

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 MessiYah!) 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!

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