

SLAVERY TO THE LAW?

GALATIANS 4:8-11

TURNING AGAIN TO THE WEAK AND BEGGARLY ELEMENTS

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A number of Christians are realizing that Sunday, Easter, Xmas and the eating of bacon and shrimp and other creatures that God calls unclean (Lev. 11) are not the way of the Lord Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus). Yeshua neither lived that way nor taught others to do so. The Holy Spirit has been guiding these Christians through the morass of heretical Christian traditions, into God's Word to observe the Sabbath, the Feasts of Israel and the Mosaic dietary laws, to name three pillars of Mosaic Law that the Apostles walked in, both before and *after* the resurrection. Most Christians, though, have an aversion for Mosaic Law and have a number of proof texts they use to prove that they don't have to keep Mosaic Law. Galatians 4:8-11 is one such proof text. It seems that the Apostle Paul came against Mosaic Law when he rebuked the Galatians for observing 'days and months and seasons and years:'

⁸“But then, indeed, when you did not know God, *you served those which by nature are not gods*,⁹ but now, after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that *you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements*, to which you desire *again* to be in bondage? ¹⁰You observe *days and months and seasons and years*. ¹¹I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.” (Galatians 4:8-11)

It's hardly any wonder that Christians think the 'bondage' of the 'days and months and seasons and years' is from Mosaic Law because most Christian theologians and pastors speak of it as such. For example, James Boice, in his commentary on Galatians, believes that Paul is speaking about the Sabbaths, New Moons, Feasts of Israel and the Jubilee Year of Mosaic Law in the 'days and months,' etc., that Paul writes of.¹ Boice states:

“In view of the context of the struggle in Galatia, *there can be little doubt* that the observances the Galatians were succumbing to...were *Jewish observances*.” (i.e. Mosaic Law)

“‘Days’ would refer to sabbath days...”

“‘Months’ refers to celebrations tied to *the recurring monthly cycle*, such as those connected with the appearances of the *new moon*...”

“‘Seasons’ refers to seasonal events of more than one day's duration—the feasts of Tabernacles, Passover, etc.”

“‘Years’ *most naturally* refers to the recurring years of Jubilee.”²

Boice is certain that Paul's *days*, etc., were *Jewish observances* from Mosaic Law. He also speaks of the

¹ James Montgomery Boice, author; Frank E. Gaebelin, general editor; J. D. Douglas, associate ed., *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 10, *Galatians* (Grand Rapids, MI, USA: Zondervan, 1990), paragraph 55193. (Accordance Bible Software.)

² Ibid., para. 55199.

Galatians *returning* to the bondage or slavery of Mosaic Law:

“For the third time (3:23ff., 4:1ff., and now) Paul speaks of the *former enslaved state of the Galatians*, and for the third time he has a very good reason. In these verses the point is made to establish the folly of their proposed actions in *returning* to the *law’s* bondage.”³

Boice says that Mosaic Law is bondage, but he also realizes that *God* gave Mosaic Law to Israel,⁴ and so he states that the Law is good,⁵ when it isn’t used in a legalistic way. He realizes that Paul, in Galatians, is coming against Mosaic Law being *added* to faith in Christ for salvation (symbolized in physical covenantal circumcision; Gal. 5:6, 11; 6:15), which is a perverse and heretical use of Mosaic Law, not a legalistic use of it because God never meant it to save anyone, whether it was used legalistically or lawfully.⁶ Paul writes that adding the Law (symbolized in circumcision of the Gentile) to Messiah’s finished work of redemption for salvation causes the Gentile Christian to fall from grace (Gal. 5:4).⁷

The question that Boice doesn’t answer, though, is “How can these former pagan Galatians be *returning again* to the ‘bondage’ and *former enslaved state* of Mosaic Law *when they never knew Mosaic Law as pagans?*” Boice doesn’t explain that because it cannot be explained through the anti-Mosaic Law theology that Boice labors under.

Both *‘agains’* speak of the Gentile Galatian Christians having walked in a previous, pre-Christian, idolatrous pagan *bondage* to the *weak and beggarly elements*. Paul is not speaking of Mosaic Law because the Gentiles didn’t know anything of Mosaic Law before they came to believe in the Messiah of Israel, and also, Paul never speaks of Mosaic Law as *weak and beggarly elements*. It’s an interesting dilemma for Boice because he realizes the Galatians served idols (i.e. ‘not gods,’ v. 8) *before* they came to Yeshua:

“the *former state* of the Galatians, *indeed of all who are not yet Christians*, was one of *bondage* and immaturity (Gal. 3:23, 4:1). But this is not all that can be said. That highly undesirable former state was also one of ignorance of the true God in which the pagans *worshiped those who were not gods*. The reference is clearly to the *idols of paganism*, which, in typically Jewish idiom, Paul terms ‘no gods.’ This ignorance was actually one cause of their *bondage* to paganism.”⁸

The Apostle Paul rebukes the Gentile Galatians for returning *again* to their former pagan ways and incor-

³ Ibid., para. 55192.

⁴ See p. 2, note 5.

⁵ Boice, *Galatians*, para. 55199. Boice writes, “This does not, of course, mean that Paul would attribute the origin of the law, which includes the religious feasts, to Satan. Far from it. The law is good and from God. Nevertheless, even the law, when distorted into a way of trying to earn salvation, can be used by Satan to increase man’s bondage.” That’s all well and good, but why then would it be wrong to keep the Law’s days and month’s etc., if Boice didn’t believe that keeping the Law was bondage?

⁶ Israel was saved from Egyptian slavery by the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12:1ff.). It was after their salvation from Egypt that God brought them to Mt. Sinai to learn how to walk out their faith in Him through Mosaic Law. This is the conceptual prototype for salvation in Yeshua. Christians are saved by the Blood of the Lamb. Mosaic Law, as amplified by Yeshua; e.g. love your enemy) is God’s holy guideline for how to walk out faith in Yeshua; through all the laws and rules of Moses that apply to Christians.

⁷ Nothing can be added to Messiah’s sacrificial death to save us, but once saved does it matter if we sin? Paul answers that in Romans 6:1f., saying, of course God doesn’t want us to sin. So, how does Paul determine what is sin? Romans 3:20 says that by (Mosaic) Law “is the knowledge of sin.” Without Mosaic Law Christians sin in ignorance, not knowing all that God considers sin. For an excellent article on why God forbids the Gentile from being circumcised, yet wants the Jew to continue circumcising his sons, see *Gentile Circumcision?* at <http://seed-ofabraham.net/Gentile-Circumcision.pdf>.

⁸ Boice, *Galatians*, para. 55193.

porating it *in worshipping Jesus*.⁹ If Paul was speaking about the days and months, etc., of Mosaic Law, it's very strange that he doesn't specifically mention anything from the Law, as he does in Col. 2:16. For instance, he could have written, 'You observe the days, months, seasons and years of Mosaic Law,' or 'You observe Sabbaths, New Moons, Feasts of Israel and the Year of Jubilee.' Christian theologians are quick to say those days, etc., in Galatians 4:10 came from Mosaic Law, but there is no biblical connection for them to do so, especially as the Greek word for *elements* reveals the paganism that Paul speaks of.

The Greek word for *elements* in v. 9 is στοιχεῖα (*stoikay'ah*). Thayer states it's,

“the elements from which all things have come, the material causes of the *universe...the heavenly bodies*...because in them the *elements of man's life and destiny* were supposed to reside...Hence, some interpreters...understand Paul's phrase *ta stoicheia tou kosmou*, Gal. 4:3, 9; Col. 2:8, 20, of the *heavenly bodies*, because *times and seasons*, and so sacred seasons, were regulated by the course of the sun and moon.¹⁰

Boice should have known that Paul wasn't addressing Mosaic Law, but the *days* and *months*, etc., of paganism. The use of the sun, the stars, the planets and the moon, to worship or determine man's destiny (astrology), is strictly prohibited by Mosaic Law (Dt. 4:19).

The Jews were not the only ancient people who kept days and months, etc. Everyone did. Most every ancient people kept track of their months by the sighting of the new moons (which begins a month), and they had their own 'days and seasons,' etc., just as the USA has its own days (holidays like President's Day and Veteran's Day) and months and seasons (e.g. Xmas *season*).

Theologian Moisés Silva speaks of Gal. 4:8-11 as reminding “the Galatians of their life in *paganism*,” and says they “were going back to slavery.”¹¹ The slavery of paganism could not remind the Gentiles of Mosaic Law because they had no such memory of it in their pagan days. The days and months, etc., can only be speaking of pagan days, month, seasons and years.

Sabbath and Days

Even though Paul doesn't write of Sabbaths in Gal. 4:10, but of *days*, it's not unusual for Christians, as we see with Boice, to *interpret* 'days' to mean the 7th day Sabbath of the Jews. This is nothing new for Christians who think that Mosaic Law is a bondage that Jesus came to set them free from. We see this misapplication in Romans 14:5-6, where Christians insert 'the Sabbath' where Paul speaks of *day*. The Apostle, though, isn't speaking about the Sabbath in these two verses:

⁵“One person esteems *one day above another*; another esteems *every day alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶He who observes the *day*, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the *day*, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; *and he who does not eat*, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.” (Romans 14:5-6 NKJV)

Christians wrongly interpret Paul's use of 'one *day* above another,' and 'he who observes the *day*, observes it to the Lord,' as the 7th day Sabbath, but that's not what the Apostle to the Gentiles means by 'day.' Paul is settling a dispute among the Roman Gentile Christians that involved one group eating meats

⁹ See 1st Corinthians 10:19-22, where Paul rebukes the Gentile *Christian* Corinthians for drinking the (sacrificial) cup of demons.

¹⁰ Joseph Thayer, *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, paragraph 8701 (Accordance Bible Software).

¹¹ Moisés Silva, *Galatians*, New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition; ed. D. A Carson. et al. (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1994), p. 1215 (Accordance electronic ed.).

that had been sacrificed to idols, the leftovers of which would be sold at the market. A group of Roman Christians bought and ate it, while the other group, the ‘veggie-only eaters’ would not eat that meat, believing it to be defiled by the idols.¹² The veggie-only eaters also had *special days for fasting*, as seen in v. 6 (“He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks”), which they ‘esteemed’ and ‘observed’ above other days, while the meat eaters didn’t fast. This is what Paul is writing about: the veggie-only group would ‘esteem one *day* above another’ for fasting. It doesn’t have anything to do with the 7th day Sabbath nor with Christians not having to keep the Sabbath if they didn’t want to. *The Sabbath is not mentioned* in Romans 14 nor anywhere else in Romans, but Christians are quick to interpret *day* as speaking of the Sabbath. That same quickness is seen in the *days* of Galatians 4:10.

When Paul wants to address a Sabbath issue, he writes of the Sabbath, as he does in Col. 2:16. The point here is that Paul doesn’t write of the Sabbath in Galatians 4:10, and so to automatically interpret *days* to mean the 7th day Sabbath is wrong, yet Boice writes of the *days* and *months*, etc., that “*there can be little doubt* that the observances the Galatians were succumbing to...were *Jewish observances*,” and that days, months, seasons and years is a “*listing of the Jewish observances*.”¹³

Boice’s *Jewish observances* is not correct because Paul is speaking about pagan or Gnostic¹⁴ days and months, not the days, etc., of Mosaic Law. The Greek word for *elements*, and the fact that these Galatian Christians were *returning* to their *former bondage* of paganism, attests to this biblical understanding.

¹² The market place was the only place where meat could be bought and all the meat had either been sacrificed to an idol or had been blessed by a pagan priest, slaughtered and set out in the market place for people to buy. Read *Romans 14 and the Dietary Laws* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Romans-14-and-the-Dietary-Laws.pdf> for a fuller explanation of the squabble between the two groups, who Paul sides with, and what Paul really says about clean and unclean meats.

¹³ Boice, *Galatians*, paragraph 55193. Also, see p. 1.

¹⁴ “Gnosticism (from Ancient Greek: γνῶσις *gnōstikos*, ‘having knowledge,’ from γνῶσις *gnōsis*, knowledge) is a *modern name* for a variety of ancient religious ideas and systems...these systems induced that the material world is created by an emanation of the highest God, trapping the Divine spark within the human body. This Divine spark could be liberated by gnosis of this Divine spark...*Gnosis* refers to knowledge based on personal experience or perception. In a religious context, *gnosis* is mystical or esoteric knowledge based on direct participation with the divine. In most Gnostic systems the sufficient cause of salvation is this ‘knowledge of (‘acquaintance with’) the divine...Gnostics seem to have originated in Alexandria, Egypt and *coexisted* with the early Christians until the 4th Century AD. Because there was as yet no fixed church authority, syncretism with pre-existing belief systems, as well as new religions, was often embraced...Within early Christianity, the teachings of Paul and John may have been a starting point for Gnostic ideas, with a growing emphasis on the opposition between flesh and spirit.” From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosticism>.

Gnosticism that holds “that this world” (and one’s flesh) “is essentially a prison for the spirit. In Gnostic forms of Christianity, for example, the creator god of the Bible is interpreted as an evil demiurge, who built the world to trap us; the real God is on a higher plane entirely, and Christ is our connection to him, providing the possibility of reuniting the trapped spark of spirit within us with its divine source.” From <https://starweaverwitch.wordpress.com/2008/03/31/gnostics-and-pagans/>.

On the other hand, paganism is more ancient than Gnosticism. Paganism is the licentious worship of gods and goddesses, with no sexual restraints. Saturnalia was a Roman feast where naked men and woman indulged in sex and food, ‘celebrating life.’ Inherent in pagan idolatry is the belief that sexual intercourse with the priests and/or priestesses (prostitutes) at the pagan shrine/temple was union with the god or goddess.

“Paganism, gnosticism and the new age movement are for the most part temptations with the same enticement the devil...gave to our first parents that if they took part of the forbidden fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and rebelled against God and His word they would not die, but they would become as gods knowing good and evil, and that this fruit was to be desired to make one *wise*.” From <http://www.spiritandtruthministries.org/Spirit%20and%20Truth%20Ministries/Church%20Bible%20Prophecy/Paganism.html>.

Let no one judge you...regarding...Sabbaths

The Apostle to the Galatian Christians says in Gal. 4:8, *when you did not know God*, which speaks of the Gentile Christians, not any Jewish Christians who might have been in the congregation because the Jews knew the one true God from the time of Father Abraham. The Gentiles came to know God the Father through Yeshua. This understanding also applies to the phrase, *you served those which by nature are not gods*, meaning that Paul is addressing Gentiles who only recently came to know the one true God; the God of Israel. This also reveals that what Paul says about *days and months*, etc., in Gal. 4:10, has to do with Gentile pagan ‘days and ways,’ not the divine Law of Moses.¹⁵ There were many different pagan religions in Paul’s day, as there are in our day.

In Paul’s letter to the Colossians (ca. 59-60 AD), written about six years or more *after* he wrote of ‘the weak and beggarly elements’ in Galatians (written ca. 52-53 AD), he literally writes of Sabbaths, New Moons and Feasts (Festivals) of Israel, so it’s clear he’s referring to the days and ways of Mosaic Law:

¹⁶“So *let no one judge you* in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,¹⁷ *which are a shadow of things to come*, but the substance is of Christ.” (Colossians 2:16-17 NKJV)

Many Christians wrongly use v. 16 to say they can eat whatever they want, and that no one should judge them. All they have to do is bless the food (misapplying 1st Tim. 4:4-5).¹⁶ Also, they don’t have to keep the Sabbaths of Mosaic Law and its New Moons, etc. Three things speak against their understanding:

1. Paul says not to let anyone *judge them* about these things, which means that the Colossian Christians weren’t to allow others (their new Gnostic Christian friends, no doubt) to judge them or *to condemn them* for not eating the way the Gnostics directed them or keeping the Sabbath the way the Gnostics wanted them to.
 - a. Biblically, the Colossians could eat whatever they wanted as long as it fell within the guidelines of God’s Word. Mosaic Law speaks of unclean and abominable animals that one must not eat, and so it’s reasonable to think that their Gnostic ‘Christian’ friends were saying that they needed to fast in order to attain salvation or a greater understanding and knowledge of God.
 - b. Gnosticism, in a religious environment, means knowledge of God and it came to mean secret knowledge of God for eternal life. It was obtained in different ways, and fasting was one of those ways. The theme of Colossians Two has Paul speaking against Gnosticism and its ascetic ways (fasting and pummeling of the body so the spirit ‘could be set free;’ Col. 2:20f.), which writing comes immediately after not letting anyone judge them in v. 16, which is preceded by the angelic (i.e. demonic) intermediaries of Gnosticism whom they contacted in order to help them ‘know’ and get to God. Paul is saying that no Gnostic was to condemn the Colossians as to *how* they kept Sabbath, New Moons and Feasts; not *if* they kept them.
 - c. The Church teaches that Sunday replaced the Sabbath at the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that the Feasts of Israel, etc., are not for Christians. Paul wrote Colossians (59-60 AD) about 30 years *after* the resurrection, and the Apostle writes of Sabbaths, New Moons and Feasts of Israel. Shouldn’t he have spoken of not letting anyone judge them about their weekly Sunday or yearly Easter observance? Obviously, the Sabbath was still being kept by all Christians, and Sunday and Easter hadn’t yet entered Christianity. The Book of Acts and Church history bear out the keeping

¹⁵ For example, Dt. 4:5-8; Psalm 119:30, 43, 142, 151, 160; Romans 3:31; 7:7, 12, 14.

¹⁶ Note well that the two qualifications for eating food are prayer *and* the Word of God, not just prayer. The Word of God for Paul certainly included Mosaic Law, as is evident from 2nd Tim. 3:10-17. Therefore, pig and shrimp, etc., are not food that Christians can pray over and eat because the Word of God prohibits them (Lev. 11:1f.).

of the Sabbath and the Feasts of Israel during the life of all the Apostles, including and especially Paul.¹⁷

2. In Col. 2:17 Paul says that these things of Mosaic Law (foods, Sabbaths and New Moons, etc.) “are a *shadow of things to come*.” We would have expected Paul to say that those things were useless and no longer necessary, if Christianity is right about Paul being the Apostle who told Christians they didn’t have to keep Mosaic Law, but he speaks of those Jewish things revealing what is to come in the future. In other words, for Paul to speak of them around 60 AD, instead of Sunday and Easter it’s obvious that the Apostle still considered them as valid, and not only valid, but informative in revealing Yeshua, His character and the salvation that He gives us, and that we have come to the Jewish Messiah.
 - a. Many Christians say they don’t need ‘the shadow’ because they have the Real Thing, but they don’t realize that the Real Thing cannot be seen and fully known, and won’t be seen and fully known until Judgment Day, in the future. That’s another reason *why* God has given us Mosaic Law; it helps us to know His Son better, whom we do not see.¹⁸ In other words, Mosaic Law (the shadow) pictures the Messiah *who is to come* in multi-faceted ways. The Apostle is saying that we can know more of who Yeshua is, which is *true knowledge* of Him through God’s ordained Mosaic Law, which is Paul’s retort to the Gnostic Colossians who sought knowledge of God. The Apostle John writes:
 1. “Beloved, *now* we are Sons of God, *and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be*, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1st John 3:2; cf. 1st Peter 1:8. Seeing Yeshua as He is means that we will be like Him; one with Him; His Bride. It was always in the Father’s heart to make us like His Son.)¹⁹

Mosaic Law has a lot of meaning for Paul. That’s because he knew the various things of Mosaic Law picturing the Messiah, whom no one can see now, especially in His glory.²⁰

The Colossian Christians had some new believers who had a lot of Gnostic baggage. This is apparent as Paul uses all of chapter two to speak against Gnosticism. He tells the Colossians that Yeshua is the Head of the Body, and that *in Him* is the *fullness* of the Godhead bodily, meaning that they didn’t have to go through a myriad of (Gnostic) intermediary angel/guardian/demons to get to God and be enlightened (come into cosmic consciousness, which today, ironically, is called Christ consciousness). Yeshua was all they needed:

²⁴“that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the *full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God*, both of the Father and of Christ, ³in whom are hidden *all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*. ⁴Now this I say *lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words*.” (Colossians 2:2-4 NKJV)

¹⁷ See *The Feasts of Israel and the Church* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-and-the-Church.pdf> and *A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/A-Snapshot-of-Church-History-and-Mosaic-Law.pdf>, *Sabbath Denigration* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Sabbath-Denigration.pdf> and *Sunday—The Catholic Sabbath* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Sunday-The-Catholic-Sabbath.pdf>.

¹⁸ For some things of Mosaic Law that reveal the Lord in wonderful ways, see *The Sabbath and Yeshua* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Sabbath-and-Yeshua.pdf>, *Passover and Jesus* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Passover-and-Jesus.pdf> and *The Feast of Trumpets* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feast-of-Trumpets.pdf>.

¹⁹ See *Salvation—The Promise!* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Salvation-The-Promise.pdf> for what the end goal of salvation entails.

²⁰ For an insightful teaching on the glory of the Lord as seen in the Tabernacle of Moses, go to *Books and CDs* at <http://seedofabraham.net/wordpress/books-cds/> and check out *The Tabernacle of Moses—A Picture of Heaven*.

⁷“rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.* ⁹*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;* ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Col. 2:7-10 NKJV)

²⁰“Therefore, if you died with Christ from the *basic principles of the world*, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—²¹‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,’ ²²which all concern things which perish with the using—according to *the commandments and doctrines of men*? ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in *self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body*, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.” (Col. 2:20-23 NKJV)

Paul specifically writes against Gnosticism, saying that in Yeshua the Colossians have,

1. *the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God* (v. 2). Gnosticism thrives on the ‘secrets’ and *mystery of God*, and
2. that *all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge of God are hidden* in the Messiah (v. 3). Gnosticism teaches that only its ways will gain a person the wisdom and knowledge of God, and
3. that *all the fullness of the Godhead bodily* dwells in Yeshua (v. 9). The Gnostics said that the only way to attain that fullness of God was to go through their ‘angelic’ intermediaries, and
4. that in Yeshua the Colossian Christians are *complete* (v. 10), meaning that there’s no need for the Gnostic mediatorial ‘angels.’

Gnosticism seeks after knowledge and wisdom of God, and Paul is telling the Colossians that they don’t have to seek those things through the false way of Gnosticism, which is a demonic kingdom that competes against God’s Kingdom. Paul warns them *not to be deceived* by the false ways (of Gnosticism). Paul is certainly not speaking about Mosaic Law because he says that,

1. the Colossian Christians shouldn’t be *deceived with persuasive words* (v. 4), and
2. to *beware lest anyone cheat them through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men*, according to the *basic principles of the world*, and not according to Christ (v. 8), and
3. that if they had *died with Christ from the basic principles of the world...according to the commandments and doctrines of men* (vv. 20, 22) and,
4. that these *things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh* (v. 23).

The phrases in these five verses of Colossians Two speak of Gnosticism, and they are conceptual cousins to ‘the weak and beggarly elements’ that Paul wrote of six years earlier to the Galatians. It isn’t God’s Mosaic Law that the Apostle is warning the Colossians about because Mosaic Law is not a philosophy, nor is it a tradition of man, nor is it considered by anyone to be a basic principle *of the world*, nor does it teach neglect of the body, and it’s certainly not a self-imposed religion, etc., Mosaic Law is God’s very words of wisdom and knowledge on how Israel was to live their lives in covenant with their God, who their God is and the salvation He gave to Israel, all which prefigure and reveal Yeshua. Paul knew that wisdom and knowledge are found in Mosaic Law.

Just before Israel was to enter into the land of Canaan, that God had promised to Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and to their descendants, to make it their own land (e.g. Gen. 15:1-21; 17:1-8f.), Moses said:

“Surely I have taught you *statutes and judgments, just as Yahveh my God commanded me*, that you should *act according to them in the land which you go to possess*. Therefore,

be careful to observe them, *for this is your wisdom and your understanding* in the sight of the peoples who will hear of *all these statutes*, and say, ‘Surely this great nation *is a wise and understanding people*.’ For what great nation is there that has *God so near to it*, as Yahveh our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such *statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this Law*, which I set before you this day?’” (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

Paul is not coming *against* Sabbaths and New Moons, etc., in Col. 2:16, which he literally writes of (unlike the general *days* and *months* in Galatians 4:10), but against the Gnostic Christians who imposed their perverse practices upon God’s holy days and ways. *The weak and beggarly elements* in Gal. 4:9 show us that the Apostle isn’t speaking about the *days*, etc., of Mosaic Law in Galatians 4:10 because nowhere in Scripture does he nor anyone else call Mosaic Law (weak and) beggarly elements.

Also, Paul writes in Col. 2:23 of ‘*neglect of the body*,’ which speaks of fasting, most likely in relation to the Sabbath and New Moons. When a person fasts for five, ten or more days, he’ll notice that he grows spiritually stronger and is able to overcome the flesh, but as soon as he begins to eat again, ‘the indulgence of the flesh’ (Col. 2:23), that is to say his carnal nature, raises its ugly head, and Paul calls it useless to think that our *carnal nature* can be changed by fasting or neglect of the body—only a new heart transplant from Above can do that, which is one of the gifts and treasures of the New Testament (Ezk. 36:24-27). God emphatically states that in the New Covenant (Testament) He will write Mosaic Law (literally Torah in Hebrew; Jer. 31:33) upon our New Covenant hearts and minds. The author of Hebrews confirms that, twice, by quoting Jeremiah 31:33 in Hebrews 8:10; 10:16).

Fasting subdues the flesh, but it’s not defeated or dead. Only the blood and Spirit of the Messiah can do that. Gnosticism, not Mosaic Law, is what Paul is coming against in both Gal. 4:8-11, with its *days* and *months*, etc., and in Col. 2:16 when the Gnostics tried to condemn the Colossian Christians for not following their teachings in how to keep the New Moons and Sabbaths, etc., of Mosaic Law. Paul warned the Colossians not to let anyone put them in subjugation to Gnostic ways of keeping God’s holy days, etc.

Although some Christians align *Do not touch, taste*, etc. (Col. 2:21) with Mosaic Law, Paul speaks of the ‘basic principles of the world...according to *the commandments and doctrines of men*. This is not Mosaic Law, but Gnosticism, the theme of chapter two (cf. 1st Corinthians 7:19 where Paul speaks of keeping the commandments of God [i.e. Mosaic Law], as the thing that really matters for a Christian).

Months

The Greek term for *months* in Gal. 4:10 is μήνας (*maynas*) and interestingly enough, the only place where *some* scholars think it means new moons is Gal. 4:10, but this is heavily contested by many scholars.²¹ Every other place in the New Testament where *maynas* is used speaks of either an entire month or a day within a month.²² For example:

²¹ Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, paragraph 6431:

“1. *a month*: Luke 1:24, 26, 36, 56; 4:25; Acts 7:20; 18:11; 19:8; 20:3; 28:11; James 5:17; Rev. 9:5,10,15; 11:2; 13:5; 22:2.”

“2. *the time of new moon, new moon* ...Gal. 4:10 (Lightfoot compares Isa. 66:23; the first day of each month, when the new moon appeared was a festival among the Hebrews; cf. Lev. 23:24; Num. 28:11; Ps. 80:4...others refer the passage to 1 (see Meyer at the passage).”

²² Walter Bauer, augmented by William F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and Frederick Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (third edition, 2001), p. 648: μήν (Accordance Bible Software). “1. *month* Lk 1:36...Acc. of time answering the question: how long?...*for five months* Lk 1:24; cp. vs. 56; 4:25...Ac 7:20; 18:11; 20:3; Js 5:17; Rv 9:5, 10; 11:2; 13:5. Lk 1:26...*for a period of three months*...Ac

“Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five *months*, saying...” (Luke 1:24 NKJV)

“At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months.” (Acts 7:20 NKJV)

Of the nine English translations of the New Testament I have, every one of them takes *may’nas* in Gal. 4:10 as *months*, not as new moons.²³ There are no months that are observed in Mosaic Law. However, in Islam the entire month of Ramadan is observed. Muslims *fast* during the daylight hours and break it every day at sunset to eat. It’s a strange ‘fast,’ as normally a fast goes for 24 hours or more, but this gives us some insight into a possible aspect of Gnosticism in Galatia, where they seem to have observed a month, perhaps fasting as Muslims do in Ramadan. Of course, Islam wasn’t a religion in Paul’s day, but the rites of pagan religions have similar characteristics and the concepts go back to ancient Babylon, as the Catholic Lent reveals.

Lent is a Roman Catholic tradition *taken from paganism*, that a number of other churches, in their scriptural and historical ignorance, also observe:

“Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks (40 days) later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing *penance, mortifying the flesh..and self-denial.*” Lent “is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches. Some Anabaptist and evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season...In Lent, many Christians commit to *fasting*, as well as ‘giving up’ certain luxuries in order to identify with Christ in His 40 days of fasting in the” wilderness.²⁴

Lent and its 40 days sound like a biblical and noble idea, but there’s nothing in Scripture to keep anything like it, and with its penance, mortifying of the flesh and self-denial we see the practices of Gnosticism, alive and well within the Roman Catholic Church and all those churches which follow Rome in her idolatry. Alexander Hislop writes that Lent was observed centuries before Yeshua was born, and so Lent cannot possibly commemorate Yeshua nor His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, even if Catholicism (and others) put the name of Jesus to the pagan practice. Hislop, who wrote the Christian classic, *The Two Babylons*, rhetorically asks and answers,

“Whence then, came this observance?²⁵ The forty days abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, ‘in the spring of the year,’ is still observed by the Yezidis or Pagan Devil-worshippers of Koordistan,²⁶ who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a Lent of *forty days* was held in spring by the Pagan Mexicans, for thus we read in Humboldt,²⁷ where he gives account of Mexican observances:”

“Three days after the vernal equinox...began a solemn fast of forty days in hon-

19:8; cp. Lk 4:25...*every month* Rv 22:2.....*after three months* Ac 28:11...2. *new moon* (festival) Gal 4:10.”

²³ The ASV, ESVS, HCSB, KJV, NASB, NET, NIV, NKJV, NRSV.

²⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lent>. For Yeshua fasting for 40 days see Mt. 4:2; Mk. 1:13; Lk. 4:2.

²⁵ Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, 2nd American edition (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959; originally published in 1862), p. 104; in *The Two Babylons—The Full Hislop*, which is Avram Yehoshua’s PDF of the book, it’s p. 81. Hislop overwhelmingly proves that the Roman Catholic Church is the Babylon of the New Testament (Rev. 14:8; 17:5; cf. 18:4). Read and/or download *The Two Babylons—The Full Hislop* at <http://seed-ofabraham.net/The-Two-Babylons.pdf>.

²⁶ Ibid., note J: Layard, *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 93.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 105, note *: Humboldt, *Mexican Researches*, v. i. p. 404; p. 81, *The Two Babylons—The Full Hislop*.

our of the sun.’

“Such a Lent of forty days was observed in Egypt, as may be seen on consulting Wilkinson’s *Egyptians*.²⁸ This Egyptian Lent of forty days...was held expressly in commemoration of Adonis or Osiris, the great mediatorial god.”²⁹

“Among the Pagans this Lent seems to have been *an indispensable preliminary* to the great annual festival in commemoration of *the death and resurrection* of Tammuz, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing.”

“To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome” (Catholicism), “pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get...Paganism and Christianity, now far sunk in idolatry, in this, as in so many other things, to shake hands.”³⁰

Lent and its 40 days are pagan and have absolutely nothing to do with Messiah Yeshua, but they have a lot to do with Yeshua’s pagan rivals (e.g. Tammuz and Adonis), who also went by the title of ‘Christ’ and ‘Savior,’ and who allegedly died for the sins of the world. It was 40 days of weeping for the death of Tammuz, with rejoicing, ‘knowing’ that he rose from the dead in victory over death. In the Assyrian Kingdom the holy day that he rose from the dead was known as Ishtar Sunday, which in English translates to Easter Sunday. Ishtar is the Queen of Heaven (Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19, etc.), and she resurrected her dead Savior-son on ‘her day.’

Weeping lasted for a little more than a *month* over the death of the pagan Christ,³¹ and perhaps fasting during the daylight hours? Even Israel followed suit. In Ezekiel 8:14, the prophet is shown Jewish women weeping for Tammuz. This weeping for Tammuz happened in many countries centuries before the Lord walked and taught in Israel; the name of the god or goddess changing with each country to make it their god. For instance, Ishtar is also known as Astarte and Diana and Isis. Lent isn’t the only pagan thing that Christians churches commemorate ‘in the name of Jesus.’³²

Paul, addressing the Galatians about their observance of pagan *months* could very well have been speaking about a pagan Lent ‘for Jesus Christ.’ Paul’s mention of *months* certainly doesn’t have anything to do with Mosaic Law because the Greek term for *new moons* is different than for *months*. In Col. 2:16 *νοῦμηνία numaynia* speaks of the New Moons of Mosaic Law and the New Moon festival.³³ In other words, if Paul, in Gal. 4:10, wanted us to realize that he was speaking of the New Moons of Mosaic Law he would have written *numaynia*, not *maynas*, which is only a general term for *months*.

In Col. 2:17 the Apostle literally speaks of Sabbaths, Feasts and New Moons, etc., being a shadow or picture of *what is to come*, the substance being Messiah. On a sunny day, when you put your hand up and spread your fingers out, you can see their shadow made by the sun on the ground. You know it’s your hand; not a lion nor a plane, even if you only see the shadow of your hand and not your actual hand.

²⁸ Ibid., note †: Wilkinson, *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i. p. 278.

²⁹ Ibid., note ‡: Landseer, *Sabean Reseraches*, p. 112.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 105; p. 81, *The Two Babylons—The Full Hislop*.

³¹ 40 days isn’t a perfect fit for Paul’s *months* in Gal. 4:10, but pagan rites fluctuate from country to country. Also, I’m not saying that what Paul was coming against was the pagan Lent twisted to honor of Jesus (as many churches do today). Lent is just an example of a pagan rite that has come into the church whose observance lasted for 10 days more than a month, with possible intermittent fastings.

³² For some articles that address the paganism of that flourishes in the Christian Church today, see the listing on p. 14, note 41.

³³ Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, pp. 668-669: *νοῦμηνία*...Col 2:16 *new moon, first of the month*, oft. celebrated as a festival by Jews and gentiles.”

Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, paragraph 6705. “*νοῦμηνία noumēnia*...*new moon*...of the Jewish festival of the new moon...Col. 2:16.

When we read Mosaic Law, whatever it is, Feasts, Sabbaths, New Moons, dietary laws, and the Tabernacle of Moses, etc., we see God's divine shadow-pictures telling us *who* our God is and His wisdom for us. Mosaic Law pictures *things to come...the Messiah and our salvation*, etc. We don't literally see Yeshua, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of the Father's Person (Hebrews 1:3), but through Mosaic Law we can better know the Father and the Son, etc., for Mosaic Law is the very words of God.³⁴ Just as our words reveal who we are, so too, the words of God reveal who He is.

Galatians 4:10 doesn't speak of the Sabbath of Mosaic Law, nor its New Moons, nor the Feasts of Israel, etc., but of Gnostic and/or pagan days, months, seasons and years. As it is today in Islam, there are feasts and 'holy days' and months which they keep, but obviously they are not of the God of Israel, so too in Galatia.

The 'Christians' that the Galatians had been listening to are termed Judaizers, meaning that they were Jews who wanted to add Mosaic Law, symbolized in physical covenantal circumcision, to faith in Yeshua for salvation. This heresy is the theme of Gal. 2-5 and why we know they were Jews. I would call them rogue Jews who 'believed' in Jesus and who had previously learned Gnosticism and added it on to their repertoire. They are different than the Judaizers in Acts 15:1 only in that the Acts 15 Judaizers don't seem to have had any Gnostic or pagan leanings. This difference comes out in Paul's mentioning of *days* and *months*, etc., which are the general details of the *weak and beggarly elements* that the Galatians had previously observed as pagans. The 'Christians' that Paul comes against in Colosse are not Jews, but Gentiles steeped in Gnosticism. There is nothing in Colossians to implicate the Gnostic 'Christians' as being Jews.

The reason why James issued his four rules for Gentile Christians concerned their salvation (Acts 15:1f., 20-21). The four rules act as a divine warning and filter to see if Gentile faith in Yeshua was genuine. They restricted the Gentile Christians from going to temple shrines of Diana and Zeus, etc., because as we can understand, Yeshua would not tolerate being worshiped as one among many gods and goddesses.

Most of the Gentiles coming to the Jewish Messiah had many gods and goddesses, and *adding Jesus* to their pantheon would not have seemed wrong to them.³⁵ The four rules have nothing to do with table fellowship, as the Church teaches. James knew that many Gentiles would worship Yeshua alongside their other gods, and this reveals the Gentile mindset that Paul was dealing with in Galatia and Colosse. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* describes the pagan mindset of the Gentile *believer*, saying,

They "would gladly have accepted Christ along with Mithra and Isis and Serapis...*The same person* might be initiated into the *mysteries* of half a dozen pagan divinities and also be a priest of two or more gods. Some had not the slightest objection to worshipping Christ along with Mithra, Isis and Adonis."³⁶

Paul isn't speaking about the New Moons of Mosaic Law in Gal. 4:10 when he speaks of *months*, but something in paganism. Galatian Christians were returning to their old ways of worship and intertwining it with their 'faith' in the Messiah of Israel. The *months* of Gal. 4:10 have nothing to do with the New Moons of Mosaic Law.

With *days* and *months* firmly established as pagan days and months, it's superfluous to write about sea-

³⁴ Also, many aspects of our God and what He has done for us are found in Mosaic Law. For example, the New Jerusalem, which is seen in shadow picture form in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle of Moses, for both are cubes; Ex. 26:15-29; Rev. 21:1-2, 16; cf. 1st Kings 6:20 for Solomon's Holy of Holies, which is also a cube.

³⁵ See *The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Lifting-of-the-Veil.pdf> for what the four rules spoke of and how they acted as a divine filter against sacrificial-sexual idolatry for Gentile Christians. They are not rules on 'table fellowship,' but rules pertaining to Gentile salvation.

³⁶ Geoffrey W. Bromiley, general editor; Everett F. Harrison, Roland K. Harrison and William Sanford LaSor, associate editors, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Volume Four (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1979), p. 214.

sons and years because the four terms are a whole unit describing paganism. With the first two being pagan, the last two must also be pagan. Paul isn't speaking about the seasons and years of Mosaic Law in Galatians 4:10.

Conclusion

Galatians 4:8-11, with its use of *days* and *months*, etc., is used as a proof text by Christians to prove that they don't have to keep the *days*, nor the *months* of Mosaic Law (i.e. the Sabbaths and New Moons, etc.). Their position is shattered because the text reveals that Paul isn't speaking of the Law's Sabbaths and New Moons, but of pagan days and months, etc. With Paul not specifically writing of the Sabbath, and his use of the general term for *days*, etc., and nothing in the passage that even hints at the Sabbath or New Moons of Mosaic Law, there is no biblical connection for *days* to equal Sabbaths, etc.

Romans 14:5-6 revealed the error in thinking that the Sabbath can be inserted where Paul speaks of a *day* because the context of Romans reveals a *day* the veggie-only eaters set aside or esteemed for fasting. It has nothing to do with God's 7th day Sabbath and neither does Paul's use of *days* in Gal. 4:10.

The Galatians passage clearly brings out that the Apostle Paul isn't speaking of the Sabbaths, New Moons, Feasts and the Jubilee Year of Mosaic Law because he writes of the Galatians turning *again* "to the weak and beggarly elements," in which they desired "again to be in bondage." This means that the bondage of the *days* and *months*, etc., that they were returning to were pagan days and months, etc.

After Paul writes of the *weak and beggarly elements* in Gal. 4:9 he speaks of 'days, months, seasons and years' in v. 10, which are the specifics of the *weak and beggarly elements* to which the 'foolish Galatians' (Gal. 3:1, 3) were *returning* to. Boice states that it was the Law of Moses, but Gentile Galatians had never known Mosaic Law as pagans, before they came to Messiah, so how could they be *returning* to the Sabbath, New Moons and Feasts of Mosaic Law? The *elements* speak of the heavenly bodies in the universe, which pagans thought controlled their destiny and which they ordered their lives around, much like pagan people do with horoscopes today. *This* is why Paul rebukes them. As Proverbs says: "As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly." (Proverbs 26:11)

Boice declares that the four terms: *days, months, seasons and years*, are a list of *Jewish observances*. Aside from Mosaic Law forbidding Israel from worshipping the stars, the moon and the sun, Paul never speaks of the Sabbath or the Feasts of Israel or Mosaic Law as *weak and beggarly elements*. On the contrary, Paul has the highest regard for all the rules and judgments of Mosaic Law, stating in his greatest theological letter that Mosaic Law:

1. reveals *God's understanding of sin* (Rom. 3:20), and
2. that Mosaic Law is *established* by faith in Messiah (Rom. 3:31), and
3. Mosaic Law is holy, righteous and spiritual (Rom. 7:12, 14), which is something we wouldn't expect from the Apostle to the Gentiles if he, as the Church credits him with, abolished Mosaic Law for Christians.

In Colossians 2:16 Paul writes of the Sabbath, New Moons and Feasts of Israel, and if he had done that in Galatians 4:8-11 we would have known that he was addressing the Law of Moses, but he doesn't and so he wasn't. Despite the Church teaching against Mosaic Law, and wrongly using Paul to justify it, the Apostle kept the Feasts of Israel³⁷ and all Mosaic Law that applied to him,³⁸ just as His Master had. This

³⁷ See 1st Cor. 5:6-8, where the Apostle encourages the Corinthians to keep Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and also, *The Feasts of Israel and the Church* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-and-the-Church.pdf> and *The Feasts of Israel as Time Markers After the Resurrection* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The->

means that he also kept the Sabbath and New Moons, and that he taught his Gentile Christians to keep them as well, instructing them to imitate him as he imitated the Messiah (1st Cor. 5:6-8; 7:19; 11:1).

It was specifically in relation to Gnostic condemnation of *how* the Colossian Christians were keeping Mosaic Law that Paul wrote, telling the Colossians not to let anyone judge them as to how they kept the things of Mosaic Law (foods to eat or not eat and days to keep). Having admonished them he goes on, in the very next, Col. 2:17, to tell them that those things of Mosaic Law are actually picture-shadows of the Messiah, who is to come, which is an amazing reality in itself. It also reveals that the Church's stance against Mosaic Law is not biblical. On the contrary, Paul upholds the Sabbath and New Moons, etc., of Mosaic Law while coming against keeping them in a Gnostic way, which is the theme of Colossians Two, so how could he be rebuking the Galatians for keeping the Sabbath and New Moons of Mosaic Law?

Returning to the passage in Galatians, the term for *months* in Gal. 4:10 is not the Greek word for New Moons, but a word that speaks of months or a day or days within a month. It's a very general designation, as is *days*, and there is no intrinsic connection with the New Moons of Mosaic Law. *Months* could be referring to the Galatian Christians incorporating Lent into their liturgical year: weeping over Tammuz and applying it to Jesus. Yes, it's very strange, and most likely not what Paul was referring to, but how can any Christian today keep Lent? Lent is a pagan practice that glorifies the pagan 'Christ.' Be that as it may, Paul isn't speaking against the New Moons of Mosaic Law in Galatians, despite the certainty of Boice.

Seasons and *years* (Gal. 4:10) are also general terms that cannot pertain to Mosaic Law because *days* and *months* are Gnostic/pagan. Also, Paul doesn't speak of any Mosaic *seasons*, etc. The four terms in Gal. 4:10 are a unit and belong to the same pagan rituals that had crept into the Galatian Christian community.

The two heresies that the Apostle Paul was coming against in Galatia were most likely being taught by Gnostic *Jewish* Christians, whom we would call Judaizers. These rogue Jews blended the Mosaic Law's rite of circumcision (which had falsely become a symbol for Pharisaic Jewish salvation), along with faith in Yeshua. This is their main heresy and the reason why we know they were rogue Jews because Gentile paganism didn't teach circumcision. The second heresy they taught to the gullible Galatians was their Gnostic belief in the observance of pagan *days* and *months*, etc., thinking that the planets, the moon, the stars and the sun controlled their lives. Hence, the need for Paul's letter to the Galatians so they could see the error of their ways and return to the true Light of the world and His Ways.

In Gal. 4:8-11 Paul lets us know that this second heresy had to do with *days* and *months*, etc. Unfortunately, the Apostle didn't go into the actual details of what they did on those days and months, but this much we know—the Gentile Christians were *returning* to their former way of worshipping their idol gods and goddesses of the heavens through those *days* and *months*, etc., v. 8 They were not returning to Mosaic Law, which they had never known as pagans.

Mosaic Law is God's wisdom revealing the character and personality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (cf. Prov. 8:1f.), and how He wants Israel to live in this world. It's not what Paul is coming against in Colossians Two—Gnosticism is the problem.

Mosaic Law is God's holy and righteous Standard that reveals both the full extent of what sin is and how to walk out our faith in Yeshua so we can gain wisdom and be 'fully equipped for every good work.'³⁹

[Feasts-of-Israel-as-Time-Markers.pdf](#).

³⁸ For example, Paul took two Nazarite Vows as a Christian; Acts 18:18; 21:20-24f., and with its animal sacrifice, it 'doesn't get any more Mosaic Law' than that. Paul expressly took the second vow to declare to everyone, including us today, that he kept Mosaic Law; Acts 21:24, See the chapter, *Acts 21:25—Observe No Such Thing!*, p. 152ff., in *The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Lifting-of-the-Veil.pdf> for why Paul took the Nazarite Vow, with its Mosaic animal sacrifices, 25 years *after* the resurrection in 55 AD. There is no greater thing the Apostle to the Gentiles could have done to show us that he still kept, and taught his Gentiles, Mosaic Law.

Messiah Yeshua is the Living Word of God, and therefore, Mosaic Law, which is God's words, presents an accurate reflection of Yeshua's personality, which is why Paul speaks of the things of Mosaic Law being a shadow of what or who is to come (Col. 2:17). Mosaic Law paints a word-shadow-picture of Yeshua in His glory to be revealed on Judgment Day. The two, Mosaic Law (God's words) and Yeshua (God's Word) are one,⁴⁰ and as such, reveal who our Father is as well.

The lesson that Paul is teaching us through Galatians, Colossians and Romans is that it's not acceptable to worship the Messiah of Israel through Gnostic and pagan days and ways. Yet, this is exactly the state of Christianity today in having 'baptized' pagan days and ways 'to Jesus.'

I call these pagan traditions that overturn God's Word and His will for us *illicit SEX* because these traditions are *forbidden* by God, and hence, illicit. *SEX* is an acronym for **S**unday, **E**aster and **X**mas, which are all pagan days honoring pagan gods and goddesses, but now allegedly honoring Jesus. There is no biblical New Testament justification for any of those days.

Illicit SEX also symbolizes the Church's teaching of these pagan things while despising the holy days and ways of God's righteous Standard for us—Mosaic Law, which is truly meant to direct our lives.

Christianity is the only religion in the world that does not emulate its Founder, but God is calling us to correct that!⁴¹

³⁹ See Romans 3:20, 31; 7:7, 12, 14; 8:1f.; 1st Tim. 3:10-17.

⁴⁰ Ask for the PDF, *The Word of God and Mosaic Law*.

⁴¹ For more articles that establish Mosaic Law as God's will for Christians, see:

1. *A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/A-Snapshot-of-Church-History-and-Mosaic-Law.pdf>
2. *God's Way vs Church Way* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Gods-Way-vs-Church-Way.pdf>
3. *Grace, Holiness and the Pharisaic Church* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Grace-Holiness-and-the-Pharisaic-Church.pdf>
4. *Have You Ever Wondered?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Have-You-Ever-Wondered.pdf>
5. *Hebrews and the Change of the Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Hebrews-and-the-Change-of-the-Law.pdf>
6. *Law 102* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Law-102.pdf>
7. *Law and Grace* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Law-and-Grace.pdf>
8. *No Longer Under the Law?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/No-Longer-Under-the-Law.pdf>
9. *Seven Reasons Why The Church is Wrong* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Seven-Reasons-Why-The-Church-is-Wrong.pdf>
10. *Seven Ways Yeshua Fulfilled the Law* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Seven-Ways-Yeshua-Fulfilled-Law.pdf>
11. *Take the Quiz! Five Quick Questions about the New Testament* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Take-the-Quiz.pdf>
12. *The Feasts of Israel and the Church* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-and-the-Church.pdf>
13. *The Feasts of Israel as Time Markers After the Resurrection* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Feasts-of-Israel-as-Time-Markers.pdf>
14. *The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21* at <http://seedofabraham.net/The-Lifting-of-the-Veil.pdf>
15. *Why Sunday?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/Why-Sunday.pdf>

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