

Galatians 5:11~ As for me, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Then, indeed, the stumbling block¹ of the torture stake² has been abolished.

Footnote: Or, the offense Literally; the fall-causer Greek, *to skan'da-lon*; Latin, *scan'da-lum*

Footnote: See Appendix 5C

1· Because so many Jews in the **First Century C.E.** were vehemently opposed to not getting circumcised or circumcising their offspring, Paul thought, that this was the stumbling block of Christianity. It was a stumbling block to the Jews, as it should have been, because we should practice it, and the Jews were right to make an issue of it.

[Question] What did Paul wrongly think was the stumbling block of the Christ, and why did he think this way?

[Question] Why did the Jews rightly stumble, over not circumcising their offspring?

2· Paul showed, that most of the persecution he encountered was over this very issue of circumcision. The torture stake of the Christ though, is about putting to death the desires of the flesh through our love of the spirit of God. This according to Paul's own teachings.

[Question] What issue between him and the Jews, caused the most persecution of Christians?

[Question] What though, is the torture stake of the Christ, according to Paul's own teachings?

3· Christ was not put upon the torture stake for not being circumcised, or for not teaching circumcision, but because he fulfilled the Law Covenant, by actually living successfully under it, due to his deep love of God's spirit, and this condemned the Jews to failure, and they hated him for it.

[Question] Was Jesus Christ circumcised, and was he put upon the torture stake for anything having to do with circumcision?

[Question] Why was he hated by the Jews, for what had he proved able to do perfectly?

4· Christ's perfect obedience of spirit, was why the Jews hated him, out of jealousy, for Christ was a circumcised man both

of flesh and heart. We must all follow in his fine example! Paul though, exacerbated this hatred through this wrong teaching, and the Jews, who were in the right about the issue of circumcision, refused to back down and to accept his teachings. He stumbled many out of the truth.

[Question] Why did the Jews hate Jesus Christ?

[Question] Did their hatred of Christ, have anything to do with circumcision?

[Question] If Christ was circumcised, and we are to follow in his example, then should we be circumcised?

[Question] What did the teachings of Paul and others about circumcision, exacerbate among the Jewish population?

- 5· But we preach **Christ impaled, to the Jews a cause for stumbling**, but to the nations foolishness. (**1 Corinthians 1:23**)

[Question] What really did stumble the Jews about a Messiah, who was impaled before them, for what kind of a Messiah were they looking for?

- 6· For there are many, I used to mention them often, but now I mention them also with weeping, who are walking as the enemies of the **torture stake of the Christ**. (**Philippians 3:18**)

[Question] How did many then walk and get stumbled out of the truth, through this wrong teaching of the circumcision?

- 7· If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are no part of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, on this account the world hates you. (**John 15:19**)

[Question] Why does the world hate anointed Christians, for what makes all anointed Christians different?

- 8· But just as then the one born in the manner of flesh began persecuting the one born in the manner of spirit, so also now. (**Galatians 4:29**)

[Question] What should we expect based upon the drama of Sarah and Hagar?

- 9· All those who want to make a pleasing appearance in the

flesh, are the ones that try to compel you to get circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the torture stake of the Christ, Jesus. (Galatians 6:12)

[Question] What did Paul wrongly try to equate the torture stake with, but why did the Jews reject Christ?