



# **MESSIANIC STUDIES IN GALATIANS**

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*Based on a syllabus by Dr. Michael Rydelnik*

**(OUTLINE WITH ANSWERS)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**A. The Author**

**B. The Date**

**C. The Recipients**

**D. Prerequisites to understanding Galatians**

**1. The difference between the Abrahamic & Mosaic Covenants**

**2. The difference between Jews & Gentiles**

**E. The Issue: Messianic Freedom vs. Legalistic Bondage – Galatians 1:6-10**

**1. The importance of Faith**

a. It is CRUCIAL

b. It is EASILY CORRUPTED

## 2. The Challenge to Salvation by Faith

a. In the First Century, False Teachers said:

(1) A Gentile needed to CONVERT TO JUDAISM to please God

(2) It was necessary to OBEY THE MOSAIC LAW to please God

(3) It was necessary to REJECT PAUL'S AUTHORITY

(4) The Ministry of Paul is TO BE REJECTED

b. The Challenge to Faith today

(1) Legalism is embraced by WORLD RELIGIONS & CULTS (i.e., you've got to 'do something')

(2) Legalism is embraced by GENTILE CHRISTIAN LEGALISTS (i.e. "ultra fundamentalists")

(3) Legalism is embraced by MESSIANIC JEWISH LEGALISTS (i.e. Torah Observant movement & Renewed Covenant adherents)

(4) Legalists, and others MINIMIZE, DENEGRATE, REJECT the Writings of Paul

3. Paul rebukes these believers because they (1:6-9)

a. so **QUICKLY** deserted the Gospel of Grace

b. were so easily influenced by **FALSE TEACHERS /  
LEGALIZERS**

F. The problem with the use of the term "Judaizer"

1. It's use is perpetuated by church tradition

2. The term is sometimes a mask for anti-Semitism

3. No support for the term in the Scripture

4. The Scriptures affirm "Jewishness" - Jeremiah 31:31-35, Romans 11

5. The object of Paul's attack is Mosaic Law Legalism

I. AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S MESSENGER & MESSAGE

A. The affirmation of Paul as God's Apostle

1. A Divine **COMMISSION Gal. 1:1, Acts 22:10**

2. A witness to the **RESURECTION Acts 22:6-14**

3. Confirmation by **SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLES  
2<sup>ND</sup> Cor 12:12, Acts 19:12**

## B. The implications of Paul's Apostleship

1. Paul represents **GOD, PAUL WAS SENT BY GOD**

2. Paul is **AN AUTHORITATIVE TEACHER**

## C. The Personal defense of the Faith Message

1. The Faith Message came not from **HUMAN TRADITION**

2. The Faith Message came from **DIVINE REVELATION**

## D. Paul's own Biography illustrates the Faith Message (1:13-24)

1. Pre-Salvation, his background **OPPOSED** the Faith Message

2. At Salvation, his **CALLING** illustrated the Faith Message

3. Post-Salvation, Paul's training **INSURED** the Faith Message

## E. The Faith Message was confirmed by **THE APOSTLES** (2:1-10)

1. The time – The **BEGINNING** of Paul's ministry (Acts 11:26)

2. The purposes

a. To **DELIVER** an offering

b. To confirm the **FAITH MESSAGE** (2:2)

### 3. The Confirmations (2:3-10)

a. Paul's Gentile companion was not  
**COMPELLED TO BE CIRCUMCISED**

*Circumcision is for **JEWS** not **GENTILES***

b. Paul's message was not **CONTESTED** (2:6)

*There is only **ONE WAY OF ATONEMENT** for both  
**JEWS & GENTILES***

c. Paul's ministry was **ENDORSED BY THE PILLARS**  
(2:7-9)

*Despite **DISTINCTIVE CALLINGS** we must share  
with all people*

F. The Faith-Message was authenticated by  
**AUTHORITATIVE CONFRONTATION** (2:11-21)

1. The Cause of the Conflict (2:11-12a)

2. The Problems with Peter (2:12b-14a)

a. He was **A PEOPLE PLEASER**

b. He was **HYPOCRITICAL**

c. He was **INFLUENTIAL** (leaders are watched)

d. He distorted **THE FAITH MESSAGE**

3. The Rebuke of Peter (2:14b)

4. The Explanation by Paul (2:15-21)

a. Statement: Even Jewish people, who had the Law, can only be declared righteous **BY FAITH** (2:15-16)

b. Objection: If, we, Jewish believers are no longer under the Law, then we are like **SINNERS W/O LAW** and the Messiah made us so. (2:17)

c. Response: No, the Law proves us **TO BE SINNERS** Which is why we must live by faith. (2:18-19)

d. Solution: The Messiah who lives within those who believe is our **CONTROLLING PRINCIPLE** (2:20)

e. Summary: Living by faith **AFFIRMS** the grace of God but righteousness by Law denies the need for **MESSIAHS' ATONING DEATH** (2:21)

II. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IS GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN  
Galatians 3:1-29

(The Human Folly: Keep the Law, not the faith. 3:1-5)

A. The Folly of **JUSTIFICATION** by Works (3:1-2)

1. It is **FOOLISH**

2. It is **DECEPTIVE**

3. It is **INCONSISTENT**

B. The Folly of **SANCTIFICATION** by Works (3:3-5)

1. It contradicts **OUR SALVATION**

2. It contradicts **OUR SUFFERING** (3:4)

3. It contradicts **THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT**

C. The Divine Answer: Keep the original Jewish faith, not the temporary Mosaic Law. (3:6-29)

1. The Example of Abraham (3:6-9)

a. Abraham's Importance (John 8:33,39)

b. Abraham's Justification (Gen 15:6; 26:5)

c. Abraham's Children

2. The Inability of the Law (3:10-24)

...a. The Law could only **CURSE** (3:10-14)

(1) The Law curses because it requires  
**THAT ALL OF IT BE KEPT 100%** James 2:10

(2) The Messiah redeems by PAYING THE PENALTY OF THE CURSE

b. The Law could not secure an inheritance

(1) The covenant with Abraham was IRREVOCABLE, PERMANENT, UNCONDITIONAL

(2) The covenant with Abraham provided THE INHERITANCE

3. The Law was INTRINSICALLY WEAK (3:19-22)

a. The Law was given to RESTRAIN SIN

b. The Law was MEDIATED

c. The Law was TEMPORARY

d. The Law needed HUMAN PARTICIPATION

e. The Law was not designed TO IMPART LIFE

f. The Law could only IMPRISON UNDER SIN

4. The Law was a TEMPORARY CUSTODIAN

a. The Law was like a WARDEN

b. The Law was like a TUTOR

D. The Effects of Faith (3:25 – 29)



1. Faith **FREES JEWISH PEOPLE** from the Law. (3:25)  
 "We" = **JEWS**

2. Faith provides **SPIRITUAL SONSHIP** for **GENTILES**  
 (3:26) "You" = **GENTILES**

3. Faith **UNITES** all in the Messiah. (3:27-29)

a. Messiah provides spiritual **EQUALITY**.

b. Believers retain human **DIVERSITY**

So, males remain male, females remain female, Jews remain Jews and Gentiles remain Gentile. Mazel Tov to all!!!

### III. WHY LEGALISM DOESN'T WORK - Galatians 4:1-5:12

A. Legalism is contrary to a believer's status as an **ADULT**  
 (4:1-7)

1. An Illustration from Family Life (4:1-2)

a. A child's status was like a **SLAVE** (4:1)

b. A child's situation was governed by **GUARDIANS & MANAGERS** (4:2)

2. The Lesson for the Spiritual Life 4:3-6

a. Before the Messiah came, the **MOSAIC LAW** was the guardian of the Jewish people. (4:3)

"we were children" — "in bondage" — "under the elemental things" —

b. When the Messiah came, we received our INDUCTION as SONS (4:4-6)

3. The Application for us — Since we are now ADULT CHILDREN we should not live like SLAVES.

B. Legalism is contrary to a believer's RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. (4:8-11)

1. Formerly, Gentiles were slaves to IDOLS (4:8)

2. Presently, Gentiles have been liberated by their KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (4:9a)

3. Illogically, Gentiles are returning to SLAVERY but in a DIFFERENT FORM (4:9b-l 1)

a. The Mistake: Slavery to mandatory MOSAIC LAW FESTIVALS

"days" - SABBATHS

"months" — NEW MOON/ROSH CHODESH

"seasons" — SEASONAL FESTIVALS

"years" — SABBATICAL YEARS, JUBILEES

b. The Danger: Loss of LIBERTY

C. .Legalism is contrary to a believer's original faith experience (4:12-20)

1. Paul's original relationship with them was SELFLESS (4:12-16)

2. The false teachers' relationship with them was **SELFISH**.  
(4:17)

3. Paul longs for a **RESTORED RELATIONSHIP** (4:18-20)

D. Legalism is contrary to a believer's Freedom (4:21-5:1)

1. Paul's Reasons for using Allegory

a. It is a form of **RABBINIC INTERPRETATION**

b. It is about **ABRAHAM**, the legalist figure of authority.

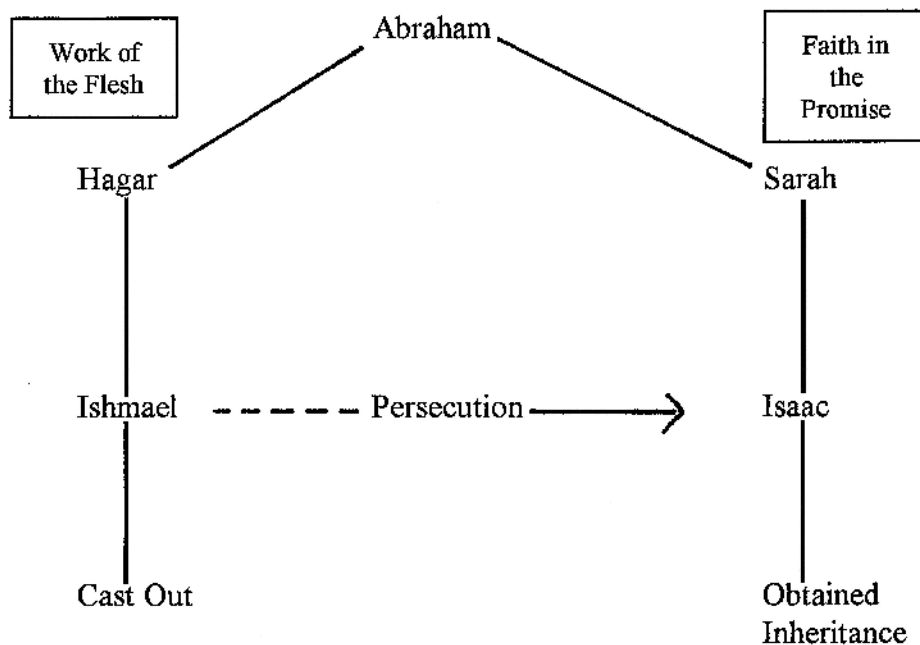
2. Paul's manner of using Allegory:

a. To **ILLUSTRATE** spiritual truth

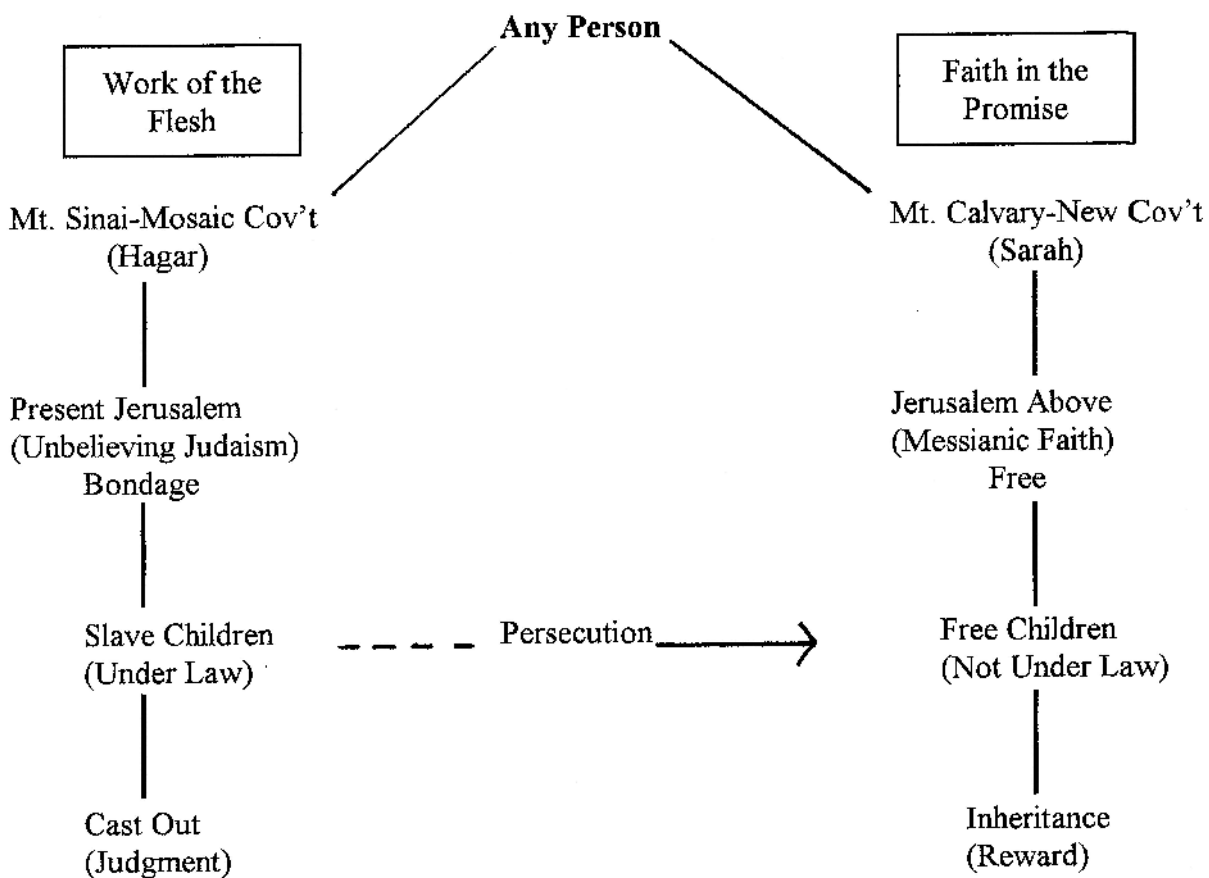
b. Not as an **ALTERNATIVE** to spiritual truth

3. An illustration from the life of Abraham - (4:22-23; 29a,  
30)

At Issue: How was Abraham to obtain an heir?



### The Application: (4:24-31)



### E. The Practical Application (5:1)

1. Faith in the Messiah set us **FREE**

2. Let us not return to **SLAVERY**

F. Legalism produces **SPIRITUAL DISASTER** (5:2-12)

1. Legalism produces a **LOSS OF GRACE** for sanctification (5:2-6)

a. Acceptance of (Mosaic) circumcision requires obedience to the **ENTIRE MOSAIC LAW**  
(circumcision of children of JB's still appropriate under Abrahamic Cov)

b Dependence on legalism cuts us off from **DIVINE ENABLEMENT** (grace).

c. True transformation occurs as a work of the **SPIRIT** not a work of the **FLESH**.

2. Legalism obscures the believer's path to **MATURITY**. (5:7)

3. Legalism causes judgment for its **PROPONENTS** (5:8-12)

IV. REAL FREEDOM - Galatians 5:13-6:18

A. Real Freedom is practiced in **LOVE** (5:13-15)

1. Freedom should not produce an open **OPEN LICENSE** for anything. (5:13 a)

a. The flesh is **SELF-SERVING**.

b. The Messiah frees believers **TO SERVE OTHERS**.

2. Freedom should be guided by **LOVE** (5:13b-15)

a. Love means **DESIRING WHAT IS BEST FOR SOMEONE**  
(actively seeking the best for others)

b. Love produces **SERVICE**

B. Real freedom is practiced in **THE SPIRIT** (5:16-26)

1. The Rule: **WALK IN / LIVE BY** the Spirit! (5:16-18)

a. Word Usage — **'WALK' IS THE MANNER OF LIFE**

b. Mood — **'IMPERATIVE', IT'S A COMMAND**

c. Tense — **'PRESENT', DO IT CONTINUALLY, LIFESTYLE**

d. Parallel Passage: **ROMANS 8:4-6**

e. Effect — When you set your mind on the things of the Spirit you will be in a better position to control the tendencies of the flesh

2. Definition — Walking in the Spirit is constantly **ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT** to be the **RULING FORCE** in life by occupying our minds with **SPIRITUAL TRUTH & SPIRITUAL SERVICE**

C. The Results: The focus of people's lives will become evident by their **ACTIONS** (5:19-26)

1. Focus on the flesh produces the deeds of the flesh.  
(5:19-21)

a. Description of the Deeds

- (1) Sexual Sins: immorality - impurity - sensuality
- (2) Superstitious Sins: idolatry - sorcery
- (3) Social Sins: enmities - strife - jealousy - angry outbursts - disputes - dissensions - factions - envyings
- (4) Self-indulgent Sins: drunkenness - carousing

b. Danger of the Deeds: Habitual practice may indicate an **UNREGENERATE HEART** (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

2. Focus on the Spirit will produce **THE FRUIT** of the Spirit.  
(5:22-26)

a. Description of the Fruit (5:22-23)

- (1) Personal Attitudes: Love - Joy - Peace
- (2) Personal Relationships: Patience - Kindness  
Goodness
- (3) Personal Character: Faithfulness - Gentleness -  
Self-control

b. Testimony of the Fruit: Spiritual fruit gives evidence of **FAITH** (5:24-26)

- (1) At salvation, the flesh was **CRUCIFIED** positionally.
- (2) At salvation, the Holy Spirit gave life so we can **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT**

**Observation: Not indicators of being Spiritual:**

**Speaking in Tongues/Not Speaking in Tongues,  
Raising Hands in Worship/Not Raising Hands in Worship,  
Keeping Kosher/Not Keeping Kosher**

**D. Real freedom is practiced in SERVICE (6:1-10)**

**1. We can serve by restoring FALLEN BELIEVERS (6:1-5)**

**a. Sinners must be addressed with**

**EXTREME CARE and LOVE**

**b. Sinners must be addressed by MATURE BELIEVERS**

**2. The Attitude in Restoration (6:3-5)**

**a. We must restore with HUMILITY**

**b. We must restore after OUR OWN SELF-EXAMINATION**

**c. We must restore without COMPARISONS**

**3. We can serve by GIVING FINANCIALLY (6:6-10)**

**a. The Command: SHARE ALL GOOD THINGS with your teachers.**

**b. The Reason: We will REAP what we SOW**

**c. The Expansion: Share with ALL MEN, especially BELIEVERS**



**Post-Script: One Final Admonition to Gentile Believers (6:11-18)**

**A. Gentile believers should not take on the obligation of MOSAIC LAW OBSERVANCE by accepting the outward sign of (Mosaic) circumcision.**

**B. Our confidence should not be in OUR ACOMPLISHMENTS , but rather in the finished work of Messiah**

**1. Gentile believers who embrace this will receive God's PEACE & MERCY (6:16)**

**2. Jewish believers (Israel of God) who embrace Grace will receive PEACE & MERCY (6:16)**

*The majority of this outline is based on a Teaching Syllabus by Dr. Michael Rydelnik.*

# **Bibliography and Additional Resources**

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Articles on the Ariel Ministries website: [www.Ariel.org](http://www.Ariel.org)

Articles on the Association of Messianic Congregations  
website: [www.MessianicAssociation.org](http://www.MessianicAssociation.org)