

BELIEVERS,

**WHAT SATAN
DOESN'T WANT
YOU TO KNOW.**

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who, O Lord, could ever survive?*

David...Psalms130:3

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us
according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the
earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

David ... Psalm 103:10-12

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1. ASSURANCE of Salvation

Yahshua wants you to **know** you are saved!

John 5:24

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but have already passed from death into life.

John 10:28-30

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from Me, for my Father has given them to Me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (You were saved the moment you believed! You don't have to strive and work for your salvation!)

Hebrews 9:12

With His own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—He entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

2. Yahshua Forgives and Forgets

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive?

David...Psalms130:3

Isaiah 44:22

I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free.

Psalms 65:3

Though we are overwhelmed by our sins, **you forgive them all.**

Psalms 103: 3, 12

He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases... **He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.**

Hebrews 8:12

And I will forgive their wickedness, and **I will never again remember their sins.**

Hebrews 9:26

But now, once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age **to remove sin** by His own death as a sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:17

then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.

*And I will forgive their wickedness,
and I will **never** again remember their sins.*

Hebrews 8:12

3. Saved by His Grace only, Salvation can't be earned

Have peace, you don't have to strive and work to try to earn your Salvation, for the moment you believed you were saved by His gift of Grace!

Acts 15:10-11

So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.

Romans 3:28

So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

Romans 4:4-5

When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Romans 11:6

And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

Galatians 2:16, 21

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law. I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Galatians 3:8-9

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

4. Yahshua wants you to be free from all guilt

Before we come to Yahshua, we are legally guilty -- guilty as sin -- before Him (James 2:10). We are sinners, enemies, and rebels against the Almighty (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21). Because we are guilty we were unlovely, inadequate, insecure, and unworthy.

But the good news of the Christian life is that when we become Christians, Yahshua takes our legal guilt away. He paid the penalty of all our legal guilt. Not only is our guilt taken away, but we receive Yahshua's righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21) -- a righteousness that comes from Him, not from ourselves (Romans 10:3-4). We become holy (Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 1:2; 3:12). This is why we are called saints, "holy ones" (2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; etc.).

But even after we become Christians, *feelings* of guilt can still linger. Even though we are totally accepted by Yahshua (Romans 15:7; Hebrews 13:5), we do not *experience* acceptance. We often continue to experience feelings of unworthiness, shame, and incompetence -- i.e. guilt.

This is not Yahshua's desire for us. Hebrews 10:21-22 says: "*...and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*"

Yahshua wants to replace our "guilt complex" with His guilt-free identity. You can try the various methods of Positive Thinking, come to an understanding of psychological guilt, and investigate the myriad forms of Eastern religion; but you will never arrive at a satisfactory solution to the guilt problem until you become certain you are complete and acceptable in the sight of Yahshua.

If you believe in Yahshua, then believe it or not, understand it or not, accept it or not, you are absolutely virtuous in His sight as a PERSON.

At the moment you believed, Yahshua declared you righteous. As a person, Yahshua sees you as perfect.

"Christ gave Himself for our sins . . . For by the one offering He made forever perfect in the sight of God all those whom He is making holy" (Hebrews 10:14 TLB).

When we become a Christian we are justified. Justified means, Yahshua sees me 'just as-if-I'd' never sinned.

The Almighty could not have a relationship with you, not for a moment, if you are not perfectly righteous in His sight.

"Because of what Christ did for us; God decided to make us holy in His eyes, without a single fault - we who stand before him covered with his love" (Ephesians 1:4 TLB).

Therefore a Christian should never experience self-condemnation: *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).*

The remedy for self-condemnation is to see yourself as Yahshua sees you!

The problem: Having been saved, we have not really been led to act on the basis of all we have become . . . and we have not realized and believed what we are!

The Cross Leaves No Room for Guilt

The Cross is totally sufficient for all sins (past, present, future):

- *Yahshua said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins' (Matthew 26:28).*
- *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2).*
- *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, 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 (Colossians 2:13-14).*
- *He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself (Hebrews 7:27b).*
- *And by God's will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10).*

The Cross makes us totally righteous in His sight

- *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

The Cross is not dependent on our performance for its sufficiency:

- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

5. Believers are forgiven, holy and righteous in His sight ...NOW!

Before we look at Scriptures confirming this, please answer the following questions.

1. If someone takes away **all** your money, how much money do **you** have?
 None I'm not sure
2. If someone takes away **all** your jewelry, how much jewelry do **you** have?
 None I'm not sure
3. If Yahshua takes away **all** your sin; past, present and future, how much sin do **you** have?
 None I'm not sure
4. How much sin do you think is in someone that Yahshua has made '**Holy**'?
 None I'm not sure
5. How much sin do you think is in someone Yahshua has made **righteous**?
 None I'm not sure
6. How much sin do you think is in someone Yahshua has made '**perfect**'?
 None I'm not sure

The moment you put your trust in Yahshua to save you, you were saved and born again!

At that moment, Yahshua made you a new creation! You are now His and He Himself, has made you Holy, righteous and perfect in His sight!

You are forever Forgiven in His sight!

You are forever Sinless in His sight!

You are forever Holy in His sight!

You are forever Perfect in His sight!

You are forever without fault in His sight!

This holds true for every single moment...

of every single day...

for the rest of your life...

and for all time and eternity!

YES, it's true! That's the Gospel!

To experience the joy, peace and power Yahshua wants you to have ... and be free from Satan's tactics of always trying to put shame, guilt and condemnation on you, you must put your trust in the following scriptures!

Remember, names are important to Yahshua...and 'Satan' means – 'Accuser'

Don't believe any longer what the 'Accuser' says to you...things like:

"Don't forget what you've done. God hasn't forgotten and He won't forgive you"

"You know you're not good enough, who are you trying to fool?"

"You're not Holy enough and you're not sanctified enough; so you better work a lot harder if want to earn your salvation!"

These are ALL LIES of Satan, the Accuser!

Now get ready to rejoice about what Yahshua says about you!

Scripture tells us that because **we have believed in Yahshua**, the Lamb of God, who took the punishment for **all our sins** upon Himself...

He has cleansed us and **made us Holy, pure, perfect** and **without a single fault in His sight!**

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that **we could be made right with God** through Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

*...the blood of Jesus, his son, **cleanses us from all sin**.*

1 John 1:7

*But the voice spoke again:
“Do not call something **unclean** if God has **made it clean**.”*

Acts 10:15

Yahshua says He has made **us** clean! (1 Corinthians 6:11 and 1 John 1:7)

Psalms 103: 3, 12

He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases... **He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west**.

Notice the tense used, **He has removed our rebellious acts** (it's already done!)

Romans 3:23, 24

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet **God**, with undeserved kindness, **declares that we are righteous**. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Notice **who** declares us righteous....**GOD Himself!**

1 Corinthians 1:2

I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be His own **holy** people. **He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus**, just as He did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

Notice the tense used, **He has already made you holy because you trust in Him!**

1 Corinthians 1:30

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. **Christ made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and He freed us from sin.**

Notice the tense used,

Christ **made us right** with God (It's already done!) He **made us pure and holy** (It's already done!) and He **freed us from sin** (It's already done!)

1 Corinthians 6:11

Some of you were once like that. But **you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God** by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (Notice the tense used, you **were made holy!**)

Ephesians 1:4

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ **to be holy and without fault in his eyes.**

Colossians 1:2

We are writing **to God's holy people** in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

Colossians 1:22

Yet now He has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and **you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.**

Notice the tense used ... **you ARE holy and blameless without a single fault.**
(It's already done!)

Colossians 2:13-14

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. **Then** God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it** by nailing it to Christ's cross". Notice the tense used... **He forgave all our sins** (It's already done!) **He canceled the record that contained the charges against us.** (It's already done!) **He took it and destroyed it** (It's already done!)

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, **holy and dearly loved**, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, **holy brothers**, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Hebrews 10:10

For God's will was for us **to be made holy** by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Notice ... **we were made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time!**

Hebrews 10:14

For by that one offering **He forever made perfect** those who are being made holy.

Notice the tense used... **He forever made perfect** ... (It's already done!)

Hebrews 13:12

So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates **to make his people holy by means of his own blood.**

6. What Believers should know about The Law

The Ten Commandments

Saturday Sabbath Keeping

Sanctification

Are Christians under 'Law' or Grace?

The Ten Commandments are ten laws in the Bible that the Almighty *gave to the nation of Israel* shortly after the exodus from Egypt.

The Ten Commandments are essentially a summary of the 613 commandments contained in the Old Testament Law. The Ten Commandments are recorded in the Bible in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. The 613 laws found therein were given and commanded *of the Jews* and have **NEVER** applied to Gentile believers.

The Ten Commands were given only to Israel

Deuteronomy 4:1, 44, 45 - The Ten Commands were given to the children of Israel after they came out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 4:7-13 - No other nation had such a great law as the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:1, 6 - Moses spoke to Israel and gave them the Ten Commands to observe. The Almighty brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 34:27, 28 - The Almighty made a covenant with Israel writing on tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

1 Kings 8:9, 21 - The two tablets of stone contain the covenant the Almighty made with Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

The Sabbath was given only to Israel

Deuteronomy 5:12 - Israel was a slave in the land of Egypt, The Almighty brought them out and commanded them to keep the Sabbath day.

Exodus 31:13, 16, 17 - The Sabbath was a sign between the Almighty and Israel like circumcision was (Genesis 17; Romans 4:11). How could it have been a sign between the Almighty and Israel if He had given the same law to other nations too? Would a ring be a sign of a man's special relationship with his wife, if he gave similar rings to many other women?

Today, people need not keep the commands revealed through Moses, including the Ten Commands and the Sabbath, for the same reason we do not need to build an ark like Noah. The Almighty did not address these commands to us.

The Almighty repeatedly told Israel that various provisions of the law were to last "***throughout their generations***".

This is said regarding the following:

Genesis 17:9, 10 - **Circumcision**

Exodus 12:14; Leviticus 23:21, 31, 41 - **Holy feast days**

Exodus 29:42; 30:10 - **Animal sacrifices**

Exodus 30:8 - **Incense**

Exodus 30:31 - **Holy anointing oil**

Exodus 31:13-17 - **Sabbath observance**

Exodus 40:15; Numbers 18:23 - **Levitical priests in the tabernacle**

All these practices were to endure for the same length of time - throughout Israel's generations. If any of them has ceased, then they must have all ceased since they were all to endure the same length of time. Since we know many of them have ceased, therefore they must have all ceased.

Laws that have ceased:

Circumcision (Genesis 17:9-14) - Circumcision was both a covenant and a command given by the Almighty to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 21:1-4; Leviticus 12:3).

The Almighty now says this command no longer applies (1 Corinthians 7:18-20; Galatians 5:1-8; 6:12-16; Acts 15:1-29).

Levitical priesthood (Exodus 40:12-16; 29:1-9) - Under the covenant made at Mt. Sinai, only Aaron and his descendants could serve as priests (Numbers 3:10; 18:1-7; 16:40).

But, today Yahshua is High Priest, though He was not a descendant of Aaron. This proves there has been a *change in the law* (Hebrews 7:11-18; 1 Peter 2:5, 9).

Animal sacrifices (Numbers 15:1-6) - Throughout the Old Testament, the Almighty commanded people to offer animal sacrifices (Genesis 4:1-5; Leviticus chapters 1-7).

But, today animal sacrifices have ceased to be offered because Yahshua is our perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-18).

These all continued as long as Israel's special relationship to the Almighty continued, and all would end when that special relation ended.

The Bible tells us that special relationship ended when the gospel (the good news of Yahshua, the MessYah!) came into effect.

There is no more Jew or Gentile in the Almighty's plan.

*There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

See also:

Ephesians 2:11-18; Acts 10:34, 35; 15:7-11; Romans 10:12; Colossians 3:11

The Old and New Testaments

Everyone makes some sort of distinction between the 'Old' Testament and the 'New' Testament. But, what distinction does the Bible make between the Old and New Testaments and how does this affect us as believers?

These names were chosen for a very good reason. In the Bible, there are two covenants. The old one and the new one, which replaced the old one.

Hebrews 8:7 tells us,

If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it.

Hebrews 8:13 tells us,

When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

2 Corinthians 3: 5-11 tells us,

It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life?

If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way.

So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

Yahshua and the End of the Old Testament

In Matthew 5:17-19 Yahshua taught,

*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill**. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law **till all is fulfilled**. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

Yahshua, the MessiYah came “*not to abolish, but **to fulfill**.*”

The Almighty came to earth specifically to do for us, what we could never do for ourselves... *fulfill the entire demands of the Law perfectly and completely!* He fulfilled the law’s prophetic utterances regarding Himself (Luke 24:44). Yahshua, the MessiYah, fulfilled **all** the demands of ‘the’ law, which called for perfect obedience under threat of a “curse” (see Galatians 3:10; 13).

This, He did **for us!**

If, however, ‘the law’ **continues** to bear the same relationship to men today, in terms of its binding status, then it was **not** fulfilled, and Yahshua **failed** at what He came to do. If, on the other hand, the Almighty did accomplish His goal, then *‘the’ law was fulfilled*, and it is **not** a binding legal institution on believers today.

Furthermore, if ‘the’ law was **not** fulfilled by the MessiYah—and thus remains as a binding legal system for today—then it is not just **partially** binding. It remains **totally** binding.

Yahshua plainly said that not one “jot or tittle” (representative of the smallest markings of the Hebrew script) would pass away until **all was fulfilled**. Consequently, nothing of ‘the’ law was to fail until it had completely accomplished its purpose.

Yahshua **fulfilled** ‘The Law.’

He fulfilled **all** of ‘The Law’. We cannot say that Yahshua fulfilled some of ‘The Law,’ but not ‘other’ laws. Yahshua either fulfilled **all** of ‘The Law’, or **none** of it.

The Almighty did not come to work against the Old Testament Law, or to sabotage it; He came to *fulfill its purpose*. The Almighty **Himself** would complete the mission of the Old Testament; *to bring it to its intended end*, and *replace it* with the New Testament.

The Four Gospels Are Part of The Old Testament

The modern term for testament (or covenant) is what we call a 'last will and testament' – or more commonly, 'a will.' A will only becomes effective after the person who made it, is dead. For that matter, only the last will that the person makes is the one that actually goes into effect.

In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. Hebrews 9:16-17

Believers need to understand that the gospels (Matthew through John) document the life of Yahshua, the MessiYah – concluding with His death and resurrection. The life experiences described in the gospels were before the 'last will and testament' had gone into effect. Yahshua was the One who made that will – and He hadn't died yet.

You might ask yourself, "So what does that matter?" It matters because the familiar page identifying 'The New Testament' – found in your Bible between Malachi and Matthew – really belongs between John and Acts!

The gospels are in fact, part of the Old Testament.

Again, you might ask, "So what?"

The significance is that we have used that page – which claims to separate the Old and New Testaments – to shape our lives. We say that we are New Testament Christians, yet we miss what defines the New Testament by including the Old.

The Old Testament established in great detail, the requirements to remove the sin barrier between man and the Almighty – even to the extent of foreshadowing the One who would be the remedy for sin once and for all. The gospels focus on Yahshua's life work of fulfilling all of these requirements – The Law – for holiness and righteousness.

The final payment for "the law of sin and death," was made at the end of the gospels. The Old Testament concludes – at the end of the gospels – with the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb so that there could be everlasting forgiveness and redemption for all who put their trust in Him.

Although the Old Testament is filled with hints and foreshadows of a life of faith in the MessiYah who was to come, that life is disclosed in the New Testament – which begins after the gospels.

That is where you can read about how to live in a relationship with Yahshua based on grace and not based on Law.

Yahshua said...

Yahshua said until the old covenant was fulfilled, it would stand firm down to the smallest jot and tittle (*jots and tittles are comparable to the dot above an i and the cross mark on a t*).

Yahshua warned that anyone who broke the least commandment of the Old Testament, prior to its expiration would not go unpunished.

However, about 30 years after Yahshua gave this warning, the apostle Paul wrote this,

“neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything.”
Galatians 5:6

Now, in the Old Testament, circumcision was a lot more than just a jot or a tittle, it was a major point of the Old Testament (Genesis 17:14).

Yet, Paul taught that this part of the Old Testament was gone!

Why did Paul do this?

Why did Paul teach people they were no longer under the Old Testament? Paul taught this new doctrine because Yahshua **instructed him to do so!** (Galatians 1:11-12)

Not only did Paul dismiss circumcision, he dismissed the dietary laws, feast laws, and even the Sabbath law.

So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

Colossians 2:16, 17

These were all important parts of the Old Testament, yet Paul teaches that obedience in these things **is no longer required.**

Let's reason this out...

Yahshua said that anyone who broke the least law of the Old Testament and taught others to break the law would not go unpunished.

However, under the direction of Yahshua, Paul declares the Old Testament is no longer binding. Either Paul is a false teacher or something has changed.

The Bible shows us that something changed!

The Bible shows us that Yahshua succeeded in His mission to fulfill the Old Testament. Yahshua brought the Old Testament to its intended conclusion and replaced it with a better testament, **the New Testament**.

Paul to the Galatians

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul explains the temporary design of the Old Testament. Let's look at some of the things Paul wrote to the Galatians.

In Galatians 2:18,19 Paul said,

Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God.

There are two questions that arise from these verses that we need to consider.

First, what things did Paul refer to as having been “torn down”?

The answer is found in Galatians 2:11-17, specifically verse 16 where Paul wrote,

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.

The things Paul destroyed were the various laws of the Old Testament. In other words, **Paul taught that the days of Old Testament authority were gone**. The Old Testament no longer rules over the lives of men. Today we are in the New Testament!

The second question we ponder is, how did Paul die to the law through the law? This simply refers to the fact that the old law was designed to expire.

It was a temporary law. If the Old Testament is truly respected and followed, it leads a person to transfer his loyalty and obedience from the old, to the **new**. That was the goal of the Old Testament. This point is further established in our next Bible passage.

In Galatians 3:23-25 Paul wrote,

*Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian **until Christ came**; it protected us **until we could be made right with God through faith**. And now that the way of faith has come, we **no longer need the law as our guardian**.*

Paul points out that the old law was to last until the time of Christ, and then it would be replaced by the new law.

Paul to the Ephesians

In the Ephesian letter, Paul teaches about the ending of the Old Testament. Paul teaches,

*For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this **by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations**. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.*

Ephesians 2:14-16

The “two” that have been made one in Yahshua is explained in Ephesians 2:11-13. A reading of that passage shows that the Jews and Gentiles were the two that are now one in Christ. Galatians 3:27, 28 teaches,

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Paul clearly defines the “wall of hostility” in Ephesians 2:14-16.

Paul calls it ... the system of law with its commandments and regulations. In other words, the Old Testament.

This is the “hostility” that Christ put to death. Yahshua brought the Old Testament to its intended end. (see also Colossians 2:14-17).

This is a blessing and freedom that had not been known prior to the end of the Old Testament.

Paul said,

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. Galatians 5:1

Hebrews 8:7

Hebrews 8:7 makes one of the most profound statements concerning the 'Old' and 'New' Covenant. In Hebrews 8:7 we read,

*If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a **second covenant to replace it**.*

Two separate covenants are mentioned, and **the second one replaces the first one** because the first covenant was not faultless.

In other words, the New Testament **replaces** the Old Testament.

Hebrews 7:12-14 teaches,

And if the priesthood is changed, the law must also be changed to permit it. For the priest we are talking about belongs to a different tribe, whose members have never served at the altar as priests. What I mean is, our Lord came from the tribe of Judah, and Moses never mentioned priests coming from that tribe.

The message is simple. Because Christ is from the tribe of Judah, not the Levite tribe as the Old Testament requires, **there must be a new covenant**. **Christ could not be a priest if the Old Testament is still in force!**

We learn the Old Testament was designed to be temporary. When it fulfilled its purpose of being *...our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith* (Galatians 3:24), it was **replaced** by the New Testament.

Why Do We Gentiles Want the Ten Commandments?

The Israelites were shown to be set apart from all the other nations of the world by their Almighty-given law. The legal aspect of the law (based on the Ten Commandments) set up a system to determine offenses, rules about the testimony, and the punishment associated with the offenses.

The law is plainly laid out. Under it, anyone who is found to be guilty of breaking a single one of those commandments is to be punished. And, “breaking one commandment” doesn't mean one today and another tomorrow; it means that he is to be punished if he ever breaks even one commandment in his entire lifetime!

Every commandment has the same purpose. They each show that people choose to be god over the decisions in their lives – just like Adam and Eve, and just like the Israelites.

The punishment for breaking any of “the Ten” is death. It's not the sacrificing of an animal or saying a prayer begging for forgiveness. It's being stoned to death at the city gate!

Isn't it strange that we Christians want so much to be under the law that we forget that the Almighty says that anyone who lives under the law is **under a curse!**

*All who rely on observing **the law** are **under a curse**, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue **to do everything** written in the **Book of the Law**.”*

Galatians 3:10

Clearly no one is justified before the Almighty by the law, because, “*The righteous will live by faith.*” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “*The person who does these things will live by them.*”

*But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, **He took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing**. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

Galatians 3:10-13

What is the Role of the Old Testament Today?

We now come to the question, since the Old Testament has been replaced, what is its role in our faith today? Let's build a solid book, chapter and verse foundation to answer this question and to learn the role of the Old Testament in **New Testament** times.

While we emphasize the New Testament, we encourage respect for the Old Testament. We must not discard, doubt, or belittle the Old Testament. The Old Testament is no longer the authority that governs our religious practice or our reconciliation with the Almighty, but it is still from the mind of the Almighty. It is still valuable for man today. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)

Likewise, embracing the New Testament as the Almighty's replacement for the Old Testament, shows respect for the Old Testament because it was designed to lead up to the New Testament...

Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

Galatians 3:24

Those who refuse to respect the temporary design of the Old Testament dishonor the Old Testament and disobey the Almighty by clinging to Old Testament ways.

The Old Testament Verifies Yahshua, the MessiYah

One important function of the Old Testament is its pointing to Yahshua. In Luke 24:25-27 Yahshua said,

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the MessiYah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Yahshua used the Old Testament to show these disciples that He was the MessiYah the Old Testament foretold (see also John 3:14 with Numbers 21:9).

Paul (also known as Saul of Tarsus), Apollos and Philip used the Old Testament in this manner. Consider their use of the Old Testament in the following verses:

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.” Acts 8:35

The Scripture that Philip used was the Old Testament passage of Isaiah 53:7, 8.

We believe that Paul, like Apollos, used the Old Testament Scriptures to confront the Jews.

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11

The Bereans used the Old Testament to verify the accuracy of the message Paul preached.

When Apollos refuted the Jews, he used the Old Testament to show them that Yahshua is the MessiYah.

“For he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 18:28

In addition to verifying the MessiYah, the Old Testament provides a foreshadow of the blessing revealed in the New Testament.

In Hebrews 10: 1 we read,

The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.

Paul wrote, in Colossians 2:16-17

So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

The Old Testament in New Testament Times

Everyone who believes in Him is declared right with God – something the law of Moses could never do.

Paul ...Acts 13:39

Some people may have trouble accepting “Grace,” because they reject the two separate dispensations of law and grace. Others perhaps have not given it enough study. All of the Old Testament, and *some* of the four gospel scriptures, do not apply to the present Church Age or Dispensation of Grace.

The misinterpretation of scripture occurs when people *mix* all of scripture and attempt to live accordingly. They become ‘*lost between Law and Grace*’. They try to keep the law ***in an attempt*** to become righteous before the Almighty. Since they cannot keep the law, just as Israel could not keep the law, they begin to lie to themselves and eventually to others. They cannot keep the law, nor have they accepted the full gospel of grace. ***They have become stranded between law and grace.***

Because they have not accepted the full gospel of grace in a dispensation when the Almighty will accept nothing else, they are lost. The Apostle Paul describes this condition as having “fallen from grace.”

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God’s grace.

Galatians 5:4

Many unbelieving people call Christians who are *trying* to live by the law “hypocrites” because they profess to obey the law and live without sin. The unbeliever knows otherwise and so does everyone else, including the Almighty, because his sin is obvious. The true believer knows ***there is none righteous, no not one.*** The self-righteous ‘law keeper’ does not see his unrighteousness... just like the Pharisees could not see theirs.

*Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence **in their own righteousness** and scorned everyone else: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don’t cheat, I don’t sin, and I don’t commit adultery. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘**O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.**’ **I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God.** For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

Luke 18: 9-14

There is a saying regarding people who have become 'self deluded' and actually believe they are keeping the Law...

“Self-Righteousness people make ‘The Law’ do-able.”

The pursuit of our perfection leads to false pride and hypocrisy which Yahshua hates.

Yahshua is asking us to put our trust in His perfection, not ours.

You've been told by false teachers to keep the Law, but can you?

As Christians, we continually hear about the need for us to follow, adhere to, and obey the law – and we also hear that Christ fulfilled the law. Does that sound like a contradiction? It should!

More often than not, we're told that we need to try to keep the law, but not to worry, because when we fail we can confess our sins and ask the Almighty to forgive us. This cycle of failing and asking for the Almighty's forgiveness has become a way of life for most of us. Yahshua's words from the cross "*It is finished!*" were meant to break that religious cycle.

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

Galatians 3:23-25

Both of these Scriptures state that coming to faith in Yahshua, the MessiYah ends the need for the law. We no longer need to compare our behavior to the Almighty's commandments. We were humbled and have seen our unrighteous, unholy selves for what we were: guilty and under a sentence of death. We needed – and subsequently received – His grace and mercy so that we now have eternal life through Yahshua.

Believers today are **NOT** under **ANY** Old Testament Law...

There is a lot of confusion about the Law given to Moses by the Almighty. As we have discussed, some people believe that they must obey the Ten Commandments to earn, or merit their salvation.

Some have been taught they must obey 'The Ten Commandments' to '**become sanctified,**' at some point in the future. Their message is: *You've got to work for it... You've got to earn it!*

The Bible however, does not teach, or even suggest these things!

1 Timothy 1:8 states,

"But we know that the law is good when used correctly."

The Ten Commandments are good if you use them the right way, but some people use them the wrong way. The Almighty ***DID NOT*** give Moses 'The Ten Commandments' so all future generations could try to **save themselves** or **sanctify themselves!**

The Ten Commandments show us the SAVIOR

'The Ten Commandments' cannot save, forgive sins, sanctify or give righteousness. *The good news is that Yahshua can!* The most important lesson we can learn from the Old Testament Law is that we all are sinners and we need Yahshua to be our Savior.

Galatians 3:24-25 states,

Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

'The Ten Commandments' is only a teacher. It shows us our need of Yahshua. We cannot earn forgiveness for our sins, but He can **give** us forgiveness as **a free gift**.

*"...the **free gift** of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 6:23

If you receive Yahshua today, He will **give** you eternal life!

If you try to earn heaven and sanctification by your own self efforts, you will not be able to go. Salvation and sanctification is a gift, not a debt.

If you receive Yahshua, you will have “His righteousness for the remission (forgiveness) of sins” (Romans 3:25). Yahshua gives forgiveness, righteousness and sanctification.

‘The Ten Commandments’ cannot do that.

Which would you rather trust for your salvation and sanctification ... your works of self-righteousness, or Yahshua’s free gift?

You cannot go to heaven if you trust the wrong thing. If you have been trusting ‘The Ten Commandments’, you are not saved.

Will you repent (change your thinking) right now and trust only Yahshua for your salvation and sanctification?

...for you are not under law but under grace.

Paul Romans 6:14

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God’s grace.

Paul ... Galatians 5:4

Believers have already been SANCTIFIED!

Webster's dictionary says that sanctification means “to set aside for a special purpose, especially a sacred one; to make holy, pure, righteous, free from sin.”

The scriptures plainly tell us that once we have called upon Yahshua (The Almighty manifested in flesh) to save us, we are ‘born again,’ purified from sin, washed whiter than snow, sanctified and made righteous, holy, blameless and perfect in His sight.

The scriptures are clear that believers have already been sanctified and made holy and righteous; that the righteousness of Christ has been imputed to us. (Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 10:15; Psalms 103: 3, 12; Romans 3:23, 24; Romans 15:16; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22.

Get ready to get **HAPPY** because...

The following scriptures **confirm this truth** from the Almighty's Word!

Isaiah 1:18

*Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be **as white as snow**; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*

1 Corinthians 1:2

*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that **are sanctified** in Christ Jesus called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

1 Corinthians 6:11

*And such were some of you. But you **were washed**, but you **were sanctified**, but you **were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness** of God in Him.*

Acts 10:15

*But the voice spoke again: "**Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.**"*

Psalms 103: 3, 12

*Who **forgives all** your iniquities... As far as the east is from the west, so far **has He removed our transgressions from us.***

Acts 26:18

*to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who **have been sanctified by faith** in me.*

Romans 3:23-24

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **being justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

Romans 4:5

*But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is **accounted for righteousness**,*

Romans 15:16

*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, **being sanctified** by the Holy Ghost.*

Colossians 1:22

*Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and **you are holy and blameless** as you stand before him **without a single fault**.*

Hebrews 10:9-10

*Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By this will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all!***

Did you notice something in these Scriptures?

Believers... Have **ALREADY** been Sanctified!

'PAST' tense!

What about our flesh-man?

What about our flesh; the outer man? The old flesh-man is beyond repair, for he is dead.

What about our temporary dwelling place, our mortal bodies? The Almighty has ***imputed righteousness** to us so He can dwell in our bodies and make it a temple to His glory. (1 Corinthians 3: 16)

* Dictionary: **imputed**: to attribute (righteousness) to someone by virtue of a similar quality in another: *Christ's righteousness has been **imputed** to us.*

Some people feel that since there is a process of growing and maturing in our Christian walk, we must make a diligent effort to be holy and righteous. The danger here is that when a Christian feels he **must** do something to effect his own sanctification, he finds himself on a tread-mill of 'flesh-works' and 'performance' in an attempt to accomplish his sanctification. If we did anything towards our own sanctification, that would be self-sanctification ... self-righteousness.

So, who or what is involved in sanctification?

Yahshua is the **only** one who accomplishes our sanctification.

When you receive Yahshua as your "Savior," **you are made holy, righteous and sanctified** by His blood **once and for all**. And, you can enter boldly into His presence without any guilt, condemnation, or expectation of punishment.

Because of the cross, **the price for sin has been paid, the judgment executed**, the anger toward sin exhausted, the veil torn, and the way to intimacy with Yahshua opened. Sin no longer hinders you from entering His presence. **His blood has removed all vestiges of your sins!**

Start believing that your righteousness is **a gift** in the new covenant! Many believers are defeated today because they are **trying to earn** their own righteousness (**self-righteousness**) by **their** law-keeping and good works.

My friend, righteousness **is a gift** because of what Yahshua has accomplished on the cross for you. All your sins – past, present and future – have been washed clean by His precious blood.

You are completely forgiven, and from the moment you received Yahshua into your life, you will never be held liable for your sins ever again. You have been ***made*** righteous, ***not through your own behavior***, but by faith in Him and ***His*** finished work on the cross. There is absolutely nothing we can do to contribute towards our own righteousness or sanctification, except to rest and trust in Yahshua.

Resisting sin or desisting from sin does not make us 'sanctified' or 'righteous'. We are ***sanctified*** and ***made righteous*** by putting our simple, child like faith in Yahshua and what ***He*** did for us; remembering the great sacrifice of love ***He*** made ***for us!***

Do we want to continue to grow, learn and mature throughout our Christian walk? Of course we do! But, that has ***nothing*** to do with us having ***already*** been '***made***' righteous and ***sanctified*** by the Almighty Yahshua Himself!

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

The Apostle Paul ... Romans 3:21

Not a Buffet

The Old Testament is not a buffet line we can go through and pick out the parts we desire to carry over into the New Testament.

We are not authorized to ***create*** our own customized blend of religion by ***mixing*** the Old and New Testaments to suit our personal taste. Paul pointed out the disaster of trying to mix the covenants together. He warned,

But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10

In other words Paul is saying, those who want to continue in the Old Testament Law must continue in ***ALL OF IT!*** The Galatians wanted to practice just the parts of the Old Testament they desired, but Paul says their plan won't work.

Paul further warned,

I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. Galatians 5:3

Ironically, those who claim to honor and respect the Old Testament by clinging to parts of it, actually disobey, disrespect, and dishonor the Old Testament.

They further dishonor the Old Testament because they do not actually follow it as it is written.

For example, some people cling to the Old Testament practice of the Sabbath, but they do not respect the Old Testament teachings *concerning* the Sabbath.

Under the Old Testament a person...

- Could not do any work on the Sabbath (Exodus 31:14).
- Could not buy merchandise or food on the Sabbath (Nehemiah 10:31).
- Could not carry a burden on the Sabbath. (Jeremiah 17:21, John 5:10)
- Could not kindle a fire on the Sabbath (Exodus 35:3). Violating the Sabbath was a ***capital*** offense (Exodus 31:14, 15).

Those who claim to observe the Sabbath today, actually observe a squishy, modified form, *designed by themselves*, to fit their own needs and ideas.

This does not show honor or respect for the Old Testament. It is merely following a *man-made doctrine* that somewhat resembles an Old Testament law.

They actually abuse the Old Testament by treating it as though it were a buffet line for them to pick and choose *just the things they desire*.

As Far As You're Concerned, Is the Law Abolished?

Yahshua lived a perfectly sinless life (that we can't) so that He could become the perfect sacrifice in **our** place. Now, because of what **He** did, the law comes to an end **for us** – it disappears for everyone who is in Christ. It's because He has accomplished His purpose! He fulfilled the law. For us New Testament believers, "It is finished!"

Knowing that mankind would never be able to live up to the strict demands of the law, the Almighty provided a new way – a New Covenant – that does not in any way rely on **our** goodness, but instead relies totally on **His** goodness, grace and mercy.

The new way doesn't just improve the old one – or add more to it. The New Covenant is a complete ***replacement*** of the Old.

This passage in Ephesians should settle the matter once and for all – Jews and Gentiles alike – about whether Yahshua abolished the law or not:

*For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. **He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations.** He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.*

Ephesians 2:14-16

What Part Should It Play In Our Lives?

Certainly the law should be good for us in some way – shouldn't it? Can't it at least point out the flaws and weaknesses that we Christians have so that we can ask the Almighty for help in correcting them? **No!** The law has only one function; it's to tell dead people that they are in need of life through Yahshua, the Almighty! That's all and nothing more!

The Law is for the Unrighteous!

In First Timothy we are told that the law is only for those who are unrighteous – not for the righteous!

They want to be known as teachers of the law of Moses, but they don't know what they are talking about, even though they speak so confidently. We know that the law is good when used correctly. For the law was not intended for people who do what is right. It is for people who are lawless and rebellious, who are ungodly and sinful, who consider nothing sacred and defile what is holy, who kill their father or mother or commit other murders. The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching that comes from the glorious Good News entrusted to me by our blessed God.

1 Timothy 1:7-11

The above Scripture says that only the unrighteous need the law.

The Law Brings Death, Not Life!

In chapter two of Galatians, Paul relates what happened to him when he realized that the good and perfect law (to which he dedicated his life) is what condemned him.

The law was what he lived for... but it essentially killed him.

But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God. My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Galatians 2:17-21

Paul died to the law and he wasn't going to rebuild his relationship to the Almighty with it again. Its only purpose was to open his eyes to the fact that he needed to be saved the Almighty's way.

His own efforts – as great as they seemed – were not sufficient to meet the righteous requirements of the law. The law, that he thought he knew so well, was full of examples showing the need for a perfect substitute to take on the death penalty that he – the law breaker – deserved.

Once Yahshua became his Savior and took the death penalty for him, he had no more need for the law!

Have You Died to the Law Yet?

Chapter seven of Romans contains an illustration presented to the religious legal experts of the time using the law of marriage.

It dictates that marrying while still being married is adultery. However, it is legal to remarry after the previous spouse dies.

Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living? For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the

laws of marriage no longer apply to her. So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries. So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

Romans 7:1-6

Question: Based on these Scriptures, what is required in order for us to belong to Yahshua?

Answer: We must die to our first spouse – the law – or else we are adulterers!

Furthermore... When we put ourselves back under the law again, **we are committing spiritual adultery!**

We Have a New Way to Live

The Almighty does not lead Christians with His Old Testament law – it's purpose was only to get us to MessiYah as our Savior.

Trying to live under the law will only make a Christian frustrated at his inability to be pleasing to the Almighty – the one he wants to please the most.

We cannot love anyone who continually points out and punishes our wrong actions and thoughts. The gospel – *the good news* – is that we have been set free from all of that! This is why Paul exuberantly wrote...

*So now there is **no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.*

Romans 8:1-4

He did it all for us:

The Almighty came in the flesh as your representative. He came and took your place as a sinner on the cross. Yahshua died for you ... but also as you! The Almighty, manifested **Himself** in the flesh and did **FOR US** what we could **NEVER** do for ourselves!

Yahshua took **all** our sins upon Himself and fulfilled the Law completely **for us**, making us "holy, blameless" and "without a single fault" in His eyes. (Colossians 1:22 NLT)

This, is 'The Good News' the Bible is talking about!

This, is the gospel of Yahshua, the MessiYah!

7. Can Christians be Demon possessed?

by Ben Alexander

I have heard this question asked many times in my lifetime. The answer is quite straightforward.... **"NO!"**

A Christian cannot be demon possessed. It is unthinkable that God would allow one of His children, whom He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28) and made into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) to be possessed and controlled by a demon.

Demon's often try to influence a Christian life however, that is precisely why the Scriptures tell us to **resist** the devil!

Scriptures show that Satan strongly opposes
those whom the Almighty has anointed!

A few good examples are Adam and Eve, Yahshua, Peter and Paul!

Genesis 3:1 (Adam and Eve...remember Adam was with Eve!)

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

Matthew 4:1 (Yahshua)

Then was Jesus led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there **by the devil**.

Luke 22:31-32 (Peter)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

2 Corinthians 12:7 (Paul)

even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

Why Christians can't be possessed

When a Christian receives Yahshua as their personal Lord and Savior, the Spirit of Yahshua enters that Believer's body, soul and spirit. Yahshua has claimed that person for His own and as a result, demons cannot occupy the same place as the Holy Spirit. Satan knows this, and that is why he tries so hard to get to people first and have his demons or demonic influence control or affect that person.

The reality of spiritual battle

Even though the Holy Spirit has entered the "new Christian," demons can certainly try to plant thoughts, or "darts" to affect the thinking process of an individual.

Now, I do not think that Satan is behind every bad thing that happens to people, or that every bad thought comes from the devil and I warn you not to get paranoid and think every thought you think is being affected by a demon.

But I do believe the Devil and all his demons are looking for people that they can affect with their "darts" and look for the weakness in that person and send their "darts" precisely at that point.

Many of you, I am sure, have had thoughts come into your mind, and you cannot figure out where they came from. Where does temptation come from? Well, you know it comes from the Devil, so it also shows that we have to be on guard and have our "**Shield of faith**" up at all times.

What is "The Shield of Faith"? It is having *confidence in the entire work of Yahshua on our behalf*. This can turn away ALL enemy attacks, even though they may be flaming missiles.

As one author puts it, "Demons can't live within Christian hearts, but they attempt to perch on Christian's shoulders and whisper in their ears."

8. COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY...

How to identify a false teacher and religion

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY

“Counterfeit Christianity” is an imitation of real Christianity. Bible terms like “Jesus Christ”, “Resurrection”, “Salvation” and “Sanctification” are often used by the counterfeit Christian religions, but entirely different meanings have been assigned to these terms by the various groups.

Like counterfeit money which is sometimes difficult to detect, so it is with “counterfeit” Christianity, since it looks like the real thing. Experts examining counterfeit money often hold it up to a strong light and look for identifying marks. Counterfeit Christianity also has identifying marks, which can be seen when held up to an even stronger light, the light of the Almighty’s word, the Bible.

We are repeatedly warned in Scripture to watch out for false prophets, false teachers, and false doctrine.

The Apostle Paul gives the Church divine warning in 2 Corinthians 11:4, that there will be those who come and preach “***another Jesus***”, a “***different gospel***”, with a “***different spirit***”.

Without fail, false teachers and religions have done away with salvation by GRACE ALONE. Their salvation is always GRACE PLUS WORKS (things you must now do).

False religions do not believe the blood and sacrifice of the Savior is enough. Counterfeit teachers and religions will always make it ‘the blood of Yahshua **plus** this... or **plus** that’. “Yes”, they say, “*the Savior did his part, but now you must do your part*”.

Under their false teaching a person can never be SURE of their salvation ... *Are you good enough? Are you holy enough? Are you sanctified enough?* ‘Counterfeit Christians’ keep one in a constant state of anxiety and fear regarding their salvation.

But true Believer’s have faith in the Almighty’s Word regarding their salvation!

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9

9. Do you have to be perfect to go to Heaven?

by author unknown

The doctrine of justification is the central teaching of the Christian church which fueled the Reformation in 1517. It speaks of our righteousness before God in Christ Jesus. It refers to our identity, the position which we have in Christ. There are many Christians who do not grasp the significance of justification because they do not understand the focus of justification. In seeking righteousness, they are looking in the wrong place.

In teaching a Bible class on the subject of justification by faith, I usually ask the question, *“Do you have to be perfect to go to heaven?”*

Often I will get the answer, *“No! Nobody is perfect. If perfection was necessary, nobody would get to heaven.”*

But the truth is ...you do have to be perfect in order to get to heaven and stand confidently in the presence of God. God is a perfectly righteous God and no imperfection can stand before Him. The problem is, how are we going to become perfect? Where are we going to get perfect righteousness?

The good news of justification is that God has declared us perfect in Christ Jesus (Hebrews 10:14) and has already seated us in the heavenly places. This is our identity. It is outside of us. By identifying us with Christ, God imputed (meaning to attribute righteousness to another person vicariously) to us the very righteousness of Christ. It was credited to our account. Christ is our righteousness.

We must be very careful to always declare that our righteousness before God is based upon what God has accomplished in Christ, not what we accomplish for Christ. We are righteous because God has identified us with Christ and has imputed to us the very righteousness of Christ. We can do good works and experience the peace and joy of the Lord because Christ is in us. Such a distinction is very important. To preserve our assurance of eternal life, we must maintain that our righteousness before God, wherein we shall stand before Him on the day of judgment, is not based on our good works, but because God has given us a righteous identity in Christ Jesus.

Again, in teaching a Bible class I often ask another question: *“How many of you are perfect?”*

Only those who understand justification by faith will raise their hand. The rest of the class may look at my “select group” as if to say, *“Who in the world do you think you are?”*

When I say, "I am perfect!" I am not talking about my life. I am talking about an identity which God has given me in Christ Jesus. When I look at Jesus, I see my perfect righteousness. When I look at myself, plodding along from day to day, getting old and facing inevitable death, I see my sin. The question is, "Where do I choose to look?"

Those who are unable to confess, "I am perfectly righteous in Christ Jesus" have difficulty taking their eyes off themselves. In evaluating their own lives, they most certainly are not able to make that claim. But if they would look away from themselves and focus on Jesus and what He did for them, they would find their identity. And what an identity it is! Just imagine – God has given to us perfection in Christ Jesus.

He has forgiven us ...justified us ...and made us perfectly holy, blameless and righteous because we have believed and put our trust in Jesus! Therefore, keep your eyes on Jesus!

Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.

Colossians 1:22 NLT

Are you saved? If you die tonight are you going to Heaven?

This is the Gospel in 60 seconds. After reading this you can know whether you will go to Heaven or Hell when you die.

The Almighty Father came to earth and “was manifested in the flesh”. He came for the purpose of being the sacrifice for our sins and to give us eternal life with Him. His name is Yahshua.

Many people mistakenly believe that a person goes to Hell because of the sins they have committed, but this is not true. Why? Because on the cross, Yahshua MessiYah took away **ALL** of **our** sins and put them upon **Himself**. He did this so we would never have to suffer eternal death (Hell) because of our sins.

Why then does anyone go to Hell? The Bible tells us the reason. After a person hears the gospel, rather than embracing Yahshua as their Savior with thanksgiving, their response is, ***“No thank you, that’s not for me”***. They knowingly choose to reject Yahshua, His sacrifice, and His gift of salvation.

Sadly, it is they themselves who say *“No thank you”* to Heaven. Can you imagine the regret of making that decision for all eternity in Hell?

My friend, don’t let this be you. Let today be the day you ask Yahshua to be your Savior and accept His gift of salvation. Tomorrow is not assured. I hope to see you in Heaven!

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