

“If you love me, keep my Commandments”



Yahshua said (Matthew 23:37-40) “**Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang (hinge) all the law and the prophets.**”

A 'hinge' usually depicts a doorway we may pass through. Therefore, we may ask, 'What are those two commandments a doorway into? Or on what do they 'hang'?' It becomes obvious that the two commandments are not an end in themselves, but rather a way through

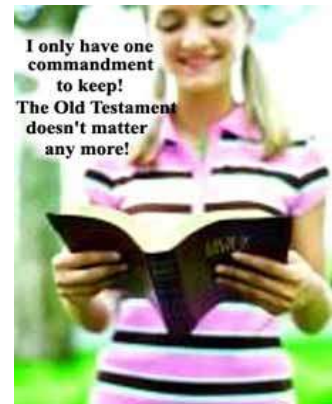
which we can enter into the 'fuller picture' the Commandments in their entirety. Yahshua Himself declared that in no way did He desire to put an end to the Law, but to expound it, and help us to understand it. This takes time and effort. We need to desire to study in order that we may understand how His Laws are relevant to us in our day. Yahshua set those of us who are not familiar with Yahweh's Commandments in their entirety, on an exciting journey of discovery.

We need to pass through the doorway and look into what these Commandments actually mean. This entails looking into the Old Testament (Covenant) scriptures which are the foundation for all New Covenant scriptures. In Exodus 20 we have the first 'breakdown' of the meaning behind what Yahshua was saying, as the 10 Commandments can be divided into those showing us how we are to love Yahweh, and the rest, how to love our neighbour as ourselves. Then, as we continue to read Exodus into Leviticus-Deuteronomy and in fact all the Old Covenant scriptures we are able to discover further 'qualifications' of what these commandments mean in every day life.

Yahshua was bringing our attention to the law! How else could we understand what He was meaning in Matthew 23? He further qualified the Commandments in the fifth chapter of Matthew.

Yes, Yahshua does require us to honour His Name, to keep the Sabbath day, not to bear false witness about others, not to have idols (anything or anyone meaning more to us than He does). The word "New" as in New Testament actually should read, "Renewed" i.e. made anew, certainly not forgotten! Yahshua came to qualify and perform the Old Covenant requirements, not to abolish them!

Yahshua did not negate the law on covetousness, or the law requiring the seventh day Sabbath, or the law requiring us to honour our parents; on the contrary, He was stating that if we loved Yahweh with all our heart and mind, we would desire to keep His Sabbath, we would not idolize any person or thing, we would desire in fact to keep all His laws to show our love, and if we loved our neighbours as ourselves, we would not covet their goods, or hurt them in any way, thus fulfilling the laws...



It is an attitude of the heart. In order to love YHWH we surely have to **read about what pleases Him**, and that actually means, reading his Laws and what He expects of those who love Him!

This shows the deception of someone thinking they are 'free from the law'. It just doesn't make sense to say 'I am being led by the spirit or the voice of God' and ignore the requirements of the Commandments. The holy Spirit would never go against Yahweh's laws. A person once stated, "you will not bring me under the bondage of the Biblical Sabbath!" How misguided and sad people can become. How do we pick and choose which commandments to keep because of tradition? Would it therefore be alright to murder someone? Murder and keeping Sabbath are both part of the 10! The commandments are just as important today as they ever were to the ancient Hebrews. Yahshua asked in Matthew 15:3, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" He also stated in Matthew 15:6, Thus have you made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Note also that in John 15:10

He says, **“If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.”**

Thus Yahshua was a commandment keeper, and exhorted us to be the same. He talks in this chapter of loving Him meaning loving His Father. Also, our interpretation of this scripture is so simplistic, as the word is in fact plural, ‘Commandments’. Which commandments, plural, did He mean?

Being believers in the Messiah, Saviour, Yahshua (Jesus) we believe that He is the Son of Yahweh (YHWH, God). We believe that He is in fact the Word of YHWH (God). Therefore, we believe that He existed from the beginning – *“In the beginning was the word, and the word was in YHWH and the word was YHWH.*

He was more than a mere man. He was the One who appeared to Abraham, to the three Hebrews boys in the fiery furnace. Who was it who talked to Moses ‘face to face’ and who was it that appeared to him on Mount Sinai and gave him the Commandments?

The scriptures are adamant. ‘No man has seen YHWH at any time and lived, Exodus 33:20’. Therefore, it was His Son whom comes and deals with mankind. Yahshua is the son of YHWH, with Him in the beginning. The Commandments are His.

Yahshua Himself kept the commandments and laws of the old covenant. He wasn't 'in bondage' to them, they were His Father's character. He expanded them, He filled them full of meaning. Read Matthew 5 for yourself. He mentions a commandment, and then says, *‘but I say to you’* and expands the meaning, he makes it watertight, knowing that man has a heart to compromise. Not only should we not commit adultery, but if we look on a man or woman with desire, thinking of them with lust, it is the same thing, we break the commandment *‘thou shall not commit adultery...’*

So Yahshua not only advocated keeping the Law, He expanded it. He also said, *‘Not one jot or the smallest part of a letter shall pass from the law **until all is fulfilled**’* and He meant just that. Some even give the excuse (anything to keep us from actually being obedient...) that because Yahshua has come already, all is fulfilled, so this is another reason they think that we can ignore the Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures). But Yahshua coming to earth as a human being was not fulfilling everything. What about the perfect Bride? What about Jew and Gentile becoming one, for all to see on the earth? What about the restoration of Israel? The city of Jerusalem being safe for His people again? There is so much more to be fulfilled.

2 Timothy 3:16 says; *‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.’* What 'scripture' was being referred to here? Well, the early church did not have the New Testament because it was not yet written, so the ‘scripture’ mentioned here, means the

Old Covenant (Testament) (*Note: Did you know that the word 'old' mentioned here actually means 'ancient' 'as in something to be treasured, antique'*).

Some may say, We 'enlightened' church goes and believers in Jesus don't need to read, teach, or keep **ALL** those laws do we? Of course we do! Not in our flesh, as even the Israelites who had Moses with them found them too difficult to keep, but we now have a greater One, the Holy Spirit to empower us, and the indwelling of the Father and Son to strengthen us. Oh yes, we have a greater advantage than they. 'To whom much is given, much is expected' we read. This is most poignant within this context.

While all the fullness of a walk of sanctification is available through Calvary (Latin), once we are delivered from our sins, **and we acknowledge Him as our Saviour, Messiah, Redeemer**, then there is more, oh, so much more for us to walk in, explore and enjoy. Let us not confuse the Jewish traditions taught by the Pharisees and later the Rabbinic scholars with what is expected of us in Yahweh's Law. They added to the Word by implementing something called the Oral Law. These 'extra' laws became burdensome, and it was to those who taught these extras to whom Yahshua spoke when He talked about burdening the people with 'things too heavy to bear.' In Matthew 23:1-8 and Luke 11:46 we read "...The scribes and the Pharisees....they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders...call no man 'Rabbi'..." These verses are most enlightening, please read them for yourself. These religious leaders took away from the true Law given through Moses by adding others, which became heavy weights for the people to bear. One such law speaks of 'A Sabbath day's journey' restricting travel. There is no such law designating how far you can travel on the Sabbath. Another was the ceremonial hand washing before eating food. There is no such law taught in the Torah Yahweh gave to Moses. Many of these laws, or similar ones, (reviewed and changed over the centuries by various rabbis) are in existence today, and are included in the now much expanded teachings of the: Halachot, Takanot, Ma'asim and Minhagim. But Christian have done just the opposite, they have removed the laws of God and falsely accuse Yahshua of doing away with His Father's laws.

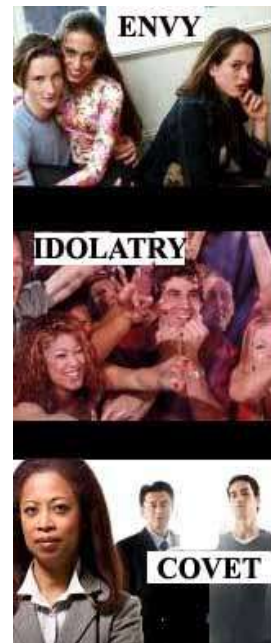
This hedge of teachings, called the oral law, kept them from breaking the commandments, and to keep the law from being damaged. But it has sometimes become a stumbling block, so that people have thought more of the hedge than the precious thing within it, the Law of YHWH, the Torah itself. Yahshua had a problem with this. He was very clear in His comments regarding these **laws of men**. He criticized those teaching this hedge of laws, and said that they had lost sight of the actual truth and were teaching others their laws rather than Moses' law, the law that Yahshua came to establish. He said (and he was quoting Isaiah) *'Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of YHWH, ye hold the tradition of men, the washing of pots and*

cups: and many other such like things ye do. Full well you reject the commandment of YHWH, that you may keep your own tradition...' Mark 7:7-8. The Pharisees did not understand Yahshua and watched him closely, and resented the things He said and did. Yahshua's disciples followed His teachings and so did Paul's. Paul spoke and taught in Aramaic, and his letters were translated into Greek later. The word 'law' many times referred not to Mosaic law, but the **oral law**, the law written about in Galatians, which was in all probability the oral law, the one criticized by Yahshua, taught by the Pharisees, not the Law of Yahweh. How easy it is for us to say "*We are no longer under the law, but under grace*" from Romans 6:14, thus freeing ourselves from the obligation of keeping the Law of Yahweh which is within Torah. Once we come to love and know God, we will realize the His Law is Grace. It shows mankind the error of their ways, and makes straight their crooked path. It shows mankind where they have missed the mark and provides they instructions of how to please God.

Putting all thoughts of the Law (Torah) out of our minds, we superficially believe we are 'free from the law' in some mysterious way, deceiving ourselves as we in fact continue in sin. We fail to realize that when we forget to give something back, we are stealing, and when we feel jealous of someone or when we desire something strongly it could be envy, or when we ignore our parents or not do what is required on the Sabbath we could be breaking the true law, the law of Yahweh! How about the laws on restitution? Did you replace that item you broke or damaged? Love your neighbour as yourself, does it still not apply to us? Do we consider ourselves 'above' making restitution as Torah teaches? Torah, or rather the Old Testament scriptures qualify the commandments taught to us by Yahshua. He went out of His way to **remind us of them!** '*We are no longer under the law but under grace*' Romans 6:14 is only true within its context! We are only 'free from the law' in

as much as we should be living it, from our hearts full of love for the Almighty! Once we have the life of Messiah within us, both Jew and those from the nations in Messiah are able to conform to all that the law requires, through the holy Spirit. ("Not the hearers of the law are just before YHWH, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when those believers from the nations, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law are a law unto themselves, which shww the work of the law written in their hearts " Romans 2:13-15)

This means that we should spend time reading and studying what the law requires, and as the holy Spirit illuminates and emphasizes the true meaning, walk in that revelation. This brings about Sanctification.



When Paul says in Galatians, chapter 1v.14 ‘...zealous of the Traditions of my fathers...’ Here Paul is referring to the Oral Law not the Torah, the Law of God. Remember that at one time Paul walked in the Oral Law. He was a Pharisee of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6) taught by Gamaliel (Acts 5:34) a Pharisee and a teacher of the Oral Law, not the Torah of God. Remember when Yahshua said in Matthew 16:6, “Take heed and beware of the **leaven** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.” Leaven is something added, but it changes the original, causing the whole thing to be leavened. The problem with Christians and many readers of the bible is they have not invested the time in order to rightfully understand and divide the scriptures. They skip over very important words, phrases, and teaching which causes them to not understand the true subject or meaning of a thing. They fail to understand who is talking, the context of what is being taught, the history of the people speaking, ect. But yet they think they understand the teachings of Paul, someone who walked in the Oral Law and did not even know who the true Messiah was until he was knocked off of his horse on the road to Damascus. In order to understand any of Paul’s teachings, you have to understand his history and background. Once converted, Paul never taught against the Law of God, he established it as Romans 3:31 indicates, “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law”.

Originally Paul taught and spoke in Aramaic and not Greek. You can see this from many references in Acts which mention his speaking in Hebrew, not Greek. See Acts 21:40 and 22:2. His letters were later translated into Greek, and because of the very nature of the differences in vocabulary, and the meaning of words have distorted the text somewhat.

Some ‘favorite’ scriptures which Christians quote in order to ignore the old testament requirements are:



1. Galatians 3:13 reads, *'But Messiah has redeemed us from the curse of the law, by becoming accursed for us, for it is written; "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'.*

So many invalidate the law by quoting this scripture in a wholly misguided way.

Yahshua came to remove the curse which we were under for the breaking of the law, called sin. He is talking about the curses included in the law for not obeying it (as in Deut. 27). Not talking about the law itself. He never gave mankind a curse for follow the law, but He blessed them! Yahshua took our curse, because He was the One who hung ‘on a tree’ taking our punishment, the curse, upon Himself. I have personally chosen to love Him and honor Him for doing that by keeping His commandments through the power of the Holy Spirit and not in my flesh!

Another scripture which the unlearned struggles to understand is Galatians 4:10 *'Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.'* The average Christian believes that this is their 'proof' that means they do not have to observe the Biblical Feasts as found in Leviticus 23. (Why do people seek for reasons not to keep His laws? This is the 'enmity' spoken of in Ephesians 2 which is against the Law and Commandments.) Thank Yahweh that He is a merciful Elohim (God).

This scripture regarding the times and days being observed is referring to Rabbinic teachings added to the law which they thought made it 'water-tight' and safe.

Paul was essentially talking to people who still insisted in following these man-made laws even to the extent of invalidating the true Yahweh-given Torah, a truth to which Yahshua often alluded to when He said, 'you follow the commandments of men'.

In Galatians 4, if you read this closely, from verse 19 to verse 31 Paul is discussing the difference between following the fleshly rules and regulations of men (i.e. the hedge of Rabbinic doctrines and rules) and the freedom of serving the spiritual laws (Torah) of YHWH. He says the difference can be likened to the self effort of Abraham producing his son Ishmael through Hagar before waiting for the child of the promise, the child YHWH promised him through his wife, Sarah. The works of the flesh being the rules and regulations of the Scribes, Pharisees and Rabbis.

Galatians 5:18 *'But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.'* This is another favorite of the lawless believers people of who insist on doing their own thing. John 16:13-15 states *'Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.'* Yahshua is stating here that the things He taught

are simply the things of the Father, i.e. the Tanakh or Old Covenant scriptures. He states that when the holy Spirit comes into our lives, he will lead us into all these truths. We are not, in fact, 'under' the law, but **fulfilling** it through Yahshua, who, as we read, will place the principles of it in our hearts, it is 'written' on our hearts, as the holy Spirit illuminates the full meaning of it to our spirit and mind, and gives us the power to keep it.

So in closing, my prayer is that Christians awake to the true meaning of the words of Paul. Humble your Gentile spirit and submit to the wonders and freedoms and joys and the sanctification which will be yours as you seek to really know and to please



Yahweh. My prayer is also for the Jewish believers to let go of the 'traditions of men'. Read the Law of Yahweh for yourselves, divide the traditions from the truth as it is written in Torah. Christian and Jewish believers in Yahshua both need to lay aside previous mind sets and traditions passed down to them and embrace the truth as it is written, thus becoming the one Body He desires in the earth today.

I could go on and on with more and more references, but we need to 'rightly divide the word of truth' and be willing to have ears to hear the true meanings, humbling ourselves to the Word of Yahweh in the Tanakh. (Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament)

I pray that ministers of Christian churches today who teach, ignorant of their mistake, that the Law and Commandments do not matter any more, and that keeping Easter, Sunday as the holy day, Saints days, Lent (directly from pagan sources, read The Two Babylons by Hislop) Christmas, (a pagan feast of ancient times, kept long before the Christian Era), allow your self to be restored, and return from the error of your ways.

We keep dates and feast that Yahweh tells us not to partake of, however, the dates He does require us to keep are written down plainly for all to see. These dates, are completely ignored! How strange is that?

All because Church leaders believe, wrongly, that the Law is done away with because of Yahshua. Yes I am saying that the Law of YHWH is relevant today to Christians and Jews who follow and accept Yahshua.

So, being filled with the holy Spirit isn't a ticket to freedom from the Law of God, it is for the freedom of walking in sanctification, a direct result from not only reading, but indeed, keeping the Law and Commandments through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Are we saved through keeping these things? No, we are saved through the shed blood of Yahshua Hamasheach (Jesus) the Messiah of all Israel. We keep the law, not to be saved, but because we are saved and we love Him.

There is so much more to say, so much more to understand. This is only a beginning. May you find more of this truth as you study the whole of the Bible, including the new testament books such as Galatians and Romans with an open mind to the Holy Spirit seeking a better understanding of what is meant by the word 'Law'. May you be blessed as you seek His Eternal Truth and apply it to your life.

