

The 13 Letters of Paul

The apostle Paul was called by Jesus Christ and was sent to the children of Israel and the gentiles to explain to them the dispensation of grace. He has been greatly misunderstood by many religious leaders and New Testament Christians. That's the reason Peter said in 2 Peter 3:15-16

2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

¹⁶As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Many of the New Testament Christians think that Paul preached against the law of God, which are the Ten Commandments. Some also believe that he preached against the seventh day Sabbath as the day of rest for the New Testament Church and eating clean meats that God gave to the New Testament Church for food along with fruits and vegetables. These are things that the New Testament saints think that Paul preached and taught against.

We are going to show that the letters that Paul wrote did not do away with the laws of God or His holy menu of clean meats or his seventh day Sabbath, or His holy feast days.

Let's take the Ten Commandments first. Paul wrote in Romans 3:20 that the law was the knowledge of sin and that the Commandments were holy, just and good.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 7:12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Paul also said I have not known lust except the law said, "Thou should not covet."

Romans 7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."^[a]

He also said that the law was spiritual letting us know that God has written the law in our minds through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 7:14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

Paul also said that even though we are saved by faith that we should not make void the law but we should establish the law.

Romans 3:31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Paul was telling the church that the law was merely the knowledge of sin and no one could be justified by only keeping the law. They would have to accept Jesus Christ first. But after being saved, they would have to understand the law to know how to be obedient to God. That's the reason Paul said the law is the knowledge of sin. Some of the Old Testament Jews, mainly the Pharisees, were trying to teach people that they could be justified by keeping the law and they did not need Jesus Christ to be justified. So Paul wrote the letters to show that we could only be justified by Jesus Christ and that if we consider ourselves justified by the law only, we have fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

Remember Paul was trying to get the saints to see that without being justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, you cannot be saved. He was not doing away with the law of God, but letting the saints know in New Testament it was only going to be used for the knowledge of sin. The Pharisees thought because the law was used in the Old Testament to justify a person that it was also going to be used in the New Testament for justification.

Paul was explaining to the Jewish nation that they were no longer justified by the works of the law but that they were now justified by faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

¹⁶Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

However, if we committed sin, we would become a transgressor because the law is the knowledge of sin.

This is very hard to be understood by those who are unlearned in the law and also in justification.

Justification frees you from the sin of Adam. For in Adam, we all died. But in Christ, we all are made alive through being justified by the blood of Jesus.

Romans 4:14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

¹⁵Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

So the law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

In other words, we were justified by the law by being obedient to the Ten Commandments which kept the wrath of God off of us until Christ could come who could wash away our sins with His blood and justify us by the death on the cross. Therefore we no longer need the schoolmaster because now we have Christ who can justify us forever. Now we use the schoolmaster for a different purpose and that is to show us the knowledge of sin which is the law.

Remember, we are saved by grace through faith which is not of ourselves but the gift of God by believing in Jesus Christ the savior of the world. But the law

which is spiritual is the knowledge of sin and it helps us to build the proper character we need to please God.

Another misunderstanding is that some Christians think that the apostle Paul had service on the first day of the week because the scripture said in the book of Acts that Paul preached on the first day of the week until midnight. Remember, Paul started preaching after the seventh day Sabbath had ended when the sun went down which according to the Jewish time, was early Sunday morning; because early Sunday morning starts at the going down of the sun and He preached until midnight. He did not start according to the way we use time today which would be early in the morning.

You know Paul wouldn't start preaching an early Sunday service and preach until midnight. He'd have to preach all day long. But this service started at the end of the Sabbath day which is around 7:00 pm and Paul preached until midnight. Many New Testament saints have thought for years that this was a Sunday morning service but it was not. It was a service right after the seventh day Sabbath ended. No one would

preach early Sunday morning all the way until midnight. The first day of the week starts at the end of the seventh day Sabbath when the sun goes down.

Another scripture that has been misunderstood is 1 Corinthians 16:2 when Paul told the church that when they come together on the first day of the week, which is the first day of work, that they should bring the gifts they have for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

The following three scriptures about eating clean and unclean meats are difficult to understand:

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

²For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

³Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

⁵One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

6He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

The apostle Paul was writing to people that were in the church eating clean meats, but there were also brethren who were vegetarians. The brethren who were vegetarians had begun to judge those that were eating the clean meats and vegetables also. So Paul said:

Romans 14:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

When Paul says, “Nothing is unclean of itself,” he was not talking about unclean animals at all, but clean animals that the weak vegetarian brethren felt they should have not been eating. The brethren who only ate vegetables felt that the eating of clean animal flesh was wrong. They felt like it was cruel to kill animals, so they only ate vegetables and began to judge those who ate clean animal flesh. So Paul said, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth (in the presence

of my weak brother). He was not talking about the eating of unclean animals at all, but merely teaching the church at Rome not to judge one another or offend one another in anything. So let us not be confused with this statement, “Nothing is unclean of itself.” Remember, when Paul nothing is unclean of itself, he was trying to get the brethren to see that you should not think that the animal that you are allowed to eat according to the menu of God is unclean. And you do not have to be a vegetarian only in order to be saved. You can eat clean meats as long as there is no blood and the meat is cooked well done.

The second scripture that is difficult to understand is:

I Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

²¹Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

²²Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

²³All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Notice what Paul says in verses 20-21, “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice to devils and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils. Ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table and of the table of devils.”

In verse 25 when Paul says, “Whatsoever is sold in shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake”, he was not talking about unclean meats that had been offered in sacrifice to idols, but clean meats that had been offered in sacrifice to idols, which had been taken and sold later on that day in the shambles, which was the marketplace.

Remember, an idol is nothing to him who knows the true God. So, Paul was trying to get the weak brethren to understand that although the meat was offered to idols, the meat was still clean and could be eaten because the idol could not defile a clean animal because the idol was nothing.

Again here is another statement that Paul made that has confused many of the saints of God: “If any of them that believe not invite you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go: eat whatsoever is set before you, asking no questions for conscience sake.” What Paul is talking about again is meat that is clean that has been offered to idols by unbelievers. If the meat is set before you, you can eat it because an idol is nothing to those who know the true God. Paul makes this statement because he knew that there is no other God, but one. Now let us look at the following scripture:

I Corinthians 10:28 But if any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof:

Paul is saying do not eat the clean meat that has been offered to an idol by a person with a weak conscious because it might offend them because they think the idol means something. It does not mean that you can't eat it but you do not want to hurt their weak conscious.

Another scripture that may confuse people is:

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

⁵For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Again, Paul is talking to young Timothy who had been trained in the holy scriptures from his youth up and who was familiar with the Old Testament menu that God had given to His people, found in Leviticus 11:1-47.

Some false teachers were coming along with teaching that men and women should be vegetarians only and eat no meats. When Paul wrote Timothy that every creature of God is good, Timothy knew what creatures of God were good for food and what creatures were not good for food; he also knew he should not pay attention to any false doctrine that commanded the saints to abstain from eating animal flesh and to become vegetarians only.

Read what the scripture really says. Remember, these false teachers were teaching two doctrines. One doctrine forbade men and women to marry and the other doctrine commanded them to abstain from meats making them vegetarians only.

I Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Remember, if you know the truth, you know what animals can be eaten and what animals cannot be eaten because you have read God's menu that He gave man in Leviticus 11:1-47. You also know that you must bless the clean meats you eat before you eat them. That's why he said it must be sanctified by the word of God, which the truth in prayer also. Remember, you cannot pray over an unclean animal and bless it because it was never sanctified for food. The word sanctified means it has been set aside for a particular purpose and God has never set aside an unclean animal for food.

There is nothing wrong with eating meats, but they must be sanctified by the word of God, and we find no place in the Bible where God sanctified unclean meats for man to eat.

We have showed you from the Old Testament to that the New Testament that God still has a menu of clean meats that we are allowed to eat along with fruits and vegetables. But he has designated the unclean

animals as scavengers to keep the earth clean from dead bodies of animals and men. These unclean animals have a special digestive system and certain saliva that can eat bacteria and gangrene and it will not make them sick or harm them. But when you eat these unclean animals, those bacteria and poisons that are found in them that do not destroy them will begin to break down in your body and cause all kinds of diseases to attack your body.

I know you think some of these animals are very delicious but they all are an abomination to you when you eat them. The unclean fowls, the unclean fish which have no scales or fins, the bottom dwellers such as shrimp and crabs are all unclean and not fit for man to eat.

When the 13 letters of Paul were put together in the New Testament, they were put together by the gentile converts who Paul was the apostle of. Paul did not contradict God's laws or statues. He did not do away with them, but he explained them in a way that was very difficult for one to understand if they did not know the full significance of how the law and statues worked.

All the laws and statues of the Most High were based on a Messiah coming to free the human family from the death penalty that was put on us by our first parents Adam and Eve.

Remember, in Adam and Eve we all die with no hope to live again. So God used the Old Testament laws and statues to show us that He was sending a savior who would die in our place to redeem us from the curse that Adam caused by breaking the law that God gave him in the garden of Eden. God said to Adam, “Every tree in garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you should not eat it for in the day you eat thereof, you shall surely die.”

This death sentence was passed down to the whole human family. Christ agreed that He would die in our place so that we could have eternal life. From Genesis to Malachi, the law and the prophets spoke concerning this Messiah who is Jesus Christ the son of the living God.

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