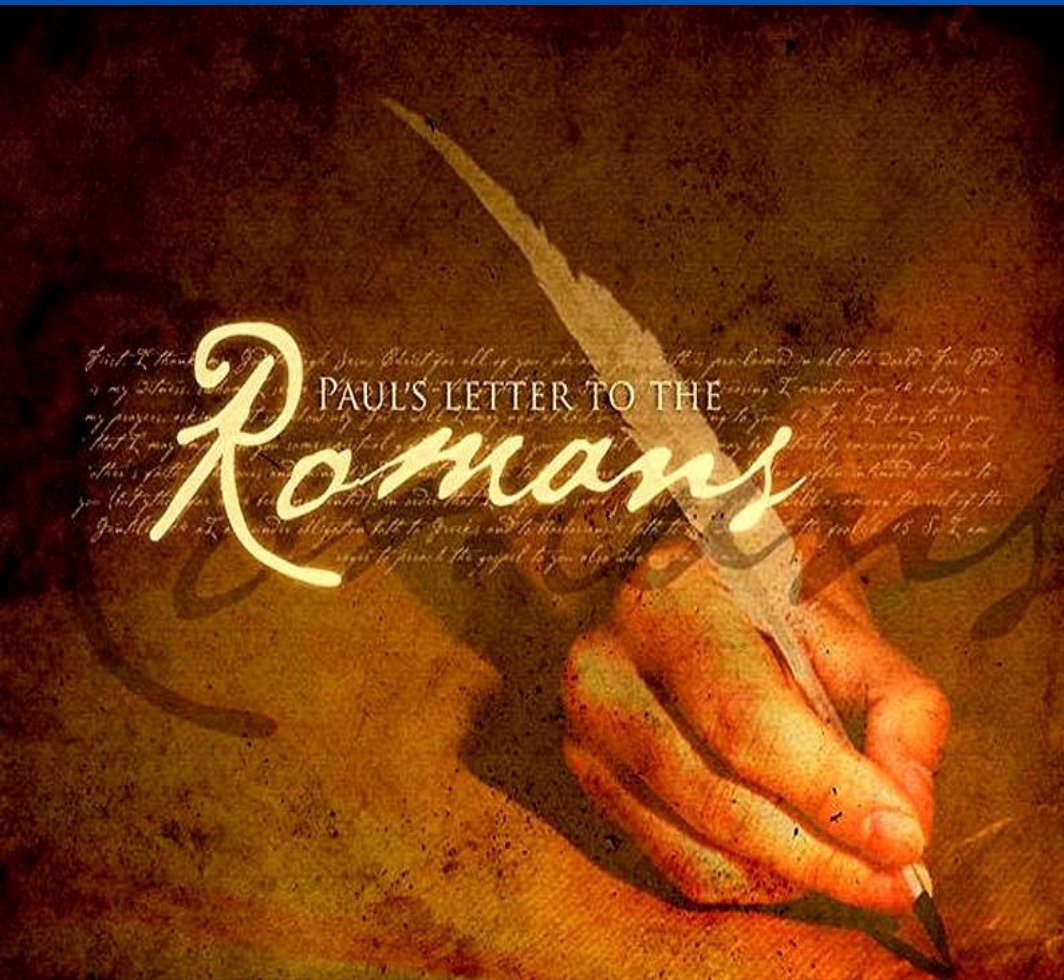
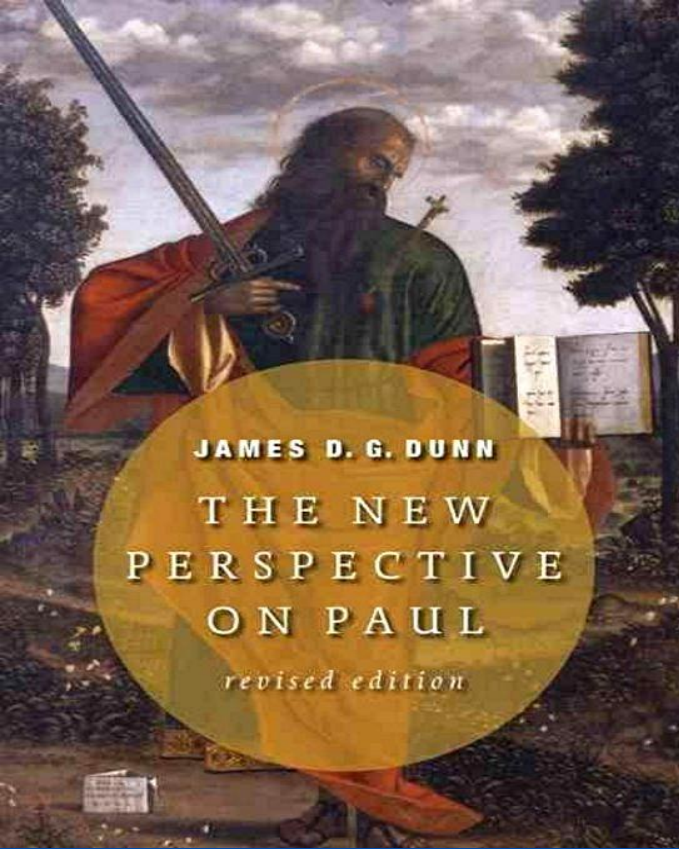


INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS



- Book of Romans has more influence on the Christian faith than any other Bible book
- James D.G. Dunn
- The New Perspective
- All about Paul and the Epistles
- Championed by E.P. Sanders
- Is moving into mainstream Christianity

THE NEW PERSPECTIVE



JAMES D. G. DUNN

THE NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL

revised edition

- Asserts that Paul was a full fledged Jew before and after he turned to Christ
- Therefore: we must know Paul within the boundaries of his Jewishness
- Most NT scholars, Pastors, lay people see this as almost heresy
- One thing to admit this reality, another to explore where it leads
- Too risky for careers and livelihoods to pursue this path
- Concerned about disrupting the internal workings of the institutional Church

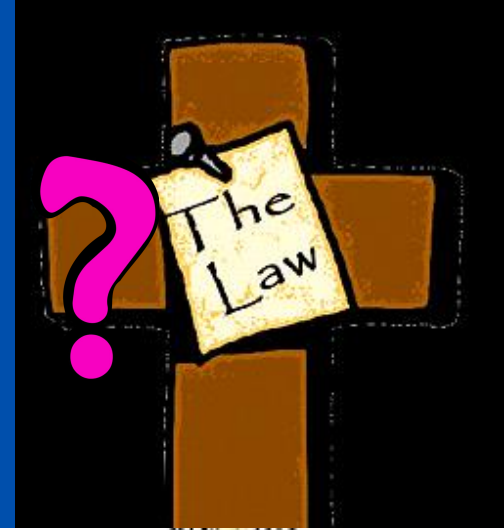


**KEEP
CALM**

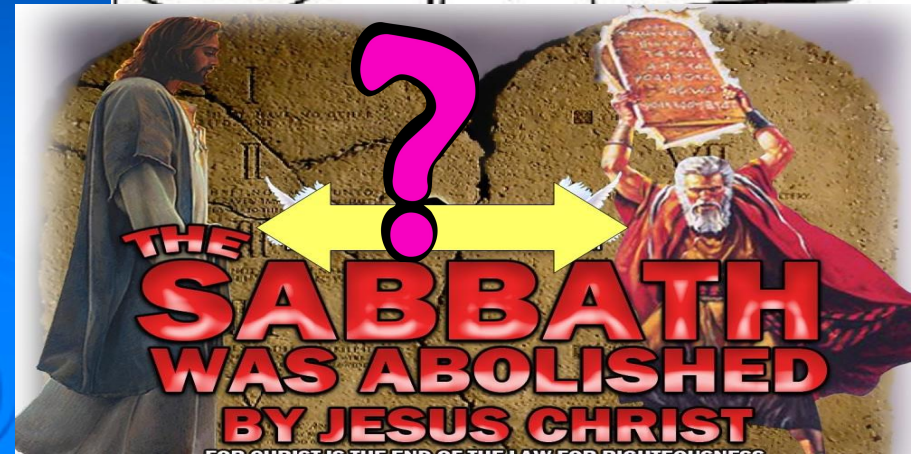
and

**BURN THE
HERETIC**

WHAT WOULD IT MEAN IF.....



- What if some of the basic doctrines were found to be wrong?
- Early Church Fathers (gentiles) first decided on these doctrines
- We shall re-examine the meaning of the Book of Romans
- Dunn says that current exegesis of Romans ***“condemns the interpretation of Paul to confusion and contradiction”***
- A denomination’s doctrines are determined by their unique interpretation of Paul



THE MISSING PIECE OF NT COMMENTARY

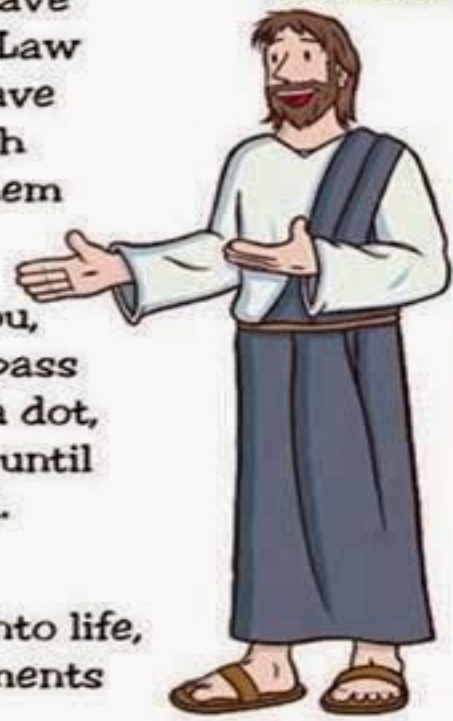
- What is missing is the study of Jewish society in the 2nd Temple era
- Jewish society from birth to death was based on **HALAKHAH**....Jewish law
- Romans no different than any other Bible book....it is not a Bible unto itself....it is but one piece of a whole
- Paul's thoughts **MUST** uphold Christ's words and the OT Prophets or his words are not divinely inspired



Matthew 5:17
Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them

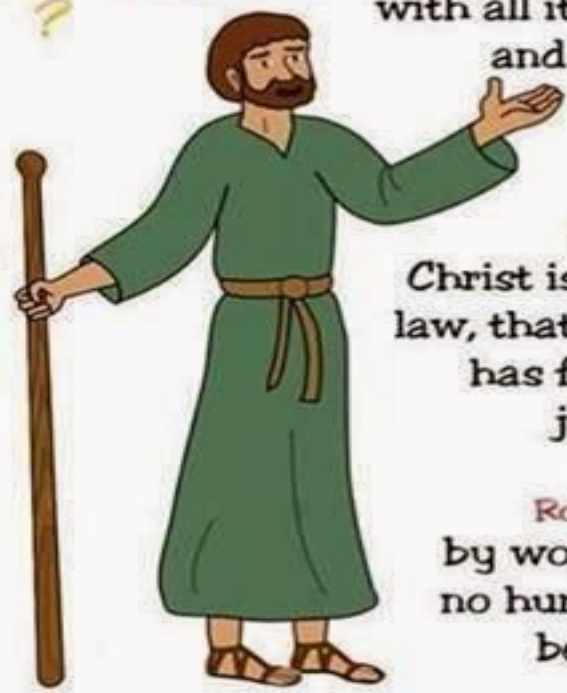
Matthew 5:18
For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 19:17
If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments



Jesus

are you
Christian or Paulinian ?



Paul

Ephesians 2:15
Jesus abolished the law with all its commandments and regulations.

Romans 10:4
Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.

Romans 3:20
by works of the law no human being will be justified

- Paul and Christ are NOT on equal footing
- Our Christian institutions long ago pitted Paul against Christ even though most church go-ers don't know it
- There are ways to "spin" Paul that makes it sound like he is disagreeing with Yeshua



PAUL'S STICKY PROBLEM

- Sticky problem: gentile participation within the early Jewish Messianic community
- Some believe that Romans was written strictly to gentile Believers
- Romans often called “Hellenistic literature”
- Romans is actually thoroughly Jewish literature
- Paul’s letters may have been in Greek, but the theology, history, & thought patterns were Hebrew



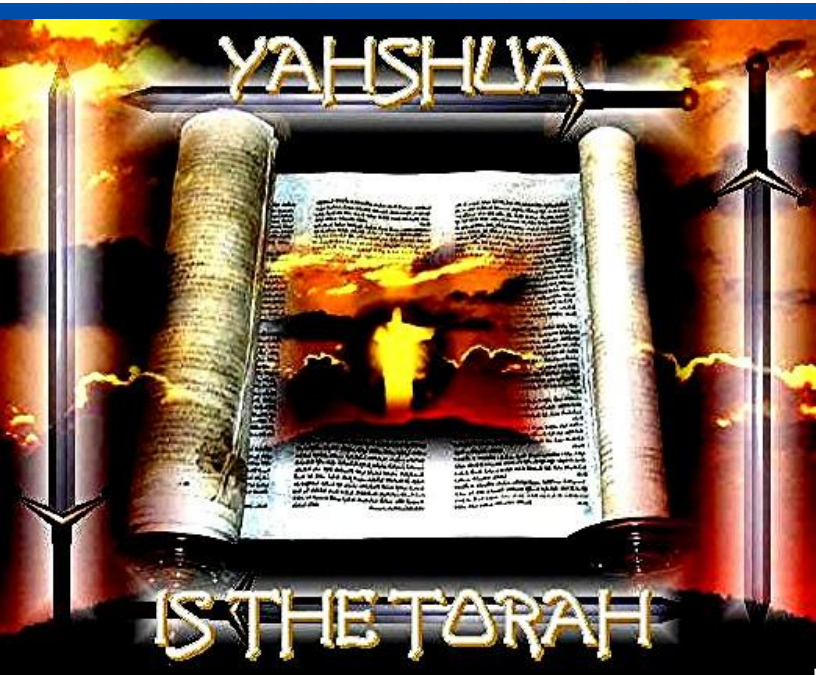
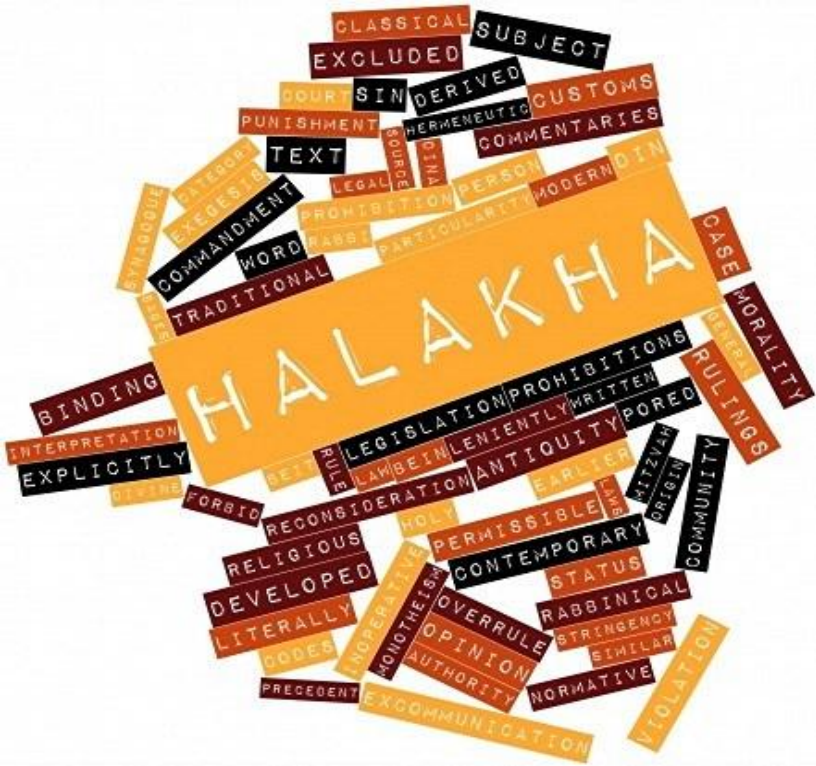
THE REAL PAUL

- Diaspora Jew born in Tarsus of Cilicia
- Hebrew of Hebrews, zealous Pharisee
- Identified with mainstream Judaism
- Taught by the school of Gamaliel in Jerusalem
- Paul graduated as a rabbi
- Jewish law = **Halakhah**
- Established a system of behaviors, customs, and theological expectations
- Same as Christian seminary
- Seminary student has made a decision to follow a certain strand of Christianity
- Church is doctrine-based just as Judaism is Halakhah-based



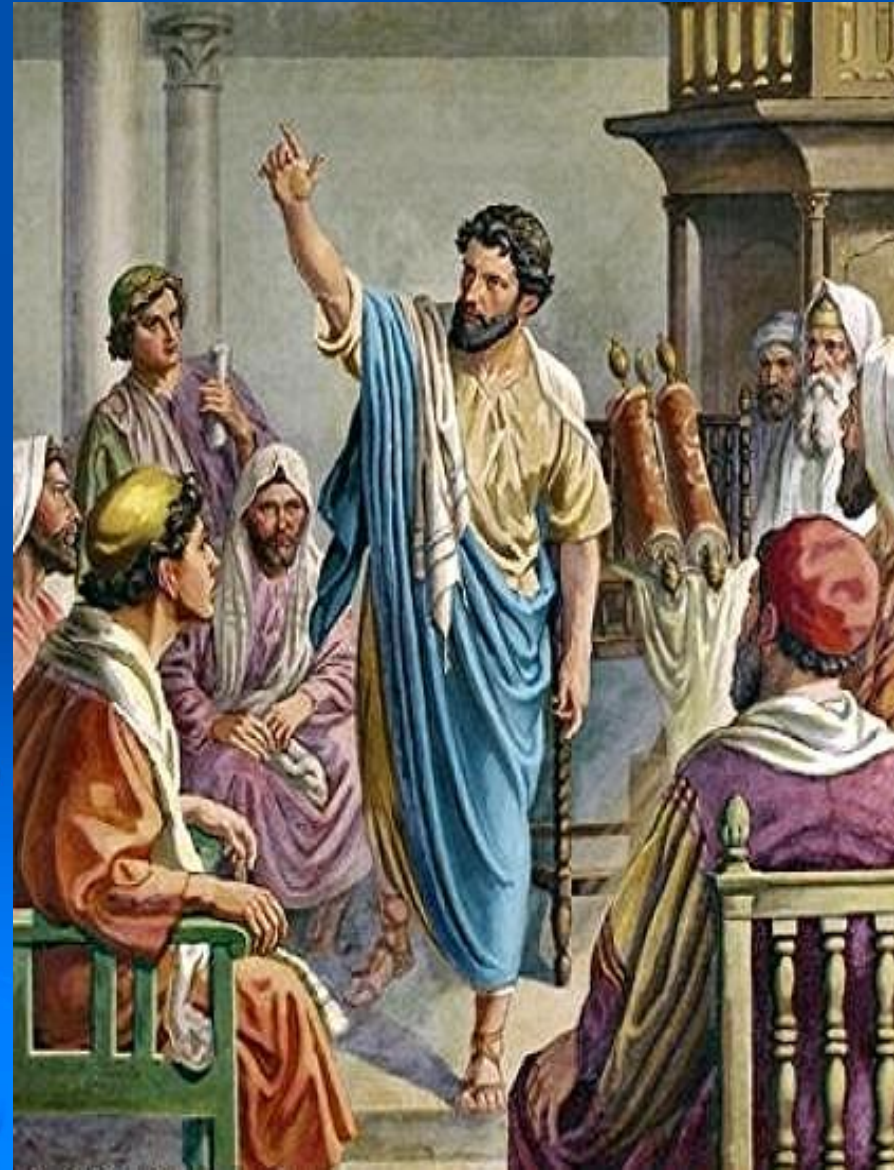
A NEW HALAKHAH

- Paul spoke and thought in the foundation laid by Gamaliel
- But, since meeting Christ Paul has been assimilating some new *Halakhah*
- This new *Halakhah* is from Yeshua, and includes the Gospel
- No schools for rabbis to learn Yeshua's *Halakhah*
- Paul didn't give up all that he was and all he knew to start a new gentile religion



PAUL TEACHES IN CLASSIC RABBINICAL WAY

- Romans 9:30 begins: ***“So what are we to say?”***
- Next several verses including all of chapter 10, and through Romans 11:11 continues the debate
- Romans 11:11 gives the discredited (wrong) ruling indicated by “Heaven forbid”
- Then follows Paul’s ruling (Paul’s Halakhah)



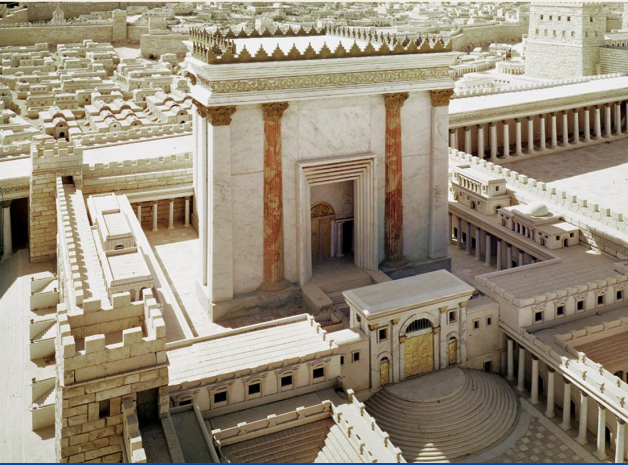
David Flusser

Translated by Azzan Yadin | Foreword by David Bivin

Judaism of the Second Temple Period

VOLUME 2

The Jewish Sages and Their Literature



THROUGH THE EYES OF A RABBI

- Most gentile NT commentators have no idea about 2nd Temple Judaism or Jewish culture
- Paul handcuffed knowing that gentiles would read what he wrote
- Who else but a Jew would be able to explain Paul's words to a gentile?



ERA OF CHANGE HAS ARRIVED

- When gentiles gained control of the Jesus movement, much scriptural distortion occurred
- Early 3rd century when the NT was created
- Holy Spirit is moving today for Believers to rediscover the Bible in its Hebrew context
- Important we get the Book of Romans right !!
- Zechariah 8:23

The New Testament

