

1. Last week I taught Gal 5:11 and when time expired we were exegeting the Greek phrase “αρα ο σκανδαλον” translated “then is the offence.”
2. Before continuing, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. Here is an expanded translation of Gal 5:6-10.

Expanded Translation

Gal 5:6 For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith operating through and by means of doctrine resident in our souls.

Gal 5:7 You got off to such a good start, exploding out from the blocks. What caused you to look back and then turn away from the truth?

Gal 5:8 The arguments of the person who is influencing you do not come from God Who is even now calling you.

Gal 5:9 Just a small amount of leaven kneaded into the loaf before baking will leaven the entire loaf.

Gal 5:10 I have the greatest of confidence that the Lord will correct you and you will return to the truth of the gospel. I am also confident that the Lord will discipline the leader of the loose cannons whoever or whatever he might be.

4. So far, we have exegeted that portion of Gal 5:11 which in the KJV has been translated “And I, brethren if I yet preach circumcision ...” noting it might better be rendered “**Now my brothers and sisters in Christ if I were still preaching that people needed to be circumcised as some believe, then why am I suffering such persecution?**” ...”

5. The entire verse has been translated in the KJV:

KJV-New Sentence

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

6. Now for the phrase “then is the offence.”

THEN IS THE OFFENCE αρα ο σκανδαλον

1. **Ara Ho Skandalon** is better translated “If I were still preaching circumcision then the offense ...”

2. **Ara** is an adverb followed by the monadic noun **Skandalon** declined as a nominative singular.

3. **Skandalon** appears some 15 times in the New Testament where it is variously translated “offense, offences, stumblingblock” or “stumbling blocks.” Examples:

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and **offences** contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Rom 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that **stumblingstone**;

Rom 9:33 As it is written, (Isa 8:14) Behold, I lay in Sion a **stumblingstone** and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Rom 11:9 And David saith (Psa 69:22-23), Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a **stumblingblock**, and a recompence unto them:

Rom 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always.

Rom 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a **stumblingblock**, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1Pe 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a **rock of offence**, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

4. Again let's see how our verse looks so far by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Gal 5:11 Now my brothers and sisters in Christ, if I were still preaching that people needed to be circumcised as some believe; how is it that I am even now suffering persecution from the legalistic agitators? If I were so teaching circumcision, which I am not, ...”

5. Now for the phrase “of the cross ceased.”

OF THE CROSS CEASED Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΡΓΕΩ.

1. **Ho Stauros Katargeo** is better translated “the stumbling block of the cross of Christ would no longer be a problem ...”

2. **Stauros** is a monadic noun declined as a genitive singular and followed by the verb **Katargeo** parsed as a 3rd person singular perfect passive indicative.

3. **Stauros** appears more than 25 times in Scripture where in the KJV it is always translated “cross.” Examples:

1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

1Co 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

1Co 1:15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

1Co 1:16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the **cross** of Christ should be made of none effect.

Phi 3:18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the **cross** of Christ.

Eph 3:19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Eph 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Col 2:14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the **cross**.

Col 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Col 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

Col 2:17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

4. **Katargeo** appears some 30 times where it is variously translated “shall destroy, become of no effect, having abolished, who hath abolished” and “might destroy.”

Examples:

1Co 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God **shall destroy** both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1Co 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

1Co 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1Co 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

1Co 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

Gal 5:4 Christ is **become of no effect** unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Eph 2:15 **Having abolished** in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Eph 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who **hath abolished** death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

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