



Religious Perversion Part II

Be sure to read Part One of Religious Perversion from last month's publication.

Today, we'll continue with Galatians 3 on the subject of Christian justification by Christ.

(Gal 3:22-23) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. {23} But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Before faith came, man could only be justified by his works for people and God. After faith came,



and came it did, man can only be justified by faith. That's the truth, *and it is precisely this truth that all religion rejects – ALL!*

(Gal 3:28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Within the body of Christ, there is no separation between people. All are equal with Christ. This is another major point of contention

between Bible-believing folks and religion. I suppose that, if this issue were resolved, religions would fall apart. Whole religions set one against another, men and women, men and boys, women and girls, sects within various groups of people inside religious structures, etc... We are all one in Christ!

(Gal 4:7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Add this to our growing list of conflicts. A Christian is a son of God, not a servant of God, but Christian religions, if I can even call them that, mostly live in the four Gospels, and dine on a

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servant-mindset. We should not live in the Gospels, and we should never call ourselves “servants of God.” We are to serve God, and others, but as sons of God with power!

(Gal 4:9-10) But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? {10} Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

This gets into some serious nitty-gritty. Verses 9-10 capture the essence of religion’s binding straps around entire civilizations and cultures. Days, months, times and years are called “weak and beggarly elements.” “Weak” means, “strengthless.” “Beggarly” means, “a crouching and cringing beggar.” Clearly, these different time factors are

completely void of responsibility and authority! Yet, most people chain themselves to one or more in some effort to pretend godliness.

After you are known of God, why would you ever consider placing yourself again under such bondage?

That’s the question of the hour.

(Gal 4:16-19) Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? {17} They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. {18} But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. {19} My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Verse 17 tells us how zealous these perverters of the Scriptures are.

Paul pleaded with the Galatians to give time to allow Christ to form in them before making any strange doctrinal moves away from the truth.

(Gal 4:31) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. (Gal 5:1-2) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. {2} Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Liberty and circumcision surface again. This time, Paul says it even more clearly. There is absolutely no profit in circumcision. As free Christians, we are to stand fast in our liberty, not be entangled with the yoke of the Law, and not be caught up with whether or not men and boys should be circumcised.

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(Gal 5:3-4) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. {4} Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Any man who attests to the validity of circumcision for Christianity is compelled to do the whole Law. These people are considered “fallen from grace.”

(Gal 5:7-10) Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? {8} This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. {9} A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. {10} I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

The perverters of the truth are also hinderers. Their goal is to keep people from believing the truth. They are persuasive, but they do not come from God, no matter how religious they look or act. Beware because only a little bit of this perversion is needed to amass huge casualties. *The battle for obedience to either God’s Word or words of perversion takes place in your mind.* We are reminded that those causing such troubles share bear a certain judgment whosoever he is. God is not a respecter of persons. He is a respecter of His Word.

(Gal 5:12-13) I would they were even cut off which trouble you. {13} For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

I can’t begin to describe the nastiness that develops in a Christian fellowship once these cruel types are allowed in. They cause nothing but trouble; our earnest desire should be that they were cut off from all Christians. We are to, primarily, stand fast in our Christian liberty, opposition to which will be great. Stand fast, nonetheless. Spend time serving one another in love. That will remove much of the pain and confusion caused by these perverts.

(Gal 5:14-15) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. {15} But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

You know when such have entered into the fellowship. There will be a strong contention between

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biting and devouring and love. Which side will you stay on and support?

(Gal 5:16-17) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. {17} For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Truly, spirits enter into fellowships to cause these troubles. Christians, walking by the spirit, will rise up mighty bulwarks against such aggression. *Walk in the spirit, listening to God.* This will become your ever-present aide in discerning such matters and remaining steadfast in Christian liberty.

(Gal 5:19-21) Now the works of the flesh are manifest,

which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

These listed items accompany perverters of the gospel of Christ. None of these are to be present in and among Christianity. God wants us to have absolutely no part of them. Instead, He wants us to benefit from a godly spiritual walk.

(Gal 5:22-25) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance:

against such there is no law. {24} And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Fruit comes after a tree grows and matures. The same is true with Christians. These perverters aim to prevent Christian growth and maturity. We should demand this growth and maturity of ourselves, expecting the same of each Christian with whom we associate.

(Gal 6:12-15) As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. {13} For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. {14}

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But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. {15} For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature [creation].

The subject of circumcision comes up yet again. God has established His view on this several times. Now, we must establish ours. ***Our real and vital Christian existence is spiritual, and it is the only enduring truth to apply.*** Circumcision doesn't matter. The Law doesn't matter. Religion doesn't matter. Walking in the flesh doesn't matter. Glorifying in the flesh doesn't matter. The only thing that really matters is the new creation of Christ in You, the Hope of Glory.

(Gal 6:16-18) And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. {17} From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. {18} Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Forsake religion. Forsake works of the flesh. Forsake anything contrary to God's grace and spiritual calling of Christianity. Anyone or anything contrary to God's message and reality of grace and the gospel of Christ will be nothing but trouble. God's grace covers us all, and covers everything we will ever have to deal with. ***Stand fast in this wonderful liberty, rejecting religion and spiritual perversion at every turn.*** You will truly be released from any and all spiritual prisons in which you

find yourselves.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown