

From the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the GALATIANS

In the epistle of Paul to the Galatians a number of important issues are addressed, one of which is the Salvation through faith in the accomplished work of Jesus Christ on the Golgotha Cross.

The apostle Paul wrote this epistle to strengthen the Galatians in their faith and to protect them from some Judaistic teachers who were trying to "annule" the true Gospel by insisting that non-Jewish believers in Christ could not be true Christians until they would submit to circumcision.

Galatians 2:21 **"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain".**

In the Greek text the verb **atheteo (ἀθετέω)** is used. It is a compound verb made out of the word "a": (as a negative particle) and a derivative of the verb **tithemi (τίθημι)**: to place.

So "atheteo" means to put aside, to set at naught a treaty a promise or faith, to reject, to render ineffectual, to disannul.

With the sense of "disannul" is to be found in Galatians 3:15: **"Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannuleth (athetei), or addeth thereto..".**

So according to the above we read the verse in Gal. 2:21: **"I do not disannul the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."**

The verb "atheteo" has been translated as "despise" in Lk. 10:16, 1 Thess. 4:8 and Heb. 10:28.

In Luke 10:16 we read: **"He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth (o atheton - ὁ ἀθετῶν : ppt of atheteo: he that rejects) you despiseth (athetei - ἀθετεῖ : rejects) Me; and he that despiseth (o atheton: he that rejects) Me despiseth(athetei: rejects) Him that sent Me."**

The verb "despise" better conveys the meaning of the Greek verb: **katafroneo (καταφρονέω)**: to be contemptuous , to look down on, as for example in Romans 2:4: **"Or despisest thou ("katafroneis") the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"**

"Katafroneo" is a compound verb made out of the prep. **kata (κατά)**: down, in place or time, and the verb **phroneo (φρονέω)**: regard, think. So "kataphroneo" means to think against, disesteem, despise.

Galatians 3:13: **" Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"**

In the Greek text instead of the word "tree", the word **xulon (ξύλον)** is used. "Xulon" means timber (as fuel or material) and by implication a stick, club or tree or other wooden article or substance.

In the Holy Bible we find the word "xulon" used as: club, sticks, or timber in Mt. 26:47,55, Mk. 14:43,48, Lk. 22:52 and Revelation 18:12.

In Matthew 26:47 we read: **"And while He yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with**

him a great multitude with swords and staves (*xula*), from the chief priests and elders of the people."

It is also used with the meaning of "human being".

In Luke 23:31 we read: **"For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"**

In the Greek text instead of "green tree" we read: **hugron xulon (ὑγρόν ξύλον)**.

"*Hugros*": wet (as if with rain), by implication fresh, green. So "*hugron xulon*": wet or fresh wood. A wood that has life in it. In this instance, the Lord Jesus Christ, but also every one that has life in him, by accepting Jesus Christ.

Finally in the Bible we find verses where the word "*xulon*" can be translated as "tree": Revelation 2:7, 22:2 and 22:14, and is a symbolical representation of the Lord Jesus, Who is the "*xulon*" (tree) of life.

In Revelation 22:2 we read: **"in the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree (*xulon*) of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree (*xulou*) were for the healing of the nations"**.

This tree ("*xulon*") of life can be found already in Genesis 2:9 and 3:24.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on "*xulon*": Acts 5:30, 10:39, 13:29 and 1 Peter 2:24.

So we read in Acts 5:30: **"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree (*xulon*: wood)."**

In the Greek text we read: **"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a wood (*xulon*)". It is the wood (*xulon*) of the Cross.**