

Torah-Observant Gentiles

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 7 “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us **keep the feast**, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Why is Paul telling Gentile converts to keep the Passover Feast? Are not the feasts done away with for Christians?

1 Corinthians 10:16 “The **cup of blessing** which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?”

The cup of blessing is a toast in the Passover Seder meal. Corinth was a prosperous, immoral and pagan city whose Christian church was dominated by Gentile converts. [How and why do these Gentile converts know about the Passover celebration if they are not to keep the feasts?](#)

The obvious answer is that as Paul stated in Acts 15:21; the Gentiles will adopt the rest of “the faith” as Moses is preached in all the synagogues every Sabbath (the 7th day). Is not it strange that over the past 2,000 years this contradiction has not been address by the church? “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

Acts 24:5-6 “For we have found this man (Paul) a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a **ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes**: Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law.”

The Nazarenes are Jews that believed Yahushua was the Messiah. Epiphanius an early church member has this to say about them:

“We shall now especially consider heretics who call themselves Nazarenes; they are mainly Jews and nothing else. They make use not only of the New Testament, but they also use in a way the Old Testament of the Jews. For they do not forbid the books of the Law, the Prophets and the Writings...so that they are approved of by the Jews, from whom the Nazarenes do not differ in anything, **and they do profess all the dogmas pertaining to the prescriptions of the Law and the customs of the Jews, except they believe in Messiah**. They **preach that there is but One YHWH and His Son Yahushua**. They are learned in the Hebrew language, for they, like the Jews, read the whole Law, then the Prophets...They differ from the Jews because they believe in Messiah, and from the Christians in that they are to this day bound to the Jewish rites such as circumcision, the Sabbath and other ceremonies.”

According to the Scripture, **Paul is the ringleader of this sect of Nazarenes**.

Paul can be easily misunderstood according to Peter:

2 Peter 3:15-16 “And account that the longsuffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul** also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**”

You can see that “iniquity” (lawlessness, without Torah) must have begun very early in the church after the stoning of Stephen. The separation of Gentile believers from the Torah was aided by growing anti-Semitism and the Hellenization of the ancient world.