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Faith Bible Church
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (41)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #32
(DDR #660)

Objection #32: Within two generations, the Jewish followers of Jesus (under the influence of Paul) has largely given up their Jewish practices, setting a precedent that has remained the same right up until today: Jews who become Christians lose all connection to Judaism within two generations.

Michael Brown's short response:

Your facts are completely wrong. We know there were Sabbath-keeping, Hebrew-reading, Torah-revering Jewish followers of Jesus for at least the first four hundred years of church history. This was despite the fact that these Messianic Jews were excluded from the synagogue by Rabbinic Jews and misunderstood by Gentile Christians. In our own day, there are fourth and fifth generation Messianic Jews, some of whom have made *aliyah* and whose children now serve in the Israeli army. Again, this has happened despite pressure from the traditional Jewish community and occasional misunderstanding from Gentile Christians.¹

Michael Brown follows this with a great discussion of early Jews—called Nazarenes—who held to the gospel of grace with faith alone for salvation, but also decided to retain their Jewish traditions/roots. Remember, Christ prophesied that His followers would be put out of the *synagogue*, John 16:2. As the church grew, the Gentile population became the majority and it was the Gentiles who looked at the Jews with suspicion due to differences between the Jewish traditions verses the Gentile traditions.

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1st ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). See 201-205 for his full response to this objection. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response that is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

If only the church age believers would have heeded Paul's warning in Romans 11:18: "do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you." It is indeed an odd thing that the church began as a Jewish movement which allowed the Gentiles in without them converting to Judaism (Acts 15), and then morphed into the church discriminating against letting the Jews in if they held to Jewish practices. OK to celebrate Easter bunnies, but not Jewish days of remembrance? What a mess!

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don.

A reminder: The single greatest decision of any person's life is to accept Jesus Christ as savior.

Faith alone in Christ alone apart from any good works!

Romans 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

Heaven will be a place of no tears, no death and no pain:

Revelation 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be *any* death; there shall no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Hell will be a place of only weeping, death, and torment:

Matthew 8:12 but [those who considered themselves] the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Luke 16:28 for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

Have you made that decision to trust in Christ for salvation? The choice is yours. You set your destiny in this regard. At the end of the road there is no earthly power that is going to keep you from your date with God. What will it be like?