

Outline of Galatians Chapters 1-2

Section 1

Greeting – Galatians 1:1-5

The Torah breakers – Galatians 1:6-10

The Messiah sends Shaul (Paul) to the Gentiles – Galatians 1:11-16a

Section 2

Events after Shaul's encounter with Yeshua – Galatians 1:16b-2:10

An encounter with the Torah breakers – Galatians 2:11-13

***Section 3 – This Section**

Don't live by extra laws and misapplied laws – Galatians 2:14-21

In section 1, we found out that Shaul (Paul) is a messenger for the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) and Shaul greets the Galatians with typical Jewish like prayer greetings. He immediately begins talking about the main purpose of the letter; the problem about changing the messianic message as to how it applies to the Gentiles. He talks about his encounter with Yeshua (Jesus) on the way to Damascus; Shaul receives revelation (information) from Yeshua. In Acts we find out that when Shaul was on his way to Damascus, Yeshua sends him to the Gentiles, "in order to turn them from darkness to light;" (see Acts 26:17-18 NKJV). Shaul identifies that as his purpose and it appears that his encounter and subsequent revelations from Yeshua are a catalyst for Shaul's work with the Gentiles.

In Section 2, Shaul is concerned about man-made rules that are putting stipulations on the Gentiles and perhaps even keeping the Gentiles outside the circle of believers in the Messiah. Shaul continues talking about Jewish issues concerning the messianic message to the Gentiles. He talks about the events leading up to a meeting with the leadership in Jerusalem about his outreach to the Gentiles. They give Shaul their blessing to go to the Gentiles.

Shaul (Paul) talks about an encounter with those who were adding extra stipulations on the Gentiles (about receiving the Messiah Yeshua). He shares how Kefa (Peter) and others reacted inappropriately when those adding laws to the Torah were present. Since these people were adding laws to the Torah, they were Torah breakers. Deuteronomy 4:2 CJB says (mitzvot means commandments), "In order to obey the mitzvot of ADONAI your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it."

This next section is an entirely Jewish type of argument. These arguments start by making some informative statements followed by a forceful finishing conclusion. He starts out on a relatively soft note and then concludes with some force. He concludes by implying to put to death these inappropriate extra laws and follow the Messiah the way they were supposed to.

The summaries at the end of each section **are not intended to be a translation**, but intended to integrate the correct understanding from the text. I used the New King James Version to study Galatians because I can see a corresponding English word translated from each Greek word used in the Greek text (the Greek text is made by consensus from manuscripts and then translated into English).¹ This allows me to find the

¹ Of course, the translators also readjust the word order as the Greek text does not translate exactly as the English translation. Also, they try to make for an easy word flow by substituting repetitive words in the Greek to give the translation a better feel.

ancient context which is immersed in a Jewish biblical context. **It could be helpful to follow along with the King James Version or the New King James Version.**

Here is a possible good way to use this resource:

Read the Explanation and Explanation Summaries (for example, Gal. 1:1-5)

Read the scriptures from the Bible for that part (for example, Gal. 1:1-5 ...)

Read the final Explanation Summary (in this case, Gal. 1:1 to 1:16a).

Answer the major points to remember (answers are provided).

Explanation

Don't live by extra laws and misapplied laws – Galatians 2:14-21

Galatians 2:14

Shaul responds to the behavior of Kefa (Peter) and others with a rational Jewish explanation (drash) and corrects them. We should understand that they were living like Gentiles not in the sense they were not keeping the Torah. They were living like Gentiles in the sense they were not keeping the myriad of misapplied laws and extra laws being practiced by other Jews at that time.

Yeshua said that some of these extra laws were absolutely wrong. Shaul said that excluding the Gentiles from believing in the Messiah is very wrong and they are cursed for adding these inappropriate extra laws to the Torah.

Are they going to ask the Gentiles to keep the misapplied laws (that they don't keep)? Remember, we need to keep applying the Jewish biblical and cultural context or we will not have the original intended meaning.

Galatians 2:15

They have not been born into a sinful community like the Gentiles have (so teach them to do what is right). Don't teach them to live by the extra laws and misapplied laws.

Galatians 2:16

Humans don't live justly only through the law, but by having faith in the Messiah Yeshua (The word justified means to live justly; some mistakenly believe they are just without actually living that way.). We have believed in the Messiah Yeshua so that we can live justly by faith in the Messiah and not just by following ritual. Also, we receive the Holy Spirit as our helper to follow God's commands. By law (without faith) no human can live justly. Just doing ritual without faith in God doesn't make us right with God.

Galatians 2:17

If we desire to live justly (again, justified means to actually live justly) by the Messiah and are not keeping the Torah, do we make the Messiah a service for sin. Certainly, we should not make following the Messiah an opportunity to sin (to not follow the Torah appropriately).

Galatians 2:18

If I build a faith filled with inappropriate interpretations of the Torah and extra laws, we become transgressors (As we can see, Shaul is going back to the Torah where it says not to add or subtract from God's laws; that is what is sinful. The Torah says, " In order to obey the mitzvot of ADONAI your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it;" Deuteronomy 4:2 CJB. Again, the word mitzvot means commandments).

Galatians 2:19

We died to these extra laws in order to follow God right and live for God (instead of just doing myriads of misapplied laws). We are to trust God and be faithful to Him by following His commands.

Galatians 2:20

The Messiah died on an execution stake and just like Him, I no longer live, but the Messiah lives in me through the Holy Spirit. I now live with faith toward God's Son (instead of doing endless laws that aren't applied right). He loved us and died (gave Himself) for us (So do the same thing to these misapplied laws! Put these laws that are added, subtracted, and misapplied to death.).

Galatians 2:21

Shaul does not set aside the favor (grace²) from God (through the Messiah). If living right (righteousness means to actually live right) comes from just believing in laws (without faith), then why did the Messiah bother coming (then the Messiah would have died for no purpose).

More About Understanding Galatians

Many believers in Yeshua think that the Bible says that the Old Testament portion laws are done away with and that anyone who does them are "legalistic." As we can see, that is not what Galatians is talking about. It is about the extra laws, the misapplied laws; adding to the Torah and subtracting from the Torah. Many modern-day believers in the Messiah fail to see what was going on at the time Galatians was written. Please put up with my repetition; it is necessary to understand Galatians the way it was supposed to be understood.

If you read the gospels, it is apparent that Yeshua was offended by the misapplication of the Torah. Just like Eve, there are people who add and subtract from the Torah. The ancient rabbis created thousands of laws. Some extra laws are helpful; some are just ritual and not laws from God; some are absolutely wrong. The Torah says it is not hard to keep the Torah, but the rabbis made it difficult to keep it and that is wrong. "For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach;" Deuteronomy 30:11 NKJV.

Tension was created by the misapplication of the law about the Gentiles being accepted as believers (from Exodus 34:14-16). The misapplication of the Bible was a problem for believers in the true God back then and misapplications and additions still cause problems today. My dad used to talk about the Jewish holidays and say some of his Jewish prayers, but he said that it was too hard to be Jewish. Also, I remember thinking about a certain Christian church years ago. I thought, 'Who would want to go there with all their strange laws.'

This is how some people feel in our time and it keeps them away from God instead of wanting God. Deuteronomy 4:6 CJB says, "Therefore, observe them; and follow them; for then all peoples will see you as having wisdom and understanding. When they hear of all these laws, they will say, 'This great nation is surely a wise and understanding people.'" God's commandments are supposed to be a light to the world, but because people add and subtract inappropriately from God's commandments, they are Torah breakers and they are not the lights they are supposed to be.

² Grace should always mean the favor of God towards man throughout all the ages. Some think God's grace only came with the Messiah. That is not true. For example, God showed grace to Noah (Genesis 6:8). Israel experienced God's grace (Exodus 34:8).

Only God should be the authority in our lives. Rabbis and Bible teachers should also be subject to God's authority when understanding the scriptures that came from God. Commentaries written by believers in the Jewish Messiah Yeshua or commentaries written by Rabbis are just commentaries. Commentaries like the Mishna and Talmud can be helpful, but they are just commentaries and not scriptures that came from God. There were people back in Shaul's time that were Torah breakers and trying to make Jews and Gentiles follow extra and misapplied laws. We are to obey God's commands. We are to live in trusting faithfulness today and follow God just as Yeshua the Messiah did; He is our example. Yochanan (John) said about Yeshua, "A person who claims to be continuing in union with him ought to conduct his life the way he did;" 1 John 2:6 CJB.

Final Summary of this section

This is not a translation, but I have integrated the Jewish biblical understanding with the translation to help us understand what is going on.

We want the original intended meaning of the scriptures.

Final Summary of Galatians 2:14-2:21

2:14 Shaul saw them acting incorrectly regarding the messianic message and corrected Kefa (Peter) and everyone there. He tells them that they are not like the Torah breakers that add extra inappropriate laws (they weren't living like the Jews that add these extra laws). Are they going to make the Gentile believers adhere to these inappropriate laws (and teach the Gentiles to live as these Jews and not live right)?

2:15 We have not been born into a sinful community like the Gentiles have (so teach them to do what is right).

2:16 Humans don't live justly (justified means to actually live justly) only through law, but by also by having faith in the Messiah Yeshua. We live justly by faith in the Messiah and not just by following ritual (by works). By law (ritual) without faith (in God and the Messiah), no human can live justly before God.

2:17 If we want to live justly through the Messiah, we should keep the Torah correctly and not live by extra inappropriate laws. Do we want to teach others to sin? Certainly, we should not do this. We should not make believing in the Messiah an opportunity for sin (instead, follow the Torah appropriately).

2:18 If we build a faith filled with inappropriate interpretations of the Torah and extra laws, we become transgressors.

2:19 We died to these extra inappropriate laws in order to (actually) live for God (instead of doing man-made laws). We are to trust God and be faithful to Him by following His commands.

2:20 The Messiah died on an execution stake and just like Him, I no longer live, but the Messiah lives in me through the Holy Spirit. I now live with faith toward God's Son (instead of doing endless laws that aren't applied right). He loved us and died (gave Himself) for us (So do the same thing to these misapplied laws! Put these laws that are added, subtracted, and misapplied to death.).

2:21 Shaul does not set aside the favor (grace given to mankind) from God (through the Messiah). If living right (again, righteousness means to live right) comes from just believing in laws (without faith), then why did the Messiah bother coming (then the Messiah would have died for no purpose).

How to find the major points

What were the Jewish issues?

Is there just one issue or several issues?

How are they explained?

Is there a change in the issue or how the issue(s) are explained?

Major Points to Remember from this Section

What type of argument is Shaul using to address the situation with the Torah breakers?

Shaul uses a typical Jewish argument with a strong final point (sometimes called pilpul).³

Our actions also require faith in God. True or false.

True.

Are they going to ask the Gentiles to keep the misapplied laws?

No.

We died to the extra laws misapplied laws to follow God correctly. True or false.

True.

What are we to do with inappropriate laws that are added to the Torah?

Put them to death.

Why did the Messiah bother coming if we are just doing laws without faith and still following extra inappropriate laws?

Yeshua came to set us free from sin and also from incorrect applications of the Torah. "The truth will set you free," John 8:32 NKJV. – 'Why did the Messiah bother coming' is the strong final point of this pilpul.

Why is Shaul talking about inappropriate man-made laws?

Because Torah breakers were applying the Torah wrong and making up inappropriate laws for the Gentiles that could keep them from believing in the Messiah Yeshua.

What is the main issue?

It is about Gentiles being treated right and being accepted in the messianic Jewish Community.

* A strong sub-issue in this section is the teaching of the Messiah about not following man-made laws; specifically, those that aren't applied right. Yeshua quotes Isaiah and says, " Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines;" Matthew 15:9 CJB (see Isaiah 29:13).

* Another sub-issue is practicing laws without faith in God. That was also a problem back then.

The whole purpose for the first 2 chapters of Galatians is concerned with what?

The Gentiles being accepted and allowed to believe in the Messiah Yeshua.

³ Pilpul is a typical Jewish argument that starts with a number of minor points and ends with a strong point.