

Week 8: Pauline Theology and Judaism

1. Characteristics of Judaism

1) Law-centered faith:

Righteousness is based on observing the Mosaic Law (Torah).

2) Covenantal identity:

Jews see themselves as God's chosen people through covenants (Abrahamic and Sinai).

3) Temple and sacrificial system:

Worship centered around the temple and sacrifices for atonement.

4) Sign of circumcision:

A visible mark of being a covenant people.

2. Paul's Understanding of Judaism

1) Paul was formerly a strict Pharisee and devout Jew.

2) After encountering Christ, he rejected the Judaic system of righteousness through the law.

3) Emphasized that one is justified not by works of the law, but through faith alone (Justification by Faith).

3. Tension between Law and Gospel

1) Judaism pursued righteousness through works, while Paul emphasized righteousness through faith.

2) The law reveals sin but cannot grant salvation.

3) Paul referred to the law as a tutor that leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

4. Concept of the New Israel

1) The true people of God are not by bloodline but by faith in Christ.

2) Distinctions between Jew and Gentile are abolished (Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:28).

3) In Christ, a new covenant community is formed.

5. Paul's Critique of Judaism

- 1) Paul called the return to law and rejection of Christ “a different gospel” (Galatians 1:6–9).
- 2) Strongly opposed adding circumcision and law to the gospel (Galatians 5:2–4).
- 3) Stressed that the gospel is about total salvation by grace alone.