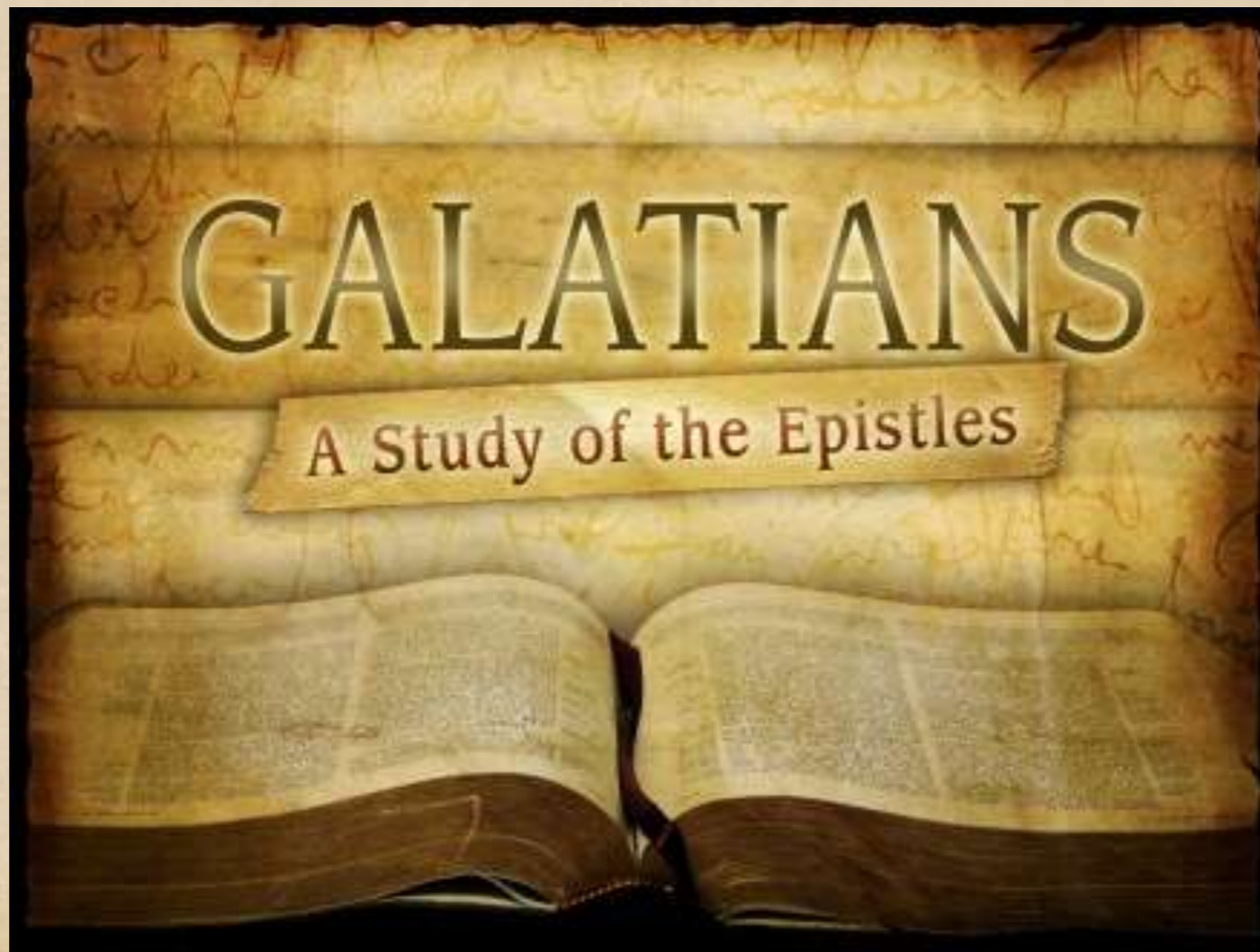


# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

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# • Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

8 "And the scripture foreseeing that God would **justify** (make righteous / justify or save) the heathen through FAITH preached the GOSPEL unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So they which be of FAITH are blessed with faithful Abraham.

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse: for it is written, cursed is every one that continues **not** in all the things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

11 But that no man is **justified** (made righteous / justified / saved) by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38).

12 And the law is not of faith: but the man that do them shall live in them (Lev 18:5, Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21)

13 Christ has redeemed us from the **curse** of the law, being made a curse for us: for as it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree (Deuteronomy 21:23, 27:15-26)

## • [Romans 8:2](#)

For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of **sin and death**.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

When reading the text, it is important to read the text in CONTEXT. Secondly, we need to read the text with a Hebraic mindset and understanding.

#1) What is the setting of these verses of scripture? The issue is HOW is a person justified or saved in the eyes of YHWH. Paul quotes from the Torah and Tanakh to make his point in the matter.

In Galatians 3:8, "And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify (make righteous / justify or save) the heathen through FAITH preached the GOSPEL unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Paul quotes from Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

In Galatians 3:10, For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse: for it is written, cursed is every one that continues not in all the things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 27:26

Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Galatians 3:11, But that no man is justified (made righteous / justified / saved) by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith

Paul quotes from Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

In Galatians 3:12, And the law is not of faith: but the man that do them shall live in them.

Paul quotes from Leviticus 18:5

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

In Galatians 3:13, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for as it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree.

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 21:23

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

First, notice that Paul is NOT establishing new doctrine. He uses the Torah and Old Testament scriptures and mostly the first five books of Moses to prove his position. Therefore, the Apostle Paul is making a Torah based argument for his position. Rather than invalidating the Torah through the work of the Messiah, the Apostle Paul shows how the Torah teaches that a person is justified in the eyes of God not by works but by faith (and the grace/mercy) of God. Therefore, his doctrine is not new but it is Torah based and centered in the Hebrew scriptures.

While Abraham was justified by faith in the eyes of God (Galatians 3:9), he **KEPT** the Torah of God (Genesis 26:4-5). And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham **obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

James uses Abraham as an example to show us that he was justified by YHWH by faith, but his faith was made perfect (complete / full stature) by his works because Abraham acted on his faith because **faith without works is dead** (James 1:20-27, 2:17-26).

The issue being discussed in Galatians 3 is HOW is a person SAVED in the eyes of God? Paul answers the question by quoting from the Old Testament scriptures, including the Torah and stating that a person is SAVED by YHWH through faith in the work of the Messiah and not by his own works.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Christians often get confused and equate law (Torah) with salvation. This issue should become clear when we examine two Hebrew words, Law (TORAH) and Jesus (YESHUA).

Jesus (YESHUA) means "salvation" (Matthew 1:21)  
Law (TORAH) means "instruction".

When we think of "salvation", we should think of JESUS (YESHUA). When we think of "instruction", (how God wants us to live in faith AFTER we are saved by YESHUA / Jesus) then this is TORAH.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

The Hebrew word, TORAH (Strong's 8451) comes from the Hebrew word YARAH (Strong's 3384) which means "to teach, to point out as aiming the finger". INSTRUCTION is what a father (our heavenly father) gives to his children (those who are saved by faith in Messiah) in living a life which is pleasing to the father.

Torah DOES NOT save us but it was given by Yahweh to INSTRUCT us how to live our life AFTER we are saved. Yeshua / Jesus was/is the living Torah / Word of Yahweh made flesh. When He lived his life on this earth, He INSTRUCTED his followers how they were to live their lives on this earth in a way which would be pleasing to our heavenly father.





# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Hebrews 11:1-9

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was **righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speak.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: **for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**

**But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear, prepared an ark** to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, **and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and he went out, **not knowing whither he went.**

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

One of the Messiah's most memorable instruction sessions is called within Christianity, the "sermon on the mount". In Matthew 5:16, it is written:

“Let your **light** so shine before men, that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Proverbs 6:23 “For the **commandment** is a **lamp**; and the **law** (Torah) is **light**; and reproofs of **instruction** are the **way of life**”. Psalms 119:97, O how love I thy **law (Torah)**! it is my meditation all the day.” vs 105 “Thy **word** is a **lamp** unto my feet, and a **light** unto my path.”  
The word (Torah) is a LAMP (light)

So, Jesus / Yeshua said that keeping the commandments (Torah) of God is LIGHT and GOOD WORKS (not talking about salvation).



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Matthew 5:17, Yeshua/Jesus continues by saying:

"THINK NOT that I have come to destroy the TORAH (a Jewish idiom which means to wrongly interpret and apply the meaning of the Torah to your life) but I have not come to destroy (wrongly interpret and apply to your life) but to fulfill (a Jewish idiom which means to perform, correctly interpret and apply the Torah to your life) ..."

In John 14:15, Yeshua/Jesus said:

"If you love, keep my commandments"



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Revelation 22:12,14 it is written:

"And behold, I come quickly; and my REWARD is with me, to give every man according as his WORK (good works) shall be .... BLESSED are they that DO his commandments (walks by love and keeps the Torah) that they may have right to the **tree of life** and may enter in through the gates of the city"

Therefore, the first issue is to read the text in context. The context of Galatians 3 is HOW is a person saved? The answer is that salvation does not come by TRUSTING in keeping the Torah for your salvation but by the work of the Messiah through his death on the tree.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

#2) When we interpret this text from a Hebraic mindset, the CURSE of the law was NOT KEEPING the Torah. Messiah redeemed us from the CURSE of NOT KEEPING the Torah (for salvation sake).

The greatest commandment of YHWH is given in Deuteronomy 6:3-7 as it is written:

"HEAR therefore, Israel and observe to DO it (keep the commandments and statutes of God) that it may be **WELL** with thee (a blessing) that you might INCREASE MIGHTILY ... Hear (SHEMA), O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord: and you shall love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine HEART (the Torah written upon the heart) and you shall TEACH them diligently unto thy children ..."



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Yeshua/Jesus said that these words in Deut 6:4-5 is the **GREATEST** commandment (Matthew 22:36-38, Mark 12:28-30).

So, therefore, Yeshua/Jesus said that the **GREATEST** commandment is to love God and you show your love to God by keeping his commandments (Deut 6:3-7, John 14:15).



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Deuteronomy 28:1-14 is the BLESSING for KEEPING the commandments of God. In Deuteronomy 28:1-2 it is written:

"And it shall come to pass that if you will HEARKEN diligently (Deut 6:4-7) unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to DO ALL His commandments which I command you this day that ... all these BLESSINGS shall come on thee and overtake thee ..."



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Deuteronomy 28:15-68 specifies the CURSES for BREAKING the commandments of God. In Deuteronomy 28:15 it is written:

"But it shall come to pass, if you shall NOT hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to DO ALL his commandments and his statutes ... that all these CURSES shall come upon thee and overtake thee ..."

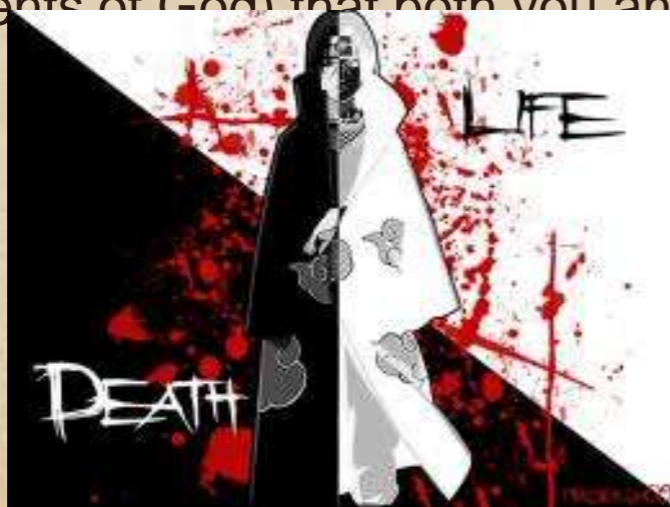




# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

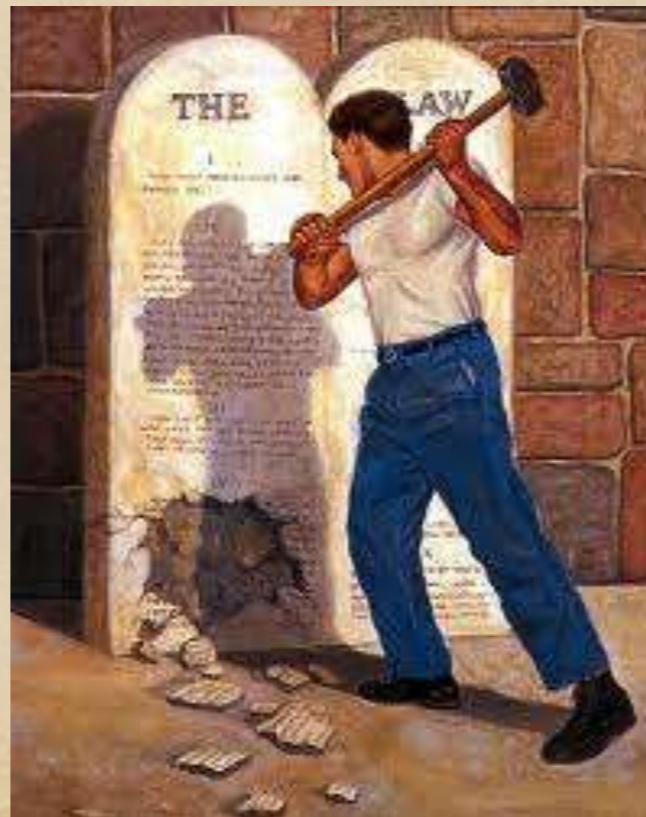
In Deuteronomy 30:15-19, God reiterates that BLESSINGS will come upon his people for KEEPING His commandments and CURSES for NOT keeping His commandments as it is written:

"See, I have set before thee this day LIFE and GOOD and DEATH and EVIL. In that I command this this day to LOVE the Lord they God (the greatest commandment ... Matthew 22:36-38, Mark 12:28-30) to walk in his ways (1870 = Derek ... which is a course of life or mode of action) and to KEEP his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest LIVE and MULTIPLY ... BUT if your heart turns away, so that you will NOT HEAR ... I will DENOUNCE you this day ... I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE (keeping the Torah and the commandments of God) and DEATH (breaking the Torah and the commandments of God) BLESSING (for keeping) and CURSING (for breaking): therefore CHOOSE LIFE (keeping the Torah and the commandments of God) that both you and your seed may live"



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Therefore, the CURSE was for BREAKING the commandments of God. The BLESSING was for KEEPING the commandments of God. But, KEEPING the commandments of God DOES NOT SAVE you in the eyes of God. The Torah POINTS you and sets the standard of YHWH to show your need for the Messiah, while at the same time reveals and INSTRUCTS us how to live our lives in a way which is pleasing to God.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

## THE TORAH IS THE TREE OF LIFE

In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees. One tree was called the TREE OF LIFE (Genesis 2:9). In Proverbs 3, we see that the TORAH is called a TREE OF LIFE. In Proverbs 3:1,17-18 it is written:

"My son, forget not my TORAH but let thine heart KEEP my commandments ... her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace. She is a TREE OF LIFE to them that lay hold of her: and happy is every one that retain her"



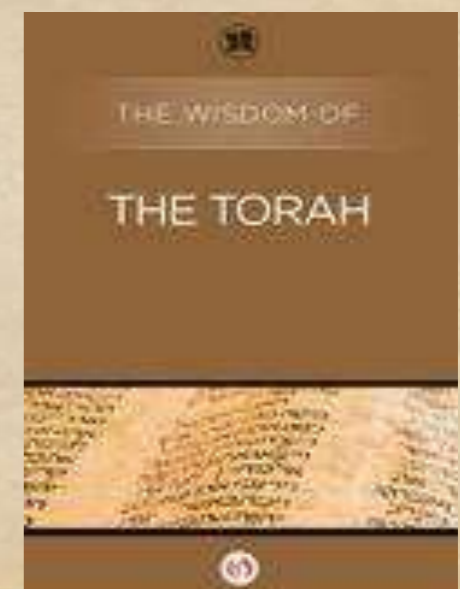
# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

But one may say, isn't Proverbs 3 also talking about wisdom? In Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-6 it is written:

"Now therefore HEARKEN O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgements which I TEACH you for to DO them that you may LIVE ... Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me ... KEEP therefore and DO them: for this is your WISDOM (keeping the Torah/commandments of God) and your understanding in the sight of the nations which shall hear all these statutes and say, surely this great nation is a WISE and understanding people"



*Where is the*  
**WISDOM**  
*We have Lost in*  
**KNOWLEDGE**  
?



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In Revelation 22:12,14, Jesus/Yeshua says that those who DO his commandments may have right to the TREE OF LIFE"

In Revelation 22:1-2, there is a pure river of water of life proceeding from the throne of God. And on either side of the river was the TREE OF LIFE which bare 12 manner of fruits and yielded her fruit every month and the LEAVES of the tree were for the HEALING of the nations.



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Did you know that the PAGES of the Torah scroll are called LEAVES? In Jeremiah 36:21,23 it is written:

"So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the ROLL ... and Jehudi READ it in the ears of the king ... And it came to pass when Jehudi had read THREE or FOUR LEAVES ..."

So, the "leaves" on the "tree of life" is a reference to the pages of a Torah scroll. Revelation 22:2 is a quote and reference from Psalm 1:2-3 which describes a person who KEEPS the Torah of God as it is written:

"But his delight is in the TORAH of the Lord: and in his TORAH does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a TREE planted by the RIVERS OF WATER, that bringeth forth his FRUIT in his season and his LEAVES also shall not wither and whatsoever he does shall PROSPER".



# Exploring Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Therefore in conclusion in understanding Galatians 3:13, we need to understand that Paul is NOT making a new doctrine but he quotes the Torah and Old Testament scriptures to validate that one is justified (saved) by faith and not by trusting in your own righteousness through the keeping of the Torah/commandments of God.

However, by understanding and viewing the scriptures from a Hebraic mindset, the above truth does not negate the roll of the Torah in the life of a believer. YHWH's word states over and over and Yeshua/Jesus himself states that the **GREATER BLESSING** that God will give to His people (apart from salvation) will be unto those who keep the Torah of God.

