

SERMON ON THE MOUNT THE WORD "FULFILL"..."FILL FULL"..."DO NOT THINK"

Matt. 5:17-20 *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.* Yeshua did not come to do away with the Ten Commandments that the Father had previously delivered in the Old Testament. Rather, He came to give full expression to them, to show their real spiritual intent and importance. Not the smallest letter or stroke means that the law was in force until heaven and earth pass away (in other words, never). This statement can also be found in Prov. 30:6, Deut. 4:2, and 12:32. The word "letter" used here should be emphasized; it is the written word of the law, the letter of the law. ***"Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches {them,} he shall be called great in the***



kingdom of heaven. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses {that} of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

This verse gives all teachers, leaders and clergy a hefty warning about not teaching what is correct. Those who teach that the commandments are annulled, will perhaps go to heaven, but will be "least in the kingdom of heaven". In this statement, He, in fact, made the Ten Commandments and the Torah more binding and more important than ever. In this verse the Greek word "plerosai" is used for fulfill, many scholars interpret this word as meaning "to fill," and many interpret it as meaning "fulfill". ***"I have come not to abolish but to make full, to complete,"*** He also meant that He was the means by which Yah the Father would cause to be fulfilled every as yet unfulfilled prophecy concerning the Jews. Yeshua came to "fill" the pronouncements that the

prophets of old proclaimed. Yeshua meant that He came to give Torah its fullest meaning. In other words, Yeshua came to interpret the Torah properly for the people. He came to complete what the prophets had spoken of in the Tenakh. He was the WORD which became COMPLETE in His FLESH. Yeshua came "not to abolish but to complete". This is the entire theme of the sermon on the mount. This verse is contradictory unless you understand "fulfill" as "fill", "complete", or "fill to full". **Many people don't realize that the way Yeshua used the word "law" here was meant to mean the Books of Moses, (Torah/Mosaic Law), not just the commandments.** You must remember the Renewed Testament didn't even exist, the only word Yeshua had to deal with was from the Old Testament.

The common teaching is that Yeshua said that He had done away with all the Torah and the prophets. This is a paradigm verse for theological debates. Yeshua is TEACHING in this verse.

Yeshua quoted a Hebrew idiom when He said He came not to "destroy the

law" or the prophets. He was using a familiar phrase easily understood during biblical times. If someone heard a Torah teaching and they didn't agree with it, they would say that the teacher was "destroying the law." If they heard a teaching they thought was the correct interpretation they would declare, "yes, this is fulfilling the law." Yeshua had been accused of misinterpreting the Torah by the Pharisees, but He was teaching it correctly. To understand the meaning of this verse, everything hinges on the meaning of the words "destroy" and "fulfill" in verse 17. What does Yeshua mean by "destroy the Law" and "fulfill the Law"? "Destroy" and "fulfill" are technical terms used in rabbinic argumentation. When a rabbi felt that someone had misinterpreted a passage of scripture, he would say; "You are destroying the Law!" It was common in many cases to strongly disagree. What one rabbi considered to be "destroying the Law", for another sage was "correctly interpreting Scripture" (fulfilling the law).

Yeshua is saying, "Never imagine for a moment that I intend to do away with the Law by misinterpreting it. My intent is not to weaken or negate the Law, but by properly interpreting YHVH's written Word, I am establishing it, that is, making it even more clear. I would never remove something from it through misinterpretation. Heaven and earth would sooner disappear than something from the Law".

To destroy was to give a false interpretation of the torah. To fulfill was to give a proper interpretation. He is giving the false interpretation that destroys the torah, "*you have heard that the ancients were told*", then He gives the proper interpretation of torah; "*But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court*". He does this throughout the chapter He is teaching about. He is a Rabbi, He is teaching. Yeshua is not speculating here, He is putting out the absolute truth so there can be no confusion. His ability to teach was made evident a little later in Matt. 7:28-29 The result was that when Yeshua had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes. **Matt. 7:21-22** "***You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'*** 22 "***But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.***"

There is no way the word "fulfill" could be twisted to mean ABOLITION, in contradiction to what He had said three words earlier. This seems so clear that it is hard for me to understand how christian theology has even dared to propose the idea that the Torah is no more.

Yeshua said He came to "make come to pass", (fulfill) all the 324 prophesies that were written about Him in the Tenakh. He fulfilled all those prophesies when He was born, lived and died as the Messiah.

In Matt. 5:17 Yeshua brought out the full meaning of the purpose of the law, He brought to life the true intent of the instructions of Yah. "***Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.***" The sermon on the mount, was His commentary of the laws of Adonai. If you follow along in Matt. 5 to verse 43 you will see that Yeshua is citing commandments: "love your neighbor" as per Lev. 19:18. In verse 44 He speaks of sundry laws as listed in Lev. 19:13 and 33-35. Here Yeshua is speaking of treating strangers properly and with love.

Why?, because the Sons of Israel were once strangers in the foreign land of Egypt. He was telling them to **“love thy neighbor as yourself”**, treat strangers the way you would have them treat you if you were in their land. These principals of love and kindness are basic principles of the Old Testament. If Yeshua had just thrown out the laws of Yahveh, as many teachers would have you believe, why is He here putting such emphasis on the 6th. commandment and others in the law. In the law of Exod. 23:9 Yeshua talks about not oppressing strangers. When He gave His sermon on the mount everything He spoke of was in regards to the law of Yah. When He said **“but I say”**, He was making it clear that what they had heard from the teachers who had mixed in the traditions of man, was not the same as what He was expressing. He was exposing the man-made interpretations, oral and rabbinical laws that people were giving too much attention to. They had added to the law of Yah, Yeshua was explaining to them the true intent and purpose of the law by emphasizing it when saying, **“but I say”**.

Love is the fulfillment (meaning and purpose of the law). When the word fulfill is used in Matt. 5:17 it means the same as it does in **Rom. 13:8-10** *“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled {the} law. For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of {the} law.”* It means “an expression,” or “the importance,” “establishment,” of the law. The Torah is summed up in one word; love. If you love Adonai then you will follow His Torah from your circumcised heart. Notice some of the commandments are spoken of here immediately after the word fulfill is used. If fulfill meant finalized why would it show up here with the commandments. Here the word fulfillment is misunderstood again. If it meant what most say it means in Matt. 5:17 then love is no longer required as stated in this verse.

What most people don't seem to realize is that Yeshua was talking to His disciples in these Matthew scriptures. Look closely at **Matt. 5:1-2** *“And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying,”* Messiah wasn't teaching the general public, He was instructing His disciples who knew the Torah and followed it. Ask yourself this question; **How long did Yeshua say the Torah/law would exist?** In verse 18 it say's *““For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.* Until heaven and earth pass away, means FOREVER.

What does Messiah think of those who speak against the Torah/law? In verse 19 He clearly says **“Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;** This makes it pretty clear what Yeshua thinks of anyone who doesn't teach Torah properly. He commended those who taught Torah properly, and it was always assumed that those who understood Torah, actually followed the Torah by doing it. Teaching Torah and doing Torah went hand in hand.

Throughout Matthew chapter 5 through 7, Yeshua makes it obvious that:

Yeshua came to interpret the Torah the way it was meant to be interpreted. (Matt. 5:17).

Yeshua spoke boldly against those who forsake and do not teach the Torah properly as Yah told them to (Matt. 5:19, Jer. 48:10).

Yeshua commended those who taught Torah correctly (Matt. 5:19).

Yeshua identified the Believers that were actually part of His Kingdom (Matt. 5:20).

Yeshua made it clear that the Torah would never end, for all eternity (Matt. 5:18).

Yeshua obviously confirmed the commandments as written in the Torah and uplifted those teaching them the way they were intended to be taught (Matt. 5:21-7:27).

Yeshua made it clear to all those who heard Him speak, that He had supernatural authority to interpret the Word correctly and share it with all who were willing to listen (Matt. 7:28-29).

Yeshua was speaking the common language of Rabbis of His day. In those days when rabbis argued and discussed things, they commonly used terms like “destroy”, “abolish” and “fulfill”. When these Rabbis were discussing various issues they would often say: “you are destroying the law” or “you are not fulfilling the law by your interpretation of what you are saying”. What they meant was; “what was destroying the law”, for one Rabbi, was “fulfilling the law” (correctly interpreting scripture), for another Rabbi.

In **Matt. 5:27** Yeshua says “*you shall not commit adultery*”. Here He is talking about the seventh and tenth commandment because coveting is the cause of adultery. When one breaks the seventh commandment one must first covet, because coveting begins in the heart. Yeshua was not revising or re-defining the laws, He was simply going to the heart of the matter, showing the real meaning of the law.

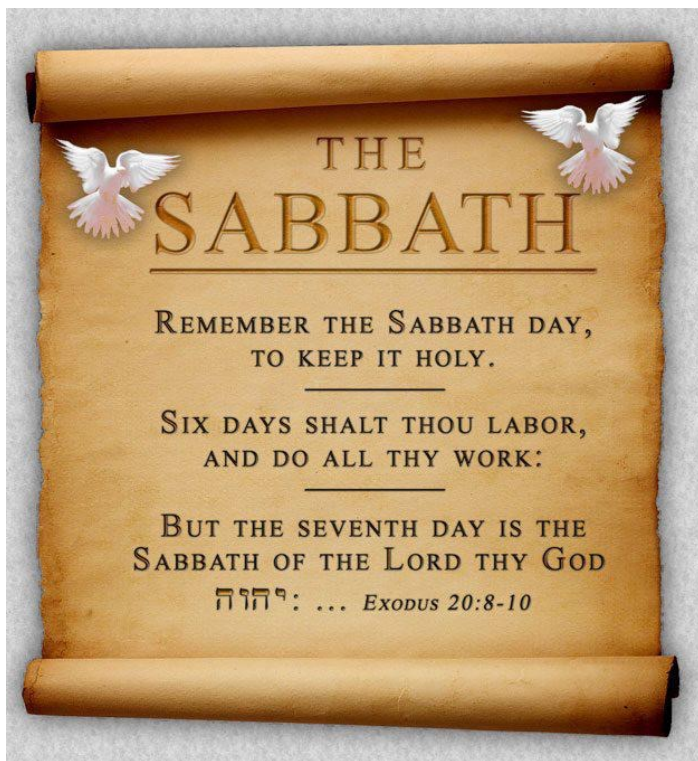
In Matt. 15:1-9 Yeshua was explaining how the Pharisees had fooled the people with their revisions, changes and additions to the law of Moses. In verse 4 He is quoting the 5th. commandment that the Pharisees had added so much to, therefore invalidating the word of Adonai for the sake of tradition.

It wasn't the law that Messiah abolished in His flesh, but the enmity people have towards the law. Messiah created one new man, consisting of Jews and Gentiles, by destroying man's enmity towards Aviyad's Torah. Isn't it ironic that those who claim to know Messiah, still have animosity towards the Jews and the Torah. It is this hostility towards Yah's Torah that has plagued the church all these centuries.

In Luke Yeshua explains what He meant in Matthew about the Old Testament. **Luke 24:44** “*Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**”* The way the word “fulfilled” is used here helps us understand how and why it was used previously.

COMMANDMENTS

When the Pharisees tried to trap Yeshua by asking Him which was the greatest commandment He replied **Matt. 22:36-40** “*Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?*” And He said to him, “**YOU SHALL LOVE ADONAI YAH with all your heart, and with all your soul, and WITH ALL YOUR MIND.**’ “*This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the*



Prophets.” Here Yeshua was quoting from the Old Testament, He didn't all of a sudden decide to make two new commandments as some pro-claimed christians would have you think, He just quoted from Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18. All of the commandments hang on these two commandments, He didn't all of a sudden do away with the Ten Commandments. In order to keep these two commandments you must in fact keep all ten. These two commands are a summary of all 613 in the Torah, or you might say a summary of the Ten written in stone. In Jewish thinking the first part (36-38) was what the Jews called havatic law. The first four commandments are dealing with loving your God. The last six all focus on loving your Torah obedient neighbor as yourself.

The first four commandments explain how we are to show our love for Yah. The next six commandments show how we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. The Torah tells us what to do when things happen that go against the Torah teachings. These things happen to everyone at one time or another. When these things happen the Torah explains what we are to do to resolve the issue so that we can still love each other after it has been resolved. The subject in both cases is love. Our love for Yah and our love for our neighbor. They both point to John 14:15. A neighbor is one who is a neighbor in the Torah community.

To sum it up, the Ten Commandments are the passageway or channel through which Adonai's spiritual love flows freely. The commandment of love calls attention to the fact that throughout Yeshua's ministry He showed unaltered love and respect for His Father by following the laws of His Father. He showed His true love for His brothers and sisters in everything He did and He never wavered in recognizing the fact that His Father was truly shown praise, worship and love through the "doing" and "following" of His laws. He expressed that true praise, worship and love came together as "salvation". True Believers are those following Yah's laws from their heart, this is the basis of the character Yah wants to build in us before He grants us eternal salvation and a part in the leadership of His Kingdom soon to come. If you would like to own one of the mansions on the hill in Yah's home town, then you'd better follow Yeshua, which of course means following the Ten Commandments.

Many people claim that they don't like the commandments because they are too negative. Yah is being negative with His rules and they don't like negative things. These modern, "positive thinkers", wish that Yah had written the law as Ten Positive Commandments so as to suit them. They insist on thinking that you must always think positive to get results. This positive confession idea is partially correct, but the fact is if you look at a simple battery and connect something to the positive side only, it can not work. There is no power! It requires both negative and positive to have performance. If

we are to think only positive then why do we tell our children not to touch a hot stove or run out into traffic. Those aren't positive things to say to them; so should we not say anything to them at all; is that what it's all about?

Yah only spoke on a few occasions in the Bible. One of these occasions was the Sermon On The Mount. I believe this in itself shows how much emphasis should be put on what He said on that special occasion.

Believers who don't follow the law of the Ten Commandments, as stated here, are missing out on the blessings and receiving the curses associated with not complying with the law. **Deut. 11:26-28** ***"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of ADONAI YAHVEH, which I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of ADONAI YAHVEH, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known."***

People rally around **Eph. 2:8-9** *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."* Yet they fail to read the following verse **Eph. 2:10** *"For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua **for good works**, which Yah prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Again, many find confusion in **Eph. 2:14-16** *"For He Himself is our peace, who made both {groups into} one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, {which is} the Law of commandments {contained} in ordinances, **that in Himself He might make the two into one new man**, {thus} establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to Yah through the stake, by it having put to death the enmity."* This is another poorly translated passage of the Renewed Testament. Paul was talking about the Gentiles and Sons of Israel coming together as one in the spirit of the new covenant. The words used in this text are referring to "legalism", not following the law from our heart. The law referred to here is the "oral law" about the Temple, the oral tradition that the Jews had put in place in regards to the Temple itself, not allowing the unclean Gentiles to proceed past the dividing wall of the Temple. The commandments spoken of in this verse are the oral commandments of the Rabbi's, not the commandments of the Torah. The dividing wall of the Temple was also symbolically the same as the fence of the Torah, which separates those who follow Torah and are protected, from those outside the fence. Each one of us Believers are like bricks with which the Temple of Yahveh was built. Just as the Holy of Holies was made of individual bricks kept together by mortar, we also are kept together by the mortar of Yah's Word. When the bricks are united they form a fence (hedge) around the community of Believers, the Torah community of Believers, and we are protected from the influences of Satan's world.

It is not and never will be easy to get into the kingdom of heaven, too many people believe it is simply asking Yeshua into your life as a one time event. This of course is not true. Being a Believer and having the guarantee of eternal salvation is not as simple as some may have you think. "The life of a Believer is a pilgrim journey, not a pleasure trip". It is a daily "walk with Yah". Being a Believer is not putting Yah in a box and opening it up every SUNday morning for a few hours. Yeshua didn't ever teach of an easy grace like many of our churches today talk about. The Bible says **Matt. 7:13**

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. “For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

Even at the end of Messiah’s earthly ministry, even after His death and resurrection, after “everything” had been nailed to the stake that was going to be nailed there, Yeshua gave His disciples what is often called the “great commission”, which obviously extends to true Believers today. Throughout all ages the disciples of Yeshua continued His work, even to the end. He said they were to teach all nations to observe “all things” that He had commanded them. Nothing can be more clear.

Matt. 28:18-20 *“And Yeshua came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe **all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Paul supported the whole way of life taught by Yeshua and the other apostles based on the Ten Commandments! Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians **1Cor. 7:19** *“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but {what matters is} **the keeping of the commandments of Yah.**”* This statement makes Paul’s opinion clear.

In Acts 21 Paul is said to live under the law. It was about 30 years after Yeshua was resurrected that it is noted. **Acts 21:20-24** *“And when they heard it they {began} glorifying Yah; and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. “What, then, is {to be done} ? They will certainly hear that you have come. “Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses in order that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that **you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.**”* Paul always followed the law. Any person who would dare say that Paul wasn’t a true Believer, is deceived indeed. If Paul followed the law, what does that tell you about the law in the Renewed Testament?

Matt. 19:17 *“And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is {only} One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, **keep the commandments.**”* Yeshua made it clear here that the “way to eternal life” was to keep the commandments. In the following verses He even gave some examples.

1John 5:1-3 *“Whoever believes that Yeshua is the Messiah is born of Yah; and whoever loves the Father loves the {child} born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of Yah, when we love Yah and **observe His commandments. For this is the love of Yah, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**”* It was the Pharisees that added many specific requirements or restrictions to the original law. The Pharisees had made the oral Torah so hard to follow that many simply gave up. This also made the Holy Day (Sabbath) a great burden for many people, which it was never meant to be. **1John 5:3** *“For this is the love of Yahveh, **that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.**”* The “love of Yahveh” is clearly explained here, the love of Yah is

keeping His commandments. Many preachers and teachers tell us that we need love instead of law, that we need to emphasize relationships instead of rules. **But no relationship can exist without the rules upon which it is based.** If there are no rules about how to relate, then there simply is no relationship.

There are many scholars and teachers that are not baptized in the Holy Spirit. They have difficulty understanding some of Paul's passages. The author Peter, explains here about some of the difficulties in Paul's writings. **2Pet. 3:16** *"as also in all {his} letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as {they do} also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."* If the readers of Paul's works were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they would let the Holy Spirit guide them, instead of trying to do it in the flesh. In order to receive the help of the Holy Spirit you must be first, "filled with the Holy Spirit". Being a scholar, preacher, or teacher, having initials in front or behind your name, by no means gives you the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit doesn't come from a seminary or a Bible college, it comes as a reward after meeting the requirements of Yah given throughout His holy Bible. I believe people who can't understand what Peter is saying hear about Paul create their own confusion with the words of Paul, simply because they are not being lead by the Holy Spirit.

Gal. 3:10-13 often causes confusion with people. *"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, **"CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."** Now that no one is justified by the Law before Yah is evident; for, **"THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."** However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, **"HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM."** Messiah redeemed us from the **curse** of the Law, having become a curse for us —for it is written, **"CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"**— Here Paul is meaning the curse of the law falls on all those who obey the law, if their efforts are grounded in "legalism". In other words if they don't willingly, from their heart, follow the law, they are cursed. Yeshua redeemed us from the curse of the law, (the curse of the Torah), when He became the curse on our behalf, as stated in the Torah. Our Messiah came to remove the misinterpretations of the law he didn't come to redeem us from the law. He came to redeem us from the "CURSE" of the law pronounced in the books of Moses. Any believer who thought he could become righteous by being circumcised, or by following the law had fallen from Yahveh's grace. We are to follow the law from our heart without it being burdensome. Following His instructions will not bring us justification or salvation by itself. Simply put, the curse of the law falls on people who are actually trying to obey the Torah if their efforts are grounded in legalism. Legalism is: "the observance of the Torah as a means to receive salvation". Anyone who tries to receive salvation by means of following Torah only (with no faith), is cursed. **Gal. 5:3-4** *"And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Messiah, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."**

What Paul said in **Rom. 10:4** is often used by theologians as meaning that Yeshua ended the law. In this passage *"For Messiah is the **end** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."* the Greek word translated "end" is telos, from which we get the word "teleogy" (self realization). This word has nothing to do with

“end” as incorrectly translated. The Greek word “telos” used here means “goal, purpose, consummation, not termination, or end. Messiah is the end of the law as kept to obtain righteousness. It was no longer necessary to have sacrifices for our sin to be covered. The sacrificial system was no longer required under the Renewed covenant, but the law was not removed. We are to offer ourselves daily as a living sacrifice.

Many people have been confused by Paul’s words in Galatians. The book of Galatians cannot be properly understood by itself, it must always be associated with the other books of the same era, otherwise it is bound to be mis-understood. **Gal. 2:16** *“nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by **the works of the Law** but through faith in Messiah Yeshua, even we have believed in Messiah Yeshua, that we may be justified by faith in Messiah, and not by **the works of the Law**; since by **the works of the Law** shall no flesh be justified.”* Here Paul is meaning “legalism”, not “works of the law,” as usually translated. One of the biggest kept secrets in the Renewed Testament shows up here. Paul frequently meant “legalism,” or “law”, when the translated Greek word “vouoo” was used, which is here superseded with the word “epya”.

Another scripture passage that is sometimes used to distort the truth is found in the book of Colossians. Most people don’t realize that in this passage Paul is talking to Messianic people. **Col. 2:13-17** *“And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt **consisting of decrees against us {and}** which was hostile to us; **and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the stake.** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. **Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — things which are a {mere} shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Messiah.**”* You were dead because of your sin but Messiah left an IOU on the stake and all debts were paid in full by Him. He in fact, stripped away the power and authority of the bad leaders among the people. Paul was talking to the Messianic people and telling them not to worry about being criticized for the Biblical festivals, Sabbaths, etc., that they were accustomed to keeping. He said let no **“MAN/ONE”** be your judge, meaning that the word/Torah was the judge of their actions. They were to follow Torah, not mankind. We don’t judge, the Word itself judges. It is an obligation of ours to lift up that Word.

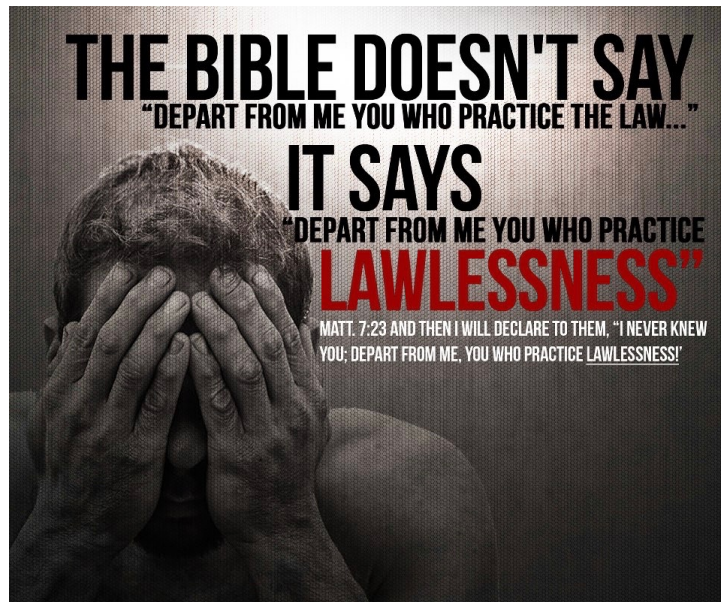
If we go a little further and keep things in context, the Bible explains itself in **Col. 2:20-22** *“If you have died with Messiah to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, **“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”** (which all {refer} {to} things destined to perish with the using)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?”* Paul wasn’t talking about the weekly Sabbath here, for they were not “teachings” (doctrines) of men. He was scolding them because they were worshipping angels and getting involved with pagan, heathen worship, (verse 18) which they had been warned of, spoken of in the second commandment. The *“shadows of things to come”* Paul spoke of in verse 17, were from the ceremonial laws, which included various yearly Sabbaths, not the weekly Sabbath.

When Abraham made the covenant with Yahveh, it was the blood of Abraham’s circumcision that Abraham shed for the requirements of the blood covenant with Yah.

Because Yahveh could not shed His own blood at the time of this covenant, it was Yeshua's blood that was shed at the time of Calvary that was the binding blood of the previous covenants, as well as the re-newed covenant, which began the moment Yeshua's blood was shed. **Col. 2:11** *"and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Yeshua"* In the spiritual realm the bleeding of Messiah on the stake was like the symbolic bleeding which takes place within us when our hearts are circumcised in the re-newed covenant. When we agree to partake of Adonai's covenant; we are accepting the blessings as well as the conditions that come with it.

When we personally confess our sins and accept the re-newed covenant with Yahveh, the scar on our circumcised heart is the scar that He sees, because He sees our inner man rather than our outward body. When we accept His covenants we take His name as that of our Father and we become His children. We become officially adopted into the family of Yahveh and are heirs to His throne.

Yeshua concluded His discussion in Matthew with these powerful verses. **Matt. 22:36-40** *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE ADONAI Yahveh with all your heart, and with all your soul, and WITH ALL YOUR MIND." "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments **depend the whole Law and the Prophets.**"* Here Yeshua is telling them that love is the key to a good life, to depend on the "whole law" and the prophets. Yeshua emphasizes it again in **John 14:15** *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*



Too many people use the verse **Rom. 6:14** *"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."* out of context, creating misunderstanding to the people who hear it. The first half of verse 14 and the verse after don't seem to be taught. In the first part of verse 14 it says *"sin shall not be master over you"*, meaning that "grace" gives us the ability to not have sin control us. We have the ability, through grace, to master our sin. **Rom. 6:15** *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!"* followed close

behind by verse 16 “Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone {as} slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of sin resulting in death, or of **obedience resulting in righteousness?**” The law spoken of here is clearly the “sacrificial law” which Yeshua did away with at Calvary, as the high priest from the order of Melchizedek. It meant “shall we sin” just because we don’t have to sacrifice animals anymore, of course not? One of the key words here is “sin”.

Throughout past centuries people have found that from time to time the commands and rules of mankind conflict with the commands and rules of Yah. When this happens we must follow the rules and guidance of Adonai. Paul answered this dilemma for us in **Acts 5:29** “**But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men.”** Put in another way **1Kgs. 18:21** “**And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long {will} you hesitate between two opinions? If Adonai is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word.**”

Yeshua makes it clear that those who practice lawlessness He will not recognize. **Matt. 7:23** “**And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’**”

There are many people who call on the name of Adonai but do not follow His teachings and the word in His Bible, which includes the commandments He gave us. How can anyone claim to be a follower of Yeshua if he doesn’t really follow? We have too many people today that are not “walking the walk and talking the talk”. These people are not on the narrow road, but on the wide path to destruction. As Believers, we are to do what Adonai told us to do through His word. We are to warn our brothers and sisters in the Body of Yeshua about their sins. **Ezek. 3:21** “**However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself.**”

Luke 6:46 “**And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?**” Talk is cheap! Faith comes with obedience!

The law is “spiritual”. **Rom. 7:14** “**For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin**”. “Law is spiritual”, means one can’t understand it unless he has the Holy Spirit in him to guide him. A person needs messiah living in himself to have the wisdom required to understand the Torah.

Isa. 42:21 “**Adonai was pleased for His righteousness’ sake To make the law great and glorious.**” Here, Yeshua put more emphasis on the law. He in fact magnified its importance. If you are to make the law great and glorious, obviously you are not abolishing it as many would like you to believe.

Jer. 17:23 “**Yet they did not listen or incline their ears, but stiffened their necks in order not to listen or take correction.**”

Jer. 19:15 “**Thus says Adonai of hosts, the Yah of Israel, ‘Behold, I am about to bring on this city and all its towns the entire calamity that I have declared against it, because they have stiffened their necks so as not to heed My words.’”**

Rom. 3:28 “**For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**” Many people consider this to mean that Paul was campaigning against the law. However, Paul said in the previous passage **Rom. 2:13** “**for not the hearers of the Law are just before Yah, but the doers of the Law will be justified.**”



In **Prov. 28:9** *“He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, **Even his prayer is an abomination.**”* Here it clearly states that even your prayers won't be answered if you don't follow Yah's instructions. How many people don't get their prayers answered, and are truly wondering why?

In ten passages in Romans, 1 Corinthians and in Galatians, Paul talks about “under the law,” being bad, and the “works of the law,” being bad. Paul doesn't mean to tell the people that to live in the framework of the law is bad, obeying the law is bad, in fact He writes, that the Torah is holy, just and good. **Rom. 7:12** *“So then, **the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.**”*

As Paul concluded his great discussion on grace in Rom 3, he concluded as follows: **Rom. 3:31** *“Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, **we establish the Law.**”*

Some Believers are naive enough to believe that because Messiah Yeshua only listed four commandments in Acts 15:20, they only have to follow four commandments. **Acts 15:20** *“but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.”*

The Bible makes it clear to us what “sin” is. Sin is not obeying the commandments. Near the end of life, John wrote **1John 3:4** *“everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and **sin is lawlessness.**”*

In **Matt. 5:27-28** *“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* Here, Yeshua was emphasizing the importance of the law, exaggerating it so all who heard would understand how incredibly important it truly is.

Rom. 8:7-8 *“because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward Yah; for it does not subject itself **to the law of Yah**, for it is not even able {to do so} ; and those who are in the flesh cannot please Yah.”*

Yah's commandments were never done away. His Sabbaths and other laws were still kept by the early Believers who remained faithful.

John described the remnant of the true church at the end of this age in **Rev. 12:17** *“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, **who keep the commandments of Yah and hold to the testimony of Yeshua.**”*

Rev. 14:12 *“Here is the perseverance of the saints **who keep the commandments of Yah and their faith in Yeshua.**”*

In **John 8:12** *“Again therefore Yeshua spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; **he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.**” If a person rejects Yeshua's teaching, refuses to follow the example of His entire way of life can he consider himself a “follower”?*

1John 2:6 *“the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”*

The statutes and laws of Adonai are to be followed by Believers and aliens **for all**

generations. Num. 15:15 ‘*{As for} the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns {with you,} a **perpetual statute throughout your generations**; as you are, so shall the alien be before Adonai.*” **Exod. 12:49** “*The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.*”

Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul) was equally as observant as most of his contemporaries in Jerusalem. He was born in Tarsus, but was brought up in Jerusalem, and studied under the famous Rabbi Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3). Gamaliel is also mentioned in Acts 5:34-40 where he commanded the Sanhedrin to give the Apostles some liberty, following the traditional Jewish belief that Elohim is the final arbiter in all matters of truth and error.

Did he become less observant after his conversion on the Damascus Road?

Certainly not! His disagreement with Peter (Gal. 2:11-14) was purely about the requirement of the Gentiles to convert to Judaism, not about the lifestyle of the Jewish Believers. He criticized Peter for his inconsistency because he was willing to live like the Gentiles when he was with the Gentiles, and then he expected the Gentiles to live like Jews. This question was resolved in 50 AD at the end of Paul's first journey when the full council of Apostles and Elders in Jerusalem agreed that Gentiles who believed in Yeshua should lead a moderately observant lifestyle, rather similar to the Reformed Jews of today, and there was no requirement for them to be circumcised. During his ministry there are a number of occasions where Paul is seen observing a distinctly Jewish lifestyle.

Paul circumcised Timothy, the son of a Jewish mother and Greek father. He considered Timothy to be Jewish, and wanted him to be circumcised before taking him on a trip to assist with the ministry among the Jews. (Acts 16:1-3).

Ultra Orthodox Jews within the Church

The Ultra Orthodox Believers in Jerusalem were thoroughly observant, and when they were scattered throughout Samaria they preached only to Jews. However, there were observant Jewish Believers wherever Paul went, and some of them wanted the Gentiles to convert to Judaism and be circumcised. In Galatia, Paul referred to them: **Gal. 1:7** "*some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Messiah*". The situation was amplified, irritated by the fact that at that time, there was no ruling on this question from the Apostles at Jerusalem. Paul's main cause of concern was that people in Galatia itself were expecting the Gentile Believers to convert to Judaism.

KILLING THE UMPIRE

If you ever flip through the channels on SUNday afternoon, you might come across some sporting event where there is a huddle at the sidelines. The action is paused, and the cameras are all focused on the game officials discussing something of enormous magnitude. Human nature being what it is, we tend to want to find out what happened. Did someone get injured? How bad is it? Will they recover? Then you find out that there is a technicality being discussed. Some player made an unusual play and the officials are heatedly arguing about whether it was legal or not. Fans on both sides of the fence are passionately screaming for justice to be done, right down to the smallest detail in the rulebook. Too often, when a call is made which is unfavorable to a group of fans, they want the official canned, replaced, dead... anything but in charge of their game.

It is interesting how a sport has the power to rivet our attention to a rulebook, making us diligently search to see if a play is allowable or not. If a leisure pastime can dominate our emotions and dictate people's conduct while on the playing field—then how much more ought we to be vigilant to search the rulebook of life, the Bible, to see what is permitted in our conduct here on the playing field of earth. There is an old saying, "If Yah lived on earth, people would break His windows." Well He did, and we did. When it came to killing the ump, it's been done already.

UN-EQUALLY YOKED

Our Bible tells us not to follow any teachings that are not Biblical. Our Bible tells us never to be unequally yoked with heathens. The Bible forbids us to have fellowship with those who disobey the Word of Yah. Here are some examples to consider:

Col. 2:8 *"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Messiah."*

Eph. 4:14-15 *"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all {aspects} into Him, who is the head, {even} Messiah,"*

2Cor. 11:3-4 *"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity {of devotion} to Messiah. For if one comes and preaches another Yeshua whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear {this} beautifully."*

Gal. 1:8-9 *"But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed."*

Eph. 5:11 *"And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;"*

2Ths. 3:6 *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Messiah Yeshua, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us."*

1Tim. 1:3 *"As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,"*

1Tim. 6:3-4 *"If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Messiah Yeshua, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited {and} understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,*

1Tim. 6:20-21 *"O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly {and} empty chatter {and} the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you."*

2Tim. 3:2-5 *"For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, **unholy**, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, **lovers of***

pleasure rather than lovers of Yahveh; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.”

2Pet. 2:1 “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as **there will also be false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

2Pet. 3:17-18 “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Messiah and Savior Yeshua**. To Him {be} the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amein.”

2John 9-11 “**Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Messiah, does not have Yah; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son**. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into {your} house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”

Rev. 2:2 “I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you **put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them {to be} false;**”

Rev. 2:14 ‘**But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit {acts of} immorality.**”

John 8:31-32 “Yeshua therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “**If you abide in My word, {then} you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” verse 37 “I know that you are Abraham’s offspring; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.”

MATURITY IN THE WORD OF YAH

There are many lay-people and clergy today that simply aren’t ready for the truth; they want their ears tickled and want to remain in kindergarten, thinking they are saved by grace and not willing to proceed in Yahveh’s work. People who aren’t ready for the truth should familiarize themselves with the following scriptures:**1Cor. 3:1-2** “**And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Messiah. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able {to receive it.} Indeed, even now you are not yet able,**”

Hebr. 5:12-6:1 “**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of Yah, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes {only} of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Messiah, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward Yah,**”

Jer. 14:13-15 “But, “Ah, Yahveh!” I said, “Look, the prophets are telling them, ‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’” Then Adonai said to me, “**The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of**

their own minds. “Therefore thus says Adonai concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them — yet they keep saying, ‘There shall be no sword or famine in this land’— by sword and famine **those prophets shall meet their end!**”

As it states in James 4:7, we are first to submit to Adonai and then the devil will flee. Unless we submit and follow (mature in) Yah’s instructions, we are not protected from Satan. **James 4:7** “Submit therefore to Yah. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

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