

## BEWARE OF GREEKS BEARING GIFTS – TROJAN HORSE



**The city of Troy in western Turkey was famously dug up by the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1870, inspired by Homer's *The Iliad* – which means “a poem about Troy.”**



**The famous Trojan horse used by the Greeks to enter the gates of Troy. At night, Greek soldiers came out and opened the gates and Troy fell. The term “Trojan horse” is a symbol of a trick using an apparently innocent thing to fool people.**



**Unfortunately, Satan uses this type of device to fool people into believing false beliefs in the Bible. As Paul says in 2 Cor. 2:11, “...lest Satan should take advantage of us; *for we are not ignorant of his devices.*”**



**Peter also warned us about false brethren bearing gifts like Trojan horses, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, *who will secretly bring in destructive heresies...* They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions *while they feast with you*, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, *enticing unstable souls*” (2 Pet. 2:1, 13-14).**



**This actually happened to many of us back in 1995, when some sneaked in some destructive heresies. I was approached by some ministers three times who tried to persuade me to forsake keeping God's commandments, especially the Sabbath and the Feast days. The basis for their changed beliefs was primarily a new take on Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. This new view they had of Galatians actually became a "Trojan horse" against God's laws. It had a devastating effect upon the Church. How can we avoid falling into this trap?**



**As a result, of my experiences with false teachers, in Chile I wrote a booklet titled, “What is Galatians Really About?” (in Spanish) in 1995. I plan to update and publish it soon in English.**

**Peter had warned about some of Paul’s epistles being “hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction” (2 Pet. 3:15). Galatians certainly fits this description.**

**Let’s look at three key facts about the book of Galatians so you won’t be fooled into believing a terrible heresy!**

**1. Galatians was written quickly because of the dangers posed by the false teachers who had arrived there, so there wasn't time to clearly spell out the details, leading to a possible misunderstanding of what Paul was saying.**

**As Bible scholar F. F. Bruce mentions, “But the trouble was not confined to Antioch; it spread to *the young churches of South Galatia*. These churches were visited by *Judaizers who urged upon them that their faith in Jesus as Lord required to be supplemented by circumcision and observance of the Jewish ceremonial law*. In their innocence, the South Galatian Christians *were disposed to accept this new teaching.*”**

**F. F. Bruce continues, “When news of this came to Paul at Antioch, he wrote his Epistle to the Galatians *in white-hot urgency*, beseeching these recent converts not to be seduced from Christian simplicity by a totally different gospel which in reality was no gospel at all” (NIC The Book of Acts, 1974, pp. 298-304).**

**Bruce is correct when he says what Paul was talking about in Galatians was “Judaizers who urged upon them that their faith in Jesus as Lord required to be supplemented *by circumcision and observance of the Jewish ceremonial law.*” Nothing is said here about the 10 Commandments and the rest of God’s moral and spiritual law which is unchanging (see Rom. 7:12, 14, 21).**

**2. Paul denounces “the works of the law” as a means toward salvation, but he is not talking about God’s moral & spiritual law, but the temporary ceremonial law with its rituals and sacrifices.**

**Notice the two concrete examples he gives about the wrong “works of the law” in Galatians.**

**Exhibit A – Titus was not compelled to be circumcised and keep the ritual law (Gal. 2:1-4).**

**Paul equates here circumcision to being in bondage.**

**Exhibit B – Peter, Barnabas & others refrained eating with the Gentile believers because they considered them ritually unclean. This was going back to the ritual “works of the law” (Gal. 2:11-13).**

3. Paul uses the term “the whole law” as a synonym of “the works of the law” in Gal. 5:1-3, 6, saying, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and *do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage*. Indeed I, Paul, say to you *that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing*. And I testify again to every man who *becomes circumcised* that he is a debtor to keep *the whole law* [with its rituals]...For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision *avails anything*, but faith working through love.” Paul is clearer in 1 Cor. 7:19, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but *keeping the commandments of God is what matters*.” Clearly, Galatians has *nothing to do with God’s holy commandments* but with the temporary ritual law.



**So, brethren, don't let anyone use Galatians as a "Trojan horse" to confuse you, for it clearly is talking about Gentile Christians *not having to submit to circumcision and begin keeping all of the ritual law that Christ superseded with His once and for all sacrifice.***

**As Heb. 9:9-10 says of the ritual law, "It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation." So, brethren *beware of those bringing biblical Trojan horses!***