seemed _____ to the _____, and to us, to lay upon you _____ greater _____ than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to _____, from [eating or drinking] blood, from things strangled, and from _____. If you keep yourselves from these, you will _____."

Definition: "To lay upon you NO greater BURDEN than these necessary things" - Were the early church leaders saying that **these were "necessary things" in order to be saved? No, absolutely NOT!** They were simply **making a few suggestions** (although fornication is a sin, so staying away from it would be more than a suggestion), and that was to avoid idols and anything offered to the idols, to not eat blood or animals that had been strangled. To avoid fornication (sexual immorality) is one of God's commandments, but even that is not necessary for salvation, as salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, and not dependant on our outward behavior. The early church leaders said, "If you keep yourselves from these, **you will do well.**" Notice, it says "do well", not "be saved." These church leaders and the early church in Jerusalem were people of Jewish background, and the eating of blood or animals that had been strangled, or things that had been offered to idols

were **particularly disgusting to the Jews**. These suggestions were more to keep the Gentile Christians from offending the Jewish Believers, because to do these things in front of a Jew would be horribly disgusting and offensive to them. **Read Romans Chapter 14 and I Corinthians Chapter 8** for more information on the topic of eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. We don't have time for a whole study on this subject, but to give a quick summary, there were some Believers from a Jewish background that still wanted to worship on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) and keep the dietary laws, but Paul said that should be between them and God. **Romans Chapter 14 says that you should not judge other Christians for what they eat or for what day they observe on which to worship God.**

- **Romans 14:13-20** "Therefore let us not _____ one another anymore, but rather resolve this, _____ to put a stumbling block, or a _____ to _____ in our _____ way. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is _____ unclean of _____; but to him who _____ anything to be _____, to him it is unclean. Yet if your _____ is grieved (hurt) because of your _____, you are no longer walking in _____. Do not destroy with your _____ the one for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the _____ of _____ is _____ food and drink, but _____ and _____ and _____ in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is _____ to _____ and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the _____ which _____ for _____ and the things by which one may _____ another. Do _____ destroy the _____ of _____ for the sake of _____. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who _____ with offense (is offended by it)."

Definition: "COMPELLED to be CIRCUMCISED" - Circumcision was the outward sign of the fact that the Israelites had a covenant with God. **Jesus brought in the New Covenant**, and the sign of circumcision for the Old Covenant was now obsolete. As Christians under **the New Covenant, we have two "outward signs" of our covenant with God: (1.) water baptism and (2.) the Lord's Supper (communion)**. Paul's argument here is that Titus, being a Gentile and not a Jew by birth, did not need the outward sign of circumcision that belonged to the Jews or nation of Israel.

- **Luke 22:20** "And in the same way He took the _____ after they had _____, saying, 'This _____ is the _____ in My _____, which is _____ for you.'"

Definition: "FALSE BROTHERS secretly brought in to BRING us INTO BONDAGE" - These false teachers were telling the Christians in Galatia that they must keep the Jewish laws of the Old Testament in order to be saved. Trying to keep the law in the Old Testament would only bring the believers in Christ into bondage (slavery). **The law was for a specific time period, from Moses until Christ came and paid for our sins on the cross.** Once Christ died and rose from the grave, the law was no longer needed. However, **these false teachers were very convincing**, and many of the believers were falling into their trap, and were putting themselves back into slavery under the Jewish law. When the question of keeping the law came up in the early days of the church, the apostles and church leaders in Jerusalem made a decision based on what the Holy Spirit had revealed to them. That decision was **"No, we do NOT need to keep the Jewish law**, whether it's keeping the Sabbath, or being circumcised, or keeping the dietary laws, **in order to be saved."**

- **Galatians 4:3 & 9** "Even so _____, when we were _____, were in _____ under the elements of the _____." (Verse 9) "But

- now after you have _____, or rather are known _____ God, how is it that you _____ again to the _____ and beggarly elements, to which you desire _____ to be in _____?"
- **Galatians 5:1** "Stand fast therefore in the _____ by which _____ has made us _____, and do not be entangled _____ with a yoke of _____."
 - **II Peter 2:1** "But there were also _____ prophets among the people, even as there will be _____ among you, who will _____ bring in _____ heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."
 - **Galatians 3:1** "Oh _____ Galatians! Who has bewitched you (tricked you) that you should _____ obey the _____, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?"

Definition: "We did NOT yield SUBMISSION even for an hour" - Paul didn't fall for their false teaching or claim to authority. Yes, we are commanded to be submissive to our church leaders (see I Peter 5:5), but Paul knew these men were some of the **"FALSE TEACHERS among you, who secretly bring in DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES"** (heresy means LIES and false teaching which is against God's word). He knew they were wrong, and **he did NOT give them any sign of respect or yield to their so-called authority.**

- **Matthew 7:15-17** "Beware of _____ prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous _____. You will know them by their _____. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every _____ tree bears _____ fruit, but a _____ tree bears _____ fruit."
- **Acts 20:28-31** "Therefore take _____ to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to _____ the _____ of God which He purchased with _____ own _____. For I know this, that after my departure savage _____ will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves _____ will rise up, _____ perverse (twisted) things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore _____, and remember that for three years I did not cease to _____ everyone night and day with tears."
- **I John 4:1** "Beloved, do _____ believe every spirit, but _____ the _____ to see whether they are from _____; because many _____ prophets have gone out into the _____."

6. But from those who seemed to be something - whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man - for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.

- **Ephesians 6:9** "And you, _____, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no _____ with Him."
- **Galatians 2:9** "And when _____, Cephas (Peter), and John, who _____ to be _____, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the _____ and they to the _____."
- **Acts 10:34** "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, 'In _____ I perceive that _____ shows _____ partiality.'"

Definition: "God shows PERSONAL FAVORITISM to NO MAN" - Personal favoritism means **partiality or preferring one person over another**, especially for worldly reasons. God does not do this, and we should not either. In the King James Version, it is called "respect of persons", and it means to judge someone by their

outward appearance, and **PREFER one type of person over another** for the wrong reasons; an unfair prejudice or bias. In the book of James, he was addressing the problem of rich and poor people in the church. He was telling the Christians not to prefer or like someone better just because they were rich and dressed in fancy clothes, or to neglect or treat someone unfairly just because they were poor and wearing raggedy clothes. Here in Galatians, it is more of a case of thinking someone was better than others **because he had a TITLE or reputation of some kind.**

- **Romans 2:11** "For there is no _____ with God."
- **Deuteronomy 1:17** "You shall show no _____ in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the _____; you shall not be _____ in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's....."
- **Proverbs 28:21** "To show _____ is _____, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress (sin)."
- **Colossians 3:25** "But he who does _____ will be repaid for the wrong which he has done, for there is no _____."
- **I Peter 1:17** "And if you call on the Father, who without _____ judges _____ to each one's _____....."

7-8. But on the contrary, when they saw that **the GOSPEL for the UNCIRCUMCISED had been committed to ME, as the GOSPEL for the CIRCUMCISED was to Peter** (for he who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),

- **Ephesians 3:1-4** "For this reason, I, _____, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you _____ ---- if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the _____ of _____ which was _____ to _____ for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words)"
- **Ephesians 3:6-8** "That the _____ should be fellow heirs, of the same _____, and partakers of _____ promise in _____ through the _____, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God _____ to me by the _____ working of His _____. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was _____, that I should _____ among the _____ the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Definition: "The GOSPEL for the UNCIRCUMCISED" - "Uncircumcision" was a term for the Gentiles" - non-Jews. "Circumcision" was a way of referring to the Jews, as circumcision was the "sign" of their covenant with God. **Paul was called by God specifically to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, the non-Jews.** God called Peter to preach mostly to the Jews.

- **Ephesians 2:11** "Therefore remember that _____, who were once _____ in the flesh -- who are called _____ by those who are _____ the _____, in the flesh, made by human hands."