

Christ Set Us Free:
A Study through the Book of Galatians
Crucified with Christ: So Live Like It! Galatians 2:17-21

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

NLT of these verses, helpful for our understanding of these arguments by Paul

Galatians 2:13-14 When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, “Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?”

Galatians 2:15-16 “You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

Galatians 2:17 “But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not!”

If Judaizers are right, then Christ set us up to be sinners.

Christ, through His dramatic death and resurrection, turned our attention away from the Mosaic Law as a means of righteousness and as a path of living. If the Law is still the means of righteousness or the standard of living, then Christ distracted us from that.

If the Law is still in place as a means of right standing before God or as the standard for ethical and moral living, then Christ has led us into sin by leading us away from the Law.

Galatians 2:18-19 “Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.”

Christ isn’t the one leading people to sin. Rather, anyone rebuilding the old system of the Mosaic Law would be the one leading people to sin.

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The law can never make spiritually dead people alive.

“God doesn’t just throw a life preserver to a drowning person. He goes to the bottom of the sea, and pulls a corpse from the bottom of the sea, takes them up on the bank, breathes life into them and makes them alive.” Spurgeon

No help to go the cemetery today and read from the bible to all of those buried there.

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What do we do with statements in the Old Testament that extol the greatness of the Mosaic Law?

Psalms 119:97 O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

I Corinthians 2:1-2 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Colossians 3:1-3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

Psalms 119:44 So I will keep Your law continually, forever and ever.

Psalms 119:174 I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight.

What about Sabbath?

Matthew 12:5-8 “Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here...For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Hebrews 4:1-3 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest

What about Passover?

I Corinthians 5:7-8 For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

What about Yom Kippur?

Matthew 27:50-51 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

Hebrews 13:12-14 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

What about the rest of the Mosaic Law?

Romans 10:2-4 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

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