



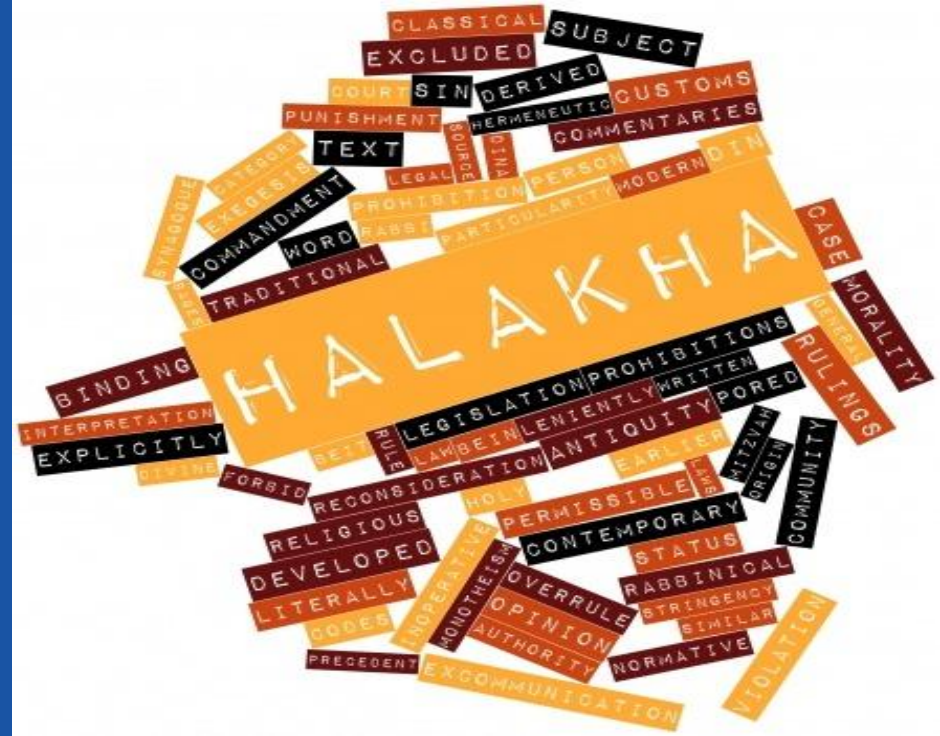
SHOULD GENTILES BE CIRCUMCISED?

- Circumcision marked a person as a Jew (Hebrew)
- Circumcision as “Judaizing”?
- Was not intended to create an “unholy” mixture of Christianity and Judaism
- The Way was a new sect of Judaism
- Seemed self-evident that to be a member, one first had to be a Jew
- Acts 21:18 - 20



RITUAL PURITY STILL MATTERED

- CJB “Torah” vs. 20, is *nomos* in Greek
- **Nomos** = Law
- But in this use, it points to Jewish Law: **Halakhah**
- 2nd reason for circumcision was ritual purity
- Gentiles did NOT follow the laws of ritual purity, so they might “infect” Jews
- 4 “rules” are actually categories of behaviors
- The 4 rules were all about ritual purity such that IF obeyed, THEN gentiles would be seen as ritually clean



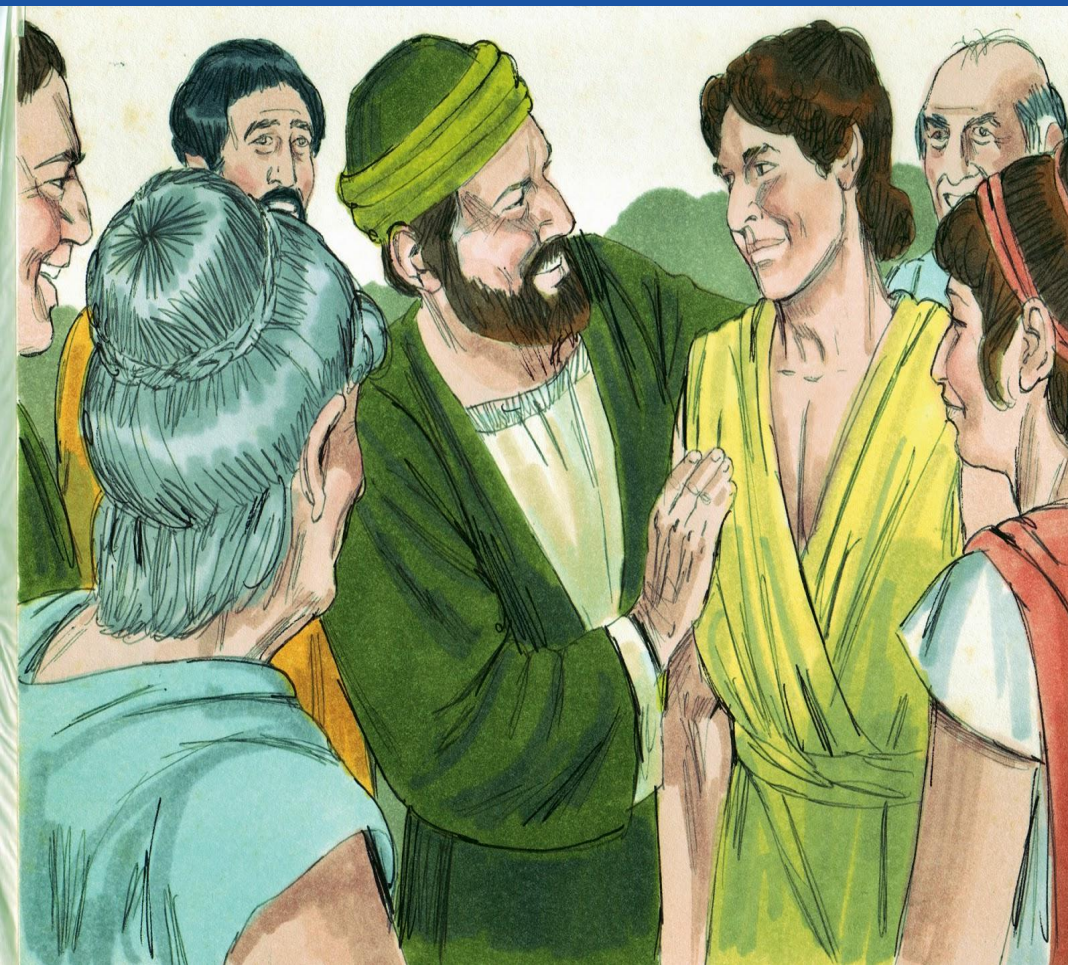
4 RULES TAKEN FROM THE LAW OF MOSES

- NOTHING in the Jerusalem Council decree implied that gentiles should only ever obey 4 rules
- Acts 15: 21
- Good news for gentiles and for Jews
- Nothing prohibiting a gentile who wanted to be circumcised (become a Jew)
- BUT...it had to be for the right reasons

- 1) NO IDOLATRY
- 2) NO FORNICATION
- 3) NO STRANGLING MEAT ANIMALS
- 4) NO BLOOD



ACTS CHAPTER 16: PAUL'S 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



- Timothy lived in the Derbe/Lystra area
- Mother was a Jewish Believer, father a pagan gentile
- Timothy a disciple of Christ
- Mother Eunice, grandmother Lois
- Was Paul hypocritical to make Timothy get circumcised?
- Chrysostom says Paul did the wrong thing but for the right reasons!

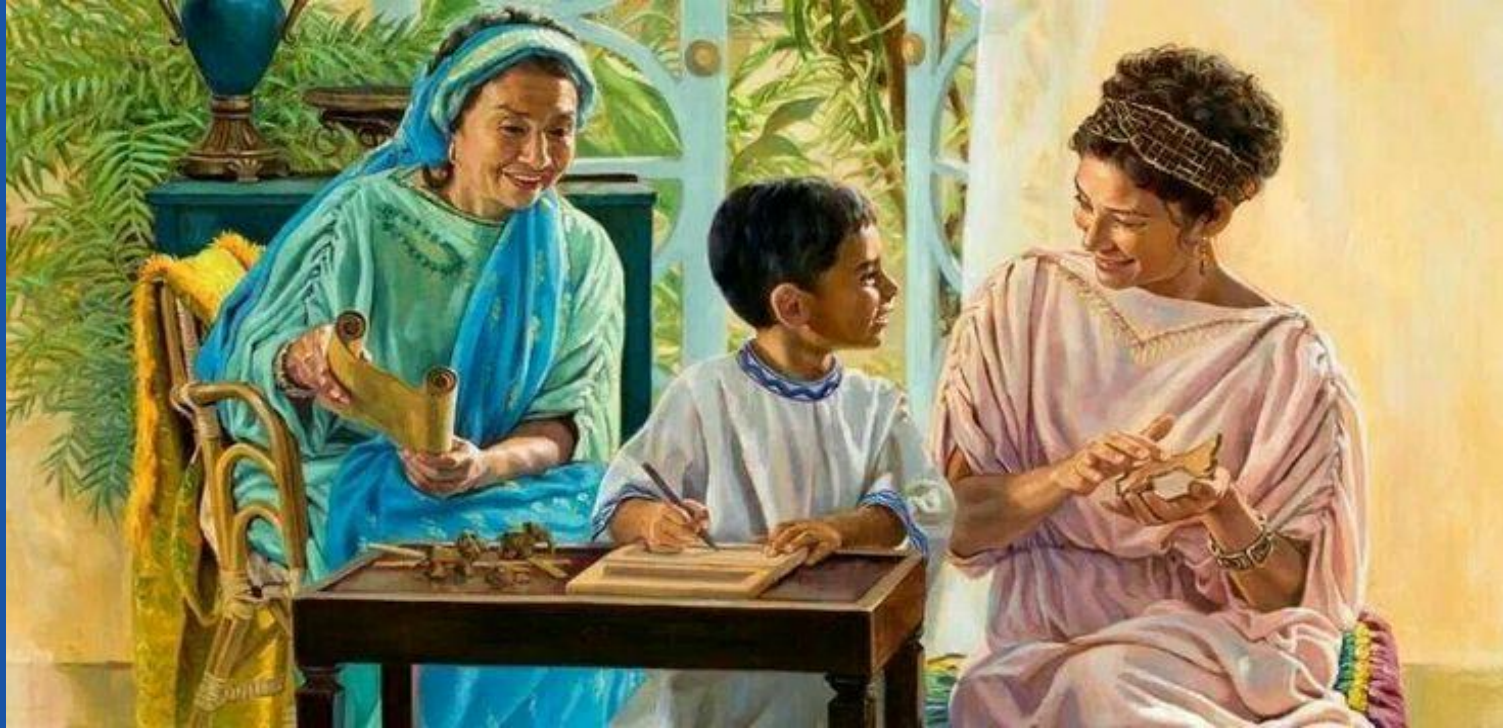
WHAT WAS TIMOTHY?

- Most Bible commentaries say that he was a gentile
- Jewishness determined by birth mother
- Is being a Jew a race? A religion? A nationality? A mindset? A chosen identity?
- ***Mishnah Kiddushin, Tosefta Kiddushin*** say matrilineal descent
- Ezra 10:1 – 3 implies matrilineal descent
- Dr. David Stern, *Jewish New Testament Commentary*

What is
a JEW?

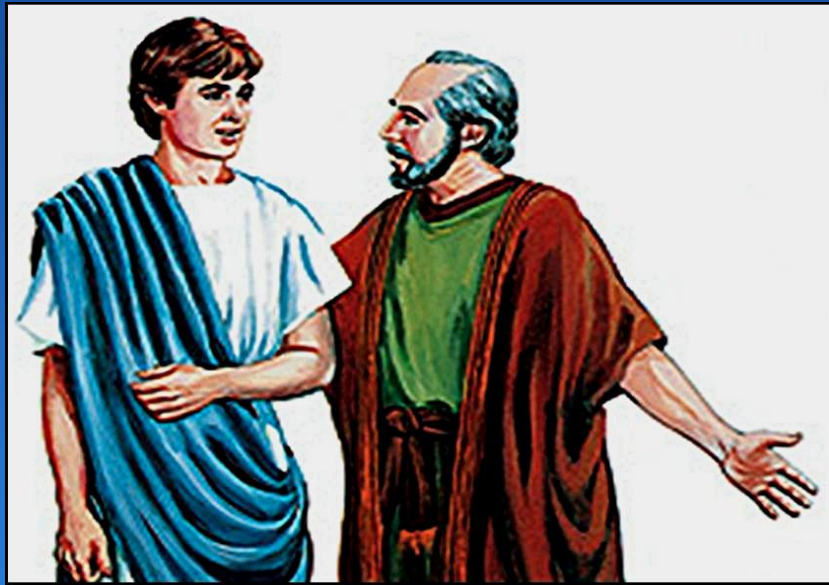
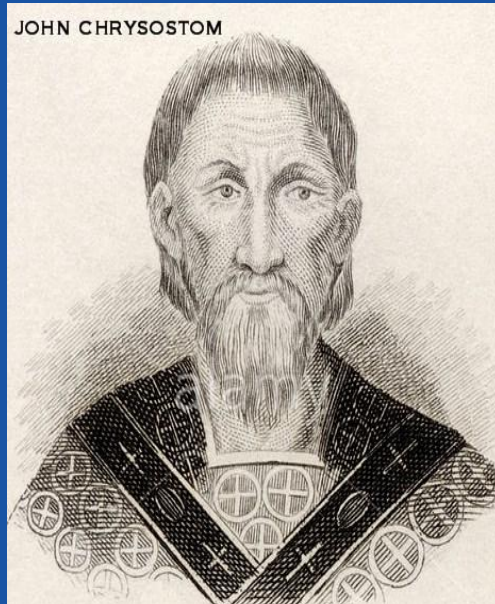
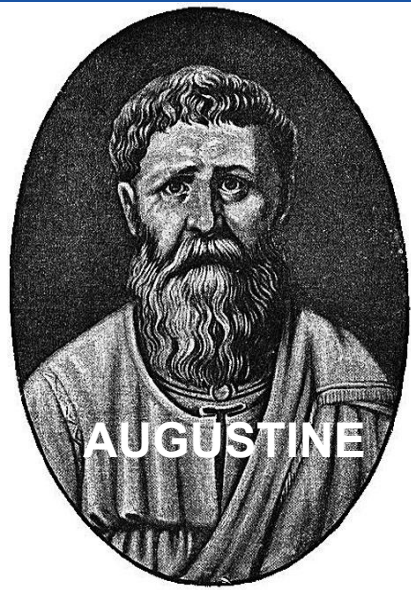
Sina





- Likely, as a fully assimilated Diaspora Jew, Eunice thought little of her Jewish heritage
- Similar among many Jews today who have little regard for their heritage and marry without concern for religion
- Later, after coming to faith, Paul showed them the great value in their Jewish heritage Romans 3: 1, 2

WAS PAUL A HYPROCRITE?

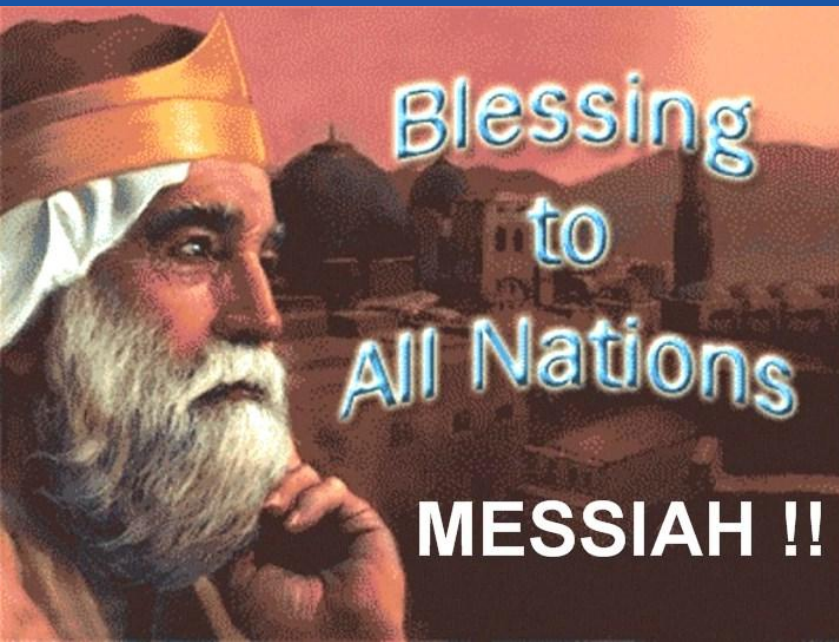


- Technically, Timothy was a Jew, but he had not been circumcised
- Paul was validating Timothy's Jewish heritage
- Augustine disagreed with Chrysostom
- *"...would be by all means wrong...to forsake (Moses) who prophesied of Christ..."*
- Evidence is that some of the early Church Fathers were "Hebrew Roots"

MESSIAH, SEED OF ABRAHAM



- Promise of a Messiah inherent in the Abrahamic Covenant
- Most destruction can be done to the Body of Christ when our understanding of the structure of our faith is attacked and conquered
- Circumcision is fundamental
- No Covenant of Abraham, no salvation in Christ
- No circumcision of the heart, no salvation





- “They” is referring to Paul, Sila, and Timothy
- Not Phrygia and Galatia; it is Phrygia-Galatica
- Paul was going back to the towns where he had previously made Believers



- God disrupts Peter's travel plans
- They changed direction to go north towards Bithynia
- Disciples were stopped again, this time by "Spirit of Yeshua"
- Again changed direction and went to Troas
- Would cross Aegean Sea and into Europe