

ENEMIES WITHIN

PAUL'S ENEMIES AND ALLIES – CLASS 2



WHAT PROBLEMS EXISTED IN THE 1ST CENTURY ECCLESIA THAT CAME 'FROM WITHIN'?



- CIRCUMCISION/LAW KEEPING
- TEMPLE WORSHIP/MEAT EATING
- RESURRECTION IS PAST
- PROMINENT LEADERS/PARTY SPIRIT/FACTIONS
- FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE
- CARE FOR WIDOWS/PREJUDICE
- JEW VS GENTILE
- MISUSE OF THE HS GIFTS/SPEAKING IN TONGUES


2Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

• WHERE IT ALL STARTED: ACTS 10 – THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS!

- ACTS 10:28 AND PETER SAID UNTO THEM, YE KNOW HOW THAT IT IS AN UNLAWFUL THING FOR A MAN THAT IS A JEW TO KEEP COMPANY, OR COME UNTO ONE OF ANOTHER NATION...
- **BUT GOD HATH SHEWED ME** THAT I SHOULD NOT CALL ANY MAN COMMON OR UNCLEAN.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED: ACTS 10 – THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS!

- ACTS 10:44 **WHILE PETER YET SPAKE** THESE WORDS...
- ... THE HOLY SPIRIT FELL ON ALL THEM WHICH HEARD THE WORD.
- 45 AND THEY OF THE CIRCUMCISION WHICH BELIEVED WERE **ASTONISHED**, AS MANY AS CAME WITH PETER, BECAUSE THAT ON THE GENTILES ALSO WAS POURED OUT THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



1839. existemi...from 1537 and 2476; to put (stand) out of wits, i.e. astound, or (reflexively) become astounded, insane:--amaze, be (make) astonished, be beside self (selves), bewitch, wonder.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED: “FALLOUT” FROM THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS! (ACTS 11)

- ACTS 11:1 AND THE APOSTLES AND BRETHREN THAT WERE IN JUDAEA **HEARD** THAT THE GENTILES HAD ALSO RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD.
- 2 AND WHEN PETER WAS COME UP TO JERUSALEM, **THEY THAT WERE OF THE CIRCUMCISION CONTENDED WITH HIM,**
- 3 SAYING, THOU WENTEST IN TO MEN UNCIRCUMCISED, AND DIDST EAT WITH THEM.
- 4 BUT PETER REHEARSED THE MATTER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND EXPOUNDED IT BY ORDER UNTO THEM, SAYING...

WHERE IT ALL STARTED: “FALLOUT” FROM THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS! (ACTS 11)

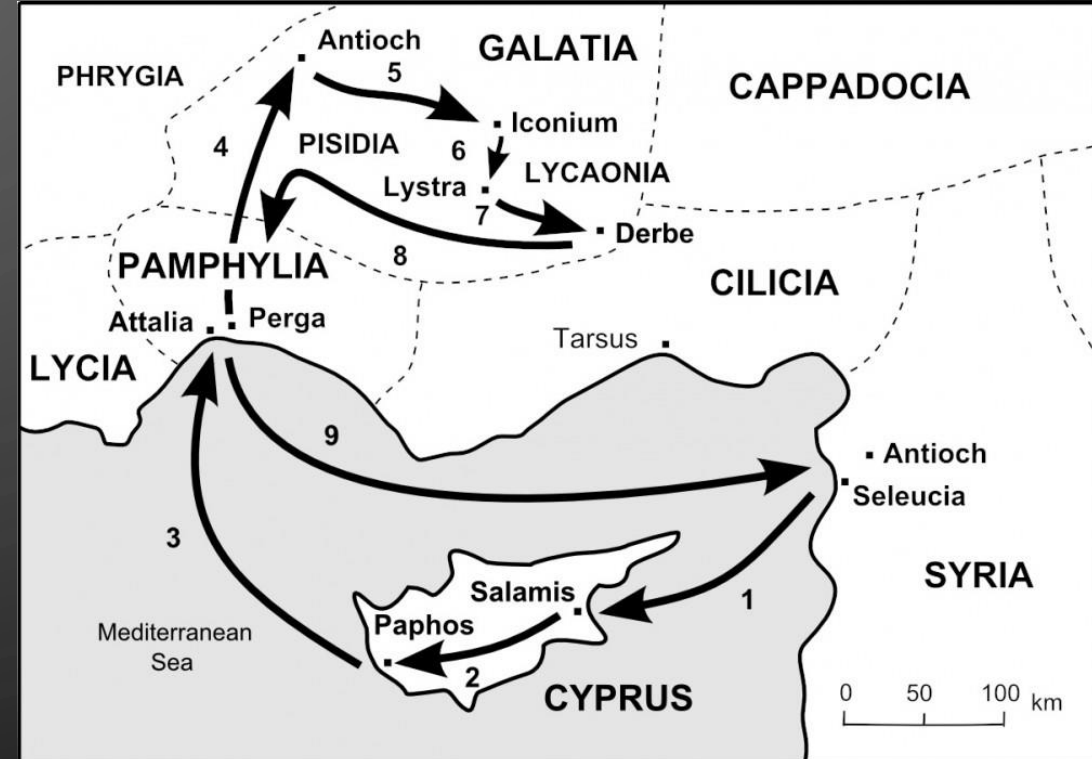
- ACTS 11:18 WHEN THEY [THAT WERE OF THE CIRCUMCISION] HEARD THESE THINGS, **THEY HELD THEIR PEACE**, AND GLORIFIED GOD, SAYING, THEN HATH GOD ALSO TO THE GENTILES GRANTED REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE.



But not for long → they were biding their time!

PAUL'S EARLY WORK AMONG THE GENTILES: ACTS 13-14

- ACTS 13:38 BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU THEREFORE, MEN AND BRETHREN, THAT THROUGH THIS MAN IS PREACHED UNTO YOU THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS:
- 39 AND BY HIM **ALL THAT BELIEVE ARE JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, FROM WHICH YE COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF MOSES.**
- ACTS 14:27 AND WHEN THEY WERE COME, AND HAD GATHERED THE ECCLESIA TOGETHER, **THEY REHEARSED ALL THAT GOD HAD DONE WITH THEM, AND HOW HE HAD OPENED THE DOOR OF FAITH UNTO THE GENTILES.**

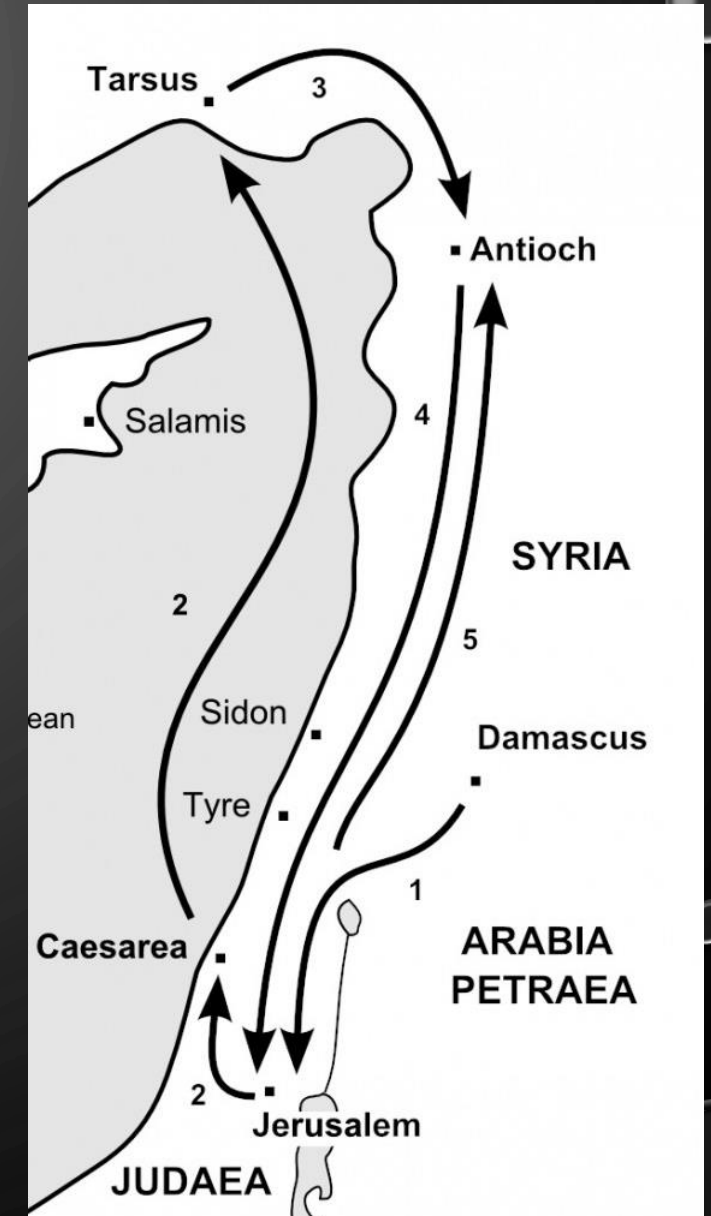


HANDLING STRIFE WITHIN THE ECCLESIA: ACTS 15

ACTS 15:1 **AND CERTAIN MEN** WHICH CAME DOWN FROM JUDAEA TAUGHT THE BRETHREN, AND SAID, EXCEPT YE BE CIRCUMCISED AFTER THE MANNER OF MOSES, **YE CANNOT BE SAVED.**

2 WHEN THEREFORE PAUL AND BARNABAS HAD NO SMALL DISSENSION AND DISPUTATION WITH **THEM**, THEY DETERMINED THAT PAUL AND BARNABAS, AND CERTAIN OTHER OF THEM, SHOULD GO UP TO JERUSALEM UNTO THE APOSTLES AND ELDERS ABOUT THIS QUESTION...

5 BUT THERE ROSE UP **CERTAIN OF THE SECT OF THE PHARISEES WHICH BELIEVED**, SAYING, THAT IT WAS NEEDFUL TO CIRCUMCISE THEM, AND TO COMMAND THEM TO KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES.



PERHAPS THIS IS WHERE GALATIANS 2 FITS IN...

- GALATIANS 2:4 AND THAT BECAUSE OF FALSE BRETHREN UNAWARES BROUGHT IN, WHO CAME IN PRIVILY TO SPY OUT OUR LIBERTY WHICH WE HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS, THAT THEY MIGHT BRING US INTO BONDAGE...
- 11-12 BUT WHEN PETER WAS COME TO ANTIOCH, I WITHSTOOD HIM TO THE FACE, BECAUSE HE WAS TO BE BLAMED. FOR BEFORE THAT CERTAIN CAME FROM JAMES, HE DID EAT WITH THE GENTILES: BUT WHEN THEY WERE COME, HE WITHDREW AND SEPARATED HIMSELF, FEARING THEM WHICH WERE OF THE CIRCUMCISION.
- 13 AND THE OTHER JEWS DISSEMBLED LIKEWISE WITH HIM; INSOMUCH THAT BARNABAS ALSO WAS CARRIED AWAY WITH THEIR DISSIMULATION.

PERHAPS THIS IS WHERE GALATIANS 2 FITS IN...

- 14-15 BUT WHEN I SAW THAT THEY WALKED NOT UPRIGHTLY **ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL**, I SAID UNTO PETER BEFORE THEM ALL...
- IF THOU, BEING A JEW, LIVEST AFTER THE MANNER OF GENTILES, AND NOT AS DO THE JEWS, WHY COMPELLEST THOU THE GENTILES TO LIVE AS DO THE JEWS? WE WHO ARE JEWS BY NATURE, AND NOT SINNERS OF THE GENTILES,
- 16 KNOWING 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.

HANDLING STRIFE WITHIN THE ECCLESIA: ACTS 15

25-26 IT SEEMED GOOD UNTO US, BEING ASSEMBLED WITH ONE ACCORD, TO SEND CHOSEN MEN UNTO YOU WITH **OUR BELOVED BARNABAS AND PAUL**, MEN THAT HAVE HAZARDED THEIR LIVES FOR THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

27-29 WE HAVE SENT THEREFORE JUDAS AND SILAS, WHO SHALL ALSO TELL YOU THE SAME THINGS BY MOUTH. FOR IT SEEMED GOOD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TO US, TO LAY UPON YOU NO GREATER BURDEN THAN **THESE NECESSARY THINGS**;

- ✓ THAT YE ABSTAIN FROM MEATS OFFERED TO IDOLS,
- ✓ AND FROM BLOOD, AND FROM THINGS STRANGLED,
- ✓ AND FROM FORNICATION:

FROM WHICH IF YE KEEP YOURSELVES, YE SHALL DO WELL. FARE YE WELL.

HOW PAUL HANDLES THIS INTERNAL CONFLICT

- PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14 BUT I WOULD YE SHOULD UNDERSTAND, BRETHREN, THAT THE THINGS WHICH HAPPENED UNTO ME HAVE FALLEN OUT RATHER UNTO THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL; SO THAT MY BONDS IN CHRIST ARE MANIFEST IN ALL THE PALACE, AND IN ALL OTHER PLACES; AND MANY OF THE BRETHREN IN THE LORD, WAXING CONFIDENT BY MY BONDS, ARE MUCH MORE BOLD TO SPEAK THE WORD WITHOUT FEAR.
- 15-17 SOME INDEED PREACH CHRIST EVEN OF **ENVY AND STRIFE**; AND SOME ALSO OF **GOOD WILL**: THE ONE PREACH CHRIST OF **CONTENTION**, NOT SINCERELY, SUPPOSING TO ADD AFFLICTION TO MY BONDS: BUT THE OTHER OF **LOVE**, KNOWING THAT I AM SET FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE GOSPEL.
- 18-19 WHAT THEN? NOTWITHSTANDING, EVERY WAY, WHETHER IN **PRETENCE**, OR IN **TRUTH**, CHRIST IS PREACHED; AND I THEREIN DO REJOICE, YEA, AND WILL REJOICE. FOR I KNOW THAT THIS SHALL TURN TO MY SALVATION THROUGH YOUR PRAYER, AND THE SUPPLY OF THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST,

BUT PAUL STILL SPEAKS TRUTH!

- PHILIPPIANS 3:1 -3 FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, REJOICE IN THE LORD. TO WRITE THE SAME THINGS TO YOU, TO ME INDEED IS NOT GRIEVOUS, BUT FOR YOU IT IS SAFE. BEWARE OF DOGS, BEWARE OF EVIL WORKERS, **BEWARE OF THE CONCISION**. FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION, WHICH WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT, AND REJOICE IN CHRIST JESUS, AND HAVE **NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH**.

What is... **concision**?

Greek: κατατομή —transliteration: katatome —archaic meaning: mutilation, a cutting up or off, spoiling.

This is a term used contemptuously by the Apostle Paul of those who were zealots for circumcision. Instead of the warning, “Beware of the circumcision” (peritome) i.e., of the party who pressed on Gentile converts the necessity of still observing that ordinance, he says, “Beware of the concision”.

The translation of κατατομή as “concision” appears in the King James Version and is only used a single time. More recent translations render it as “mutilators of the flesh” (Phil. 3:2 NIV), “mutilate the flesh” (Phil. 3:2 ESV), “false circumcision” (Phil. 3:2 NASB).

CLEAR TEACHING ON THIS TOPIC!

- GALATIANS 5:1 STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, **AND BE NOT ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE YOKE OF BONDAGE.**
- 2,4 BEHOLD, I PAUL SAY UNTO YOU, THAT IF YE BE CIRCUMCISED, CHRIST SHALL PROFIT YOU **NOTHING**... CHRIST IS BECOME OF **NO EFFECT** UNTO YOU, WHOSOEVER OF YOU ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE...
- 6 FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANY THING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION; **BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE.**
- 1 CORINTHIANS 7:18-19 WAS ANYONE CALLED WHILE CIRCUMCISED? LET HIM NOT BECOME UNCIRCUMCISED. WAS ANYONE CALLED WHILE UNCIRCUMCISED? LET HIM NOT BE CIRCUMCISED. CIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING AND UNCIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING, **BUT KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD IS WHAT MATTERS.** (NKJV)

SADLY SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED: ACTS 21

- ACTS 21:18-19 AND THE DAY FOLLOWING PAUL WENT IN WITH US UNTO JAMES; AND ALL THE ELDERS WERE PRESENT. AND WHEN HE HAD SALUTED THEM, HE DECLARED PARTICULARLY WHAT THINGS GOD HAD WROUGHT AMONG THE GENTILES BY HIS MINISTRY.
- 20-22 AND WHEN THEY HEARD IT, **THEY GLORIFIED THE LORD...** [BUT]...
- ...SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SEEST, BROTHER, HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF JEWS THERE ARE WHICH BELIEVE; AND THEY ARE ALL **ZEALOUS OF THE LAW:** AND THEY ARE INFORMED OF THEE, THAT THOU TEACHEST ALL THE JEWS WHICH ARE AMONG THE GENTILES TO **FORSAKE MOSES**, SAYING THAT THEY **OUGHT NOT TO CIRCUMCISE** THEIR CHILDREN, NEITHER TO WALK AFTER THE CUSTOMS. WHAT IS IT THEREFORE? THE MULTITUDE MUST NEEDS COME TOGETHER: FOR THEY WILL HEAR THAT THOU ART COME...

SADLY SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED: ACTS 21

- ACTS 21:23-24 **DO THEREFORE THIS THAT WE SAY TO THEE:** WE HAVE FOUR MEN WHICH HAVE A VOW ON THEM; THEM TAKE, AND PURIFY THYSELF WITH THEM, AND BE AT CHARGES WITH THEM, THAT THEY MAY SHAVE THEIR HEADS: AND ALL MAY KNOW THAT THOSE THINGS, WHEREOF THEY WERE INFORMED CONCERNING THEE, ARE NOTHING; **BUT THAT THOU THYSELF ALSO WALKEST ORDERLY, AND KEEPEST THE LAW...** [BUT] ...
- 25 AS TOUCHING THE GENTILES WHICH BELIEVE, WE HAVE WRITTEN AND CONCLUDED THAT THEY OBSERVE NO SUCH THING, SAVE ONLY THAT THEY KEEP THEMSELVES FROM THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS, AND FROM BLOOD, AND FROM STRANGLED, AND FROM FORNICATION.

ASIDE: PAUL'S M.O.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19 FOR THOUGH I AM FREE FROM ALL MEN, I HAVE MADE MYSELF A SERVANT TO ALL, **THAT I MIGHT WIN THE MORE;**
- 20 AND **TO THE JEWS I BECAME AS A JEW**, THAT I MIGHT WIN JEWS; TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, AS UNDER THE LAW, THAT I MIGHT WIN THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW;
- 21 **TO THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT LAW, AS WITHOUT LAW** (NOT BEING WITHOUT LAW TOWARD GOD, BUT UNDER LAW TOWARD CHRIST), THAT I MIGHT WIN THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT LAW;
- 22 **TO THE WEAK I BECAME AS WEAK**, THAT I MIGHT WIN THE WEAK. I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, **THAT I MIGHT BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME.**

LESSONS FROM DEALING WITH 'ENEMIES WITHIN'!

- ✓ THE TRUTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR 'TRADITIONS' AND 'CUSTOMS'
- ✓ WE HAVE TO SPEAK TRUTH, EVEN WHILE NOT TAKING SLANDER PERSONALLY!
- ✓ COMPROMISE MAY BE NECESSARY ON NON-ESSENTIAL THINGS
- ✓ IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO PLEASE ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME!
 - COMPROMISE ON ESSENTIAL THINGS LEADS TO DISASTER!