

Durotimi Tijani

New Testament

Open Discussion 7

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Paul is often portrayed as “Law-free” meaning that after his encounter with Christ on his road to Damascus, he no longer saw the need to observe the Torah for Jew or Gentile. On the other hand, in the first report we have of Paul following the Apostolic Decree in Acts 15, he requires the circumcision of Timothy in Acts 16:1-3. The significance of this act is of no small importance. Elsewhere in Galatians 5:3, Paul asserts, “I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.” In effect Paul placed upon Timothy the requirement to keep the law.

I believe that Paul told Timothy to do such a thing to appease the Jews they were going to in Acts 16. This was probably done so that Timothy could be received by certain Jews as ministered to the people. I believe this is consistent with Paul’s teachings because his point was that if one was to circumcision, they would have to obey the whole law. Paul emphasized in Galatians, the importance of solely relying on Christ, who fulfills the law, no longer relying on works for salvation.

My response to Daniel B Choi

Great response Daniel, that was a good point of bringing up 1 Corinthians 9:19. Paul understood the freedom that came from Christ. However, he states to a Jew he became a Jew.

This is important to understand the context in why Paul told Timothy to be circumcised. I also believe the purpose of this was to be able to minister to the jews and be accepted by them.

My Response to Mia D Thompson

Thank you Mia for your response. I understand why you believe that Paul told Timothy to be circumcised. The Bible states in Acts 16 that his mother was Jew and his father was a greek. You also stated how Paul told Timothy to do this because of the pressure, which is another interesting perspective to analyze.