



The Torah

Legalism or Obedience

By NabiJah Ariel

The Torah Instructions of JAHUAH is a written expression of the **character, mind and will** of JAHUAH for His people. They appear in both the Tanakh- and Brit Chadasha- [*Old & New Testaments*], teaching us how to **love and worship JAHUAH our Eloah, love fellow man and prepare for eternal life in the Family of our Creator**. These instructions cover both physical actions and spiritual motivations. The Ten Commandments were given directly by JAHUAH Himself, to Moses and were sanctioned by the Messiah.

Obedience to them brings blessings; disobedience brings curses. These are the terms of the Covenant laid out to Abraham. To transgress them is to sin and incur the ultimate death penalty. Keeping JAHUAH's Torah, thus **showing one's submission to the government of JAHUAH, is a condition for eternal life**.

In the struggle to find a New Testament scripture that supports the misconception that JAHUAH'S Torah is "done away," many people point to Colossians 2:14 to "prove" that the Messiah nailed the "LAW" of JAHUAH to the cross.

Col 2:14 having wiped away the Handwriting by the Decrees against us, which was contrary to us; and HE has lifted it from out of the midst, having fastened it a nail to the cross.

In fact, this verse becomes the key player in their mistaken argument that Christians are not required to keep JAHUAH'S "**confining Old Testament law**." Proponents of such a teaching say that the "*Handwriting of Decrees*" refers to the *Torah- "that was against us."* **They further claim that the Messiah "took it out of the way" or abolished the Torah.**

Does Colossians 2:14 do away with JAHUAH's Torah? What is "the handwriting of decrees"? What really was "nailed . . . to the cross"? Let's carefully examine this scripture to see what Paul is truly saying.

First of all, note the context. In verses 11-13, Paul explains what Jahshua did for us and how those who have believed in Him are now spiritually circumcised:

Col 2:11 In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Jahshua:

We are circumcised from our fleshly sins- Then why was the fleshly circumcision of men's sexual organs first required- because it reflects the sexual nature of the original sin! Moses' wife Zipporah understood- but that is a story for another time!

Col 2:12 Having been buried with Him in the immersion, in which also you were risen up together through the belief of the energy of Eloah- the ONE having raised Him from the dead.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in the transgressions, and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, granting forgiveness to us for all the transgressions;

Here we see that the subject under discussion is the means of our justification. Paul is saying that, when we repented and were baptized sin was buried in a watery grave, and our sins were completely forgiven through our faith in the sacrifice of Jahshua. After being raised out of the water, we were "made alive" with Him and imputed to be righteous in JAHUAH's sight. Paul refers to this process as "circumcision made without hands," that is, spiritual circumcision.

Handwriting of Requirements

Paul continues to explain how our justification was accomplished. Thus, the whole sentence reads,

What was this "*Handwriting of Decrees*?" These words are translated from the Greek phrase *cheirographon tois dogma*.

Cheirographon- means anything written by hand, but can more specifically apply to a legal document, bond or note of debt.

Dogma- refers to decrees, laws or ordinances, and in this context means a body of beliefs or practices that have become the guidelines governing a person's conduct or way of life.

What Paul is saying is that, by His death, Jahshua has wiped out the **note of guilt or debt that we owed as a result of our sins**—sins which resulted from our past way of life. Before repentance, our lives had been governed by the standards and values of this present, evil world—the "decrees, laws and ordinances" of the society in which we lived.

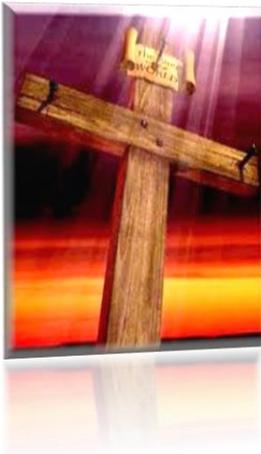
Now that we have repented and our board of transgressions washed clean, JAHUAH has wiped out the debt we acquired as a result of our sins and has imputed righteousness to us- Thus, we in turn must embark on a new way of life by living JAHUAH's standards and values.

Another means of understanding what *Handwriting of Decrees* means is to notice that it restates the phrase immediately before it. "*Having wiped out the Handwriting of Decrees that was against us*" parallels "*having forgiven you all trespasses.*" Thus, Paul could not be referring to JAHUAH'S Torah itself but rather to the record of our transgression of that Torah—sin!

What Was Nailed to the Cross?

Historically, only two objects were nailed to the stake of crucifixion:

- 1) the condemned person and
- 2) an inscription naming the crimes for which he was being punished. Thus, when Jahshua was crucified, only His body and Pilate's inscription; were nailed to the cross.



"This is Jahshua of Nazareth,

The King of the Jews"

Matthew 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JAHSHUA THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mark 15:26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Pilate's gracious inscription replaced the customary note or record of guilt—the "*Handwriting of Decrees*" that would have been found nailed to the crosses of the two criminals crucified with Jahshua.

Just before He died, when the Father forsook Him, our sins were symbolically nailed to the cross in His body.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jahshua cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My Eloah, my Eloah, why hast thou forsaken me?

At the time of His crucifixion, Jahshua *became* sin for us.

I Peter 2:24 Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of JAHUAH in Him.

Our *Note of Debt or Handwriting of Decrees* that we owed JAHUAH as a result of our sins is what was "lifted out of the midst" and "nailed . . . to the cross."

No, **it was not the Torah that was nailed to the cross. The Torah is not against us or contrary to us but is a great blessing to us.**

Psalm 19:11 Moreover by them [JAHUAH's commandments and statutes] your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Paul clearly writes in *Romans 7:12*, "**Therefore the Torah is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.**"

JAHUAH'S FEASTS and FESTIVALS - What about them?

Through the centuries, theologians have devised many arguments to do away with the observance of JAHUAH's holy days. They propose that various scriptures in the New Testament do away with the need for believers to keep the days which JAHUAH'S Torah specifically says are holy to HIM.

Leviticus 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of JAHUAH, which you shall proclaim to be *holy convocations*, even *these are MY feasts*.

Galatians 4:9-10 is the favored scripture for this argument.

Gal 4:9 But now, having known JAHUAH, but rather having been known by JAHUAH, how do you return again unto *the weak and poor elements*, in which again, as at the beginning you want to serve.

Gal 4:10 You closely watch days, and months, and times, and years.

What was Paul telling the Galatians? Does the message of the letter and the context of his statements confirm that the feasts and observances of the Torah have been eliminated?

If not, what were these "*weak and poor elements*" that Paul warns them about? Let's examine these verses and understand what Paul really says in this highly disputed section of scripture.

Paul is expressing his frustration with the Galatians because they had returned to *certain religious practices*. He calls these practices "weak and poor elements" and says they were again "**in bondage**"[Gal 4:3] to them.

In verse 10 he defines these practices as observances of "**days and months and seasons and years.**"

The argument begins at this point because some contend that these observances refer to JAHUAH'S holy days commanded in the Torah. Indeed, JAHUAH established specific "**DAYS**" (*the Sabbath Days*), "**MONTHS**" (*Rosh Chodesh observance*), "**SEASONS**" (*appointed times of Pesach, Passover, Shavuot-Festival of Weeks; Barley, Wine & Oil, Sukkot-Feast of Tabernacles etc.*) and "**YEARS**" (*Jubilee and Sabbatical years*) to be kept.

Gen 1:14 And Eloah said; Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for **seasons**, and for **days**, and **years**:

Lev 23:4 These are the **feasts of JAHUAH**, even holy convocations, which **you shall proclaim in their seasons- in their appointed time.**

Deu 16:16 **Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before JAHUAH** thy Eloah in the place which HE shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before JAHUAH empty:

Exo 23:11 But **the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still**; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy olive yard.

Lev 25:13 In the **year of this jubilee** ye shall return every man unto his possession.

The argument made by mainstream Christians is that Paul is reprimanding the Galatians for returning to Old Testament observances that were a form of "bondage." Insisting that Paul taught that the Old Testament **LAW** was "*done away*," they conclude that Gentiles should not keep the days that JAHUAH had commanded Israel to keep.

Culture and History

Whenever we are studying scriptures that are difficult to understand, we must consider the cultural and historical context. Galatia was not a city but a province in Asia Minor. The church membership was undoubtedly composed mainly of **Gentiles**, and the males were physically uncircumcised.

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say to you, that if you are circumcised, Jahshua shall profit you nothing.

Gal 6:12 As many as want to have the right appearance in the flesh, these compel you to be circumcised; only that they should be persecuted NOT for the cross of the Messiah.

Gal 6:13 For neither the ones being circumcised themselves guard the Torah, but they want you to be circumcised, that they should **BOAST** in your flesh-

When looking at Paul's initial dealings with these people, we find that they had a history of worshipping pagan idols. In Acts we see that Paul was in Lystra where he healed a crippled man and immediately the people worshipped them as gods.

Act 14:8 And a certain man was sitting in Lystra, without strength in the feet, being lame from his mother's womb, who never had walked.

Act 14:9 This one heard Paul speaking; and Paul, looking intently at him, and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

Act 14:10 said with a loud voice, Stand up on your feet! And he leaped and walked.

Act 14:11 And seeing what Paul did, the crowd lifted up their voice, saying in Lycaonian; The gods have come down to us, becoming like men.

Act 14:12 And they called Barnabas Jupiter, and Paul Mercury, because he was the chief speaker.

Act 14:13 And the priest of Jupiter, being before their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, wishing to sacrifice with the crowds.

Act 14:14 But hearing this, the apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their clothes and ran in among the people, crying out

Act 14:15 and saying; *Men, why do you do these things?* We also are men of like passions with you, and *preaching the gospel to you to turn you from these vanities* to the living Eloah, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all things in them;

Act 14:16 who in past generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

Act 14:17 And yet He did not leave Himself without witness, doing good, giving rain and fruitful season to us from heaven, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Act 14:18 And saying these things, **they scarcely stopped the people from sacrificing to them.**

We see that the people in Galatia were generally superstitious and worshipped pagan idols. Further, the major thrust of the Galatian epistle is to put them "**back on the track**" because someone had been teaching "a different gospel," a perversion of the gospel of Jahshua.

Gal 1:6 *I MARVEL that you SO SOON are being moved away from Him* who called you into the grace of Jahshua, **to another gospel,**

Gal 1:7 which is not another, but some are troubling you, and desiring to pervert the gospel of Jahshua.



The Galatians had derailed on their understanding of how sinners are justified. To be justified means to have one's sins forgiven and to be brought into a right relationship with JAHUAH through FEAR & TREMBLING.

False teachers in Galatia taught that one was justified by doing physical works of some kind. In dealing with this matter, Paul felt an urgency to emphasize that **we are justified by TRUSTING in the sacrifice of Jahshua .**

Gal 2:15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Torah, but by the faith of Jahshua , even we have TRUSTED in Jahshua , that we might be justified by the faith of Jahshua, and not by the works of the Torah: for by the works of the Torah shall no flesh be justified.

We are to TRUST IN THE FAITH OF THE MESSIAH-

One of the "*works of the LAW*" that the false teachers insisted was necessary for justification was obviously circumcision .

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if you are circumcised, Jahshua shall profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole Torah.

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

But it was not just the Old Covenant regulations that were being enjoined upon the Galatians because Paul says the false teachers themselves did not keep the Torah.

Gal 6:13 For they themselves, having been circumcised, do not even keep the Torah, but they desire you to be circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

Evidently, the false teachings produced a wicked lifestyle.

Gal 5:13 For, brothers, you were called to freedom. Only do not *use* the freedom for *an* opening to the flesh. But through love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 For the whole Torah is fulfilled in one word, in *this*: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Lev. 19:18*

Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, be careful that you are not consumed by one another.

Gal 5:16 This I say then; **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another; lest whatever you may will, these things you do.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by *the* Spirit, you are not under law- [i.e. lusts of the flesh- law of the land].

Gal 5:19 Now **the works of the flesh are manifest**, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,**

Gal 5:20 **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**

Gal 5:21 **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like:** of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of JAHUAH.

The large amount of evidence indicates that the false teachers were teaching a blend of Judaism and Gnosticism. The philosophy of Gnosticism taught that everything physical was evil and that people could attain a higher spiritual understanding through effort. It was the type of philosophy that its believers thought could be used to enhance or improve anyone's religion.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, we read of this same philosophy having an influence on the church there. It was characterized by strict legalism, a "**taste not, touch not**" attitude, neglect of the body, worship of angels and a false humility.

Colossians 2:18 Let no one deprave you of due reward, wanting by deprivation and following a religion of angels,

Col 2:19 and not holding fast the Head, from whom all the body having been supplied through the joints and bands, and being joined together, will grow with the growth of JAHUAH.

Col 2:20 If, then, you died with the Messiah from the elements of the world, why are you under *its* decrees, as living in the world?

Col 2:21 **Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch,**

Col 2:22 **which things are all for corruption in the using, according to the "injunctions and teachings of men." Isa. 29:13**

Col 2:23 Which things indeed appear to be a matter of having wisdom in *self-imposed* worship and *humility*, and severity in abuse of the body, but are not of any value with regards to gratification of the flesh.

Contrary to Gnosticism, Paul tells the Galatians that they should not listen to even an angel from heaven who taught a false gospel.

Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Also, even though the Gnostics taught a strict discipline of the body, it could sometimes lead to a licentious lifestyle. The idea that the physical, evil body was separate from the spirit often led to the attitude that what one did with the body made no difference.

Bondage of the World

What, then, were the "days, months, seasons and years" that Paul criticizes the Galatians for observing? First, Paul nowhere in the entire letter mentions JAHUAH's holy days. Second, the apostle **would never refer to holy days that JAHUAH instituted as "weak and beggarly elements."** He honored and revered JAHUAH's Torah.

Rom 7:12 Wherefore **the Torah is holy**, and **the commandment holy**, and **just**, and **good**.

Rom 7:14 For we know that **the Torah is spiritual**: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Rom 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto **the Torah that it is good**.

Paul himself taught the Corinthians to observe the feasts of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread and he kept the Sabbath and holy days himself! Why would he contradict himself and speak against JAHUAH'S Torah? He wouldn't! Paul is coming up against man's fleshly laws of self-satisfaction that is contrary to our CREATOR and the TORAH!

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Jahshua our **Passover** is sacrificed for us:

1Co 5:8 Therefore **let us keep the feast**, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Act 16:13 And on the **Sabbath** we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

Act 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, **I must by all means keep this feast that comes in Jerusalem**: but I will return again unto you, if JAHUAH will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

Act 20:6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the **days of unleavened bread**, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

1Co 16:8 But I will tarry at Ephesus until **Shavuot**.

What these "days" *ARE*- becomes clear when putting the scriptures into perspective. Paul shows the Galatians that salvation through faith in Jahshua is a fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham.

Gal 3:14 That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jahshua**; that we might receive **the promise of the Spirit through fidelity** .

Gal 3:15 Brethren, according to man I speak. Even a covenant of a man having been validated no one annuls or adds further.

-OR- My friends, I will use an everyday example to explain what I mean. **Once someone agrees to something, no one else can change or cancel the agreement.**

Gal 3:16 Now **to Abraham and his seed were the promises made**. He saith not; And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Jahshua.

Gal 3:17 And this I say, that the Covenant, that was confirmed before of JAHUAH in Jahshua, **the Torah**, which was four hundred and thirty years after, **cannot disannul**, that it should make the promise of none effect.

The Torah cannot change or cancel JAHUAH's promise that was made 430 years **before the Torah** was given.

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance **be of the Torah**, it is no more of promise: but JAHUAH gave it to Abraham by promise.

If we have to obey the Torah in order to receive JAHUAH's blessings, those blessings don't really come to us because of JAHUAH's promise. But JAHUAH made Abraham a promise. What is the use of the Torah? It was given as a contract against our transgressions.

Gal 3:19 Why the Torah then? It was for the sake of transgressions, until the Seed should come, to whom it had been promised, being ordained through angels in a mediator's hand.

Does the Torah disagree with JAHUAH's promises? No, it doesn't! Through the Torah we receive life, we become acceptable to JAHUAH by obeying the Torah.

Gal 3:21 Then is the Torah against the promises of Eloah? Let it not be! For if the Torah had been given which had been able to make alive, indeed righteousness would have been out of Torah.

But the Scriptures say that sin controls everyone, so that JAHUAH'S promises will be for anyone who TRUSTS in Jahshua. Paul tells us that both Hebrew and Gentile, are spiritually children of Abraham and will inherit the promises made to him.

Gal 3:26 for you are all sons of Eloah through faith in Messiah Jahshua.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Messiah, have put on Messiah.

Gal 3:28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Jahshua .

Gal 3:29 And if you be Jahshua's, **then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs** according to the promise.

Paul draws an analogy in which he likens the Hebrew to a child who is waiting to come into an inheritance and the Gentile to a slave in the same household. He explains how, before the coming of Jahshua, the spiritual state of the Hebrew was no different from the Gentile because neither had had their sins forgiven nor had they received the Ruach Ha' Qodesh. Prior to the coming of Jahshua, both Hebrews and Gentiles were "**In bondage under the elements of the world**".

Gal 4:1 Now I say, That **the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant**, though he be master of all;

Gal 4:2 But is **under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father**.

Gal 4:3 Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world**:

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, JAHUAH sent forth his Son, made of a woman, **made under the Torah**,

Gal 4:5 To **redeem them that were under the Torah, that we might receive the adoption of son**.

The word "**elements**" is the Greek *stoicheion*, which means any first thing or principal. "**In bondage under the elements of the world**" refers to the fact that the unconverted mind is subject to the influence of **Satan and his demons, the rulers of this world** and the authors of all idolatrous worship. Satan and his demons are the origin, the underlying cause, of the evil ways of this world, and all non-overcomers are under their sway.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against JAHUAH: for it is not subject to the Torah of JAHUAH, neither indeed can it be.

Paul is saying that both Jews and Gentiles had been in bondage to sin. The apostle explains to the Galatians how their lives and destiny have been changed through their trust in Jahshua: And because you [Gentiles] **are sons**, JAHUAH has sent forth the Spirit- the Ruach of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you [Gentiles] are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of JAHUAH through Jahshua.

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, JAHUAH hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Gal 4:7 Wherefore thou art **no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of JAHUAH** through Jahshua.

Paul brings up the subject of the idolatry and paganism that they had participated in before their conversion and says to them; *"But then, indeed, when you did not know JAHUAH, you served those which by nature are not Elohim."* Galatians 4:8

This obviously refers to the worship of pagan deities just as we saw in Acts 14 when in Lystra Barnabas was called Jupiter, and Paul Mercury.

Paul is making it clear that **JAHUAH had called them out- and he had concerns that** the Galatians were returning to the way of life from which JAHUAH had called them from.



Gal 4:9 But now, after that you have known JAHUAH, or rather are known of JAHUAH, how do **you turn again to the weak and poor elements; Do you desire again to be in bondage?**

As we have seen the "weak and poor elements" were demon-inspired, idolatrous practices. "Elements" in verse 3 can refer to the heavenly bodies that regulate the pagan calendar and are associated with pagan festivals.

Paul condemns the practices and way of life that had been inspired by Satan and his demons, the principal cause of the entire world's evil. Paul recognized that the Galatians had begun to return to their former slavish, sinful practices.

Called Out Completely

Gal 4:10 You observe days, and months, and times, and years

Now it becomes plain that the "days, months, seasons and years" Paul refers to were the pagan, idolatrous festivals and observances that the Galatian Gentiles had observed before their conversion!

They could not possibly be JAHUAH's holy days **because these Gentiles had never observed them before being called.** Rather, they were turning back to their old, heathen way of life that included keeping various superstitious holidays connected to the worship of pagan deities!

So, we see that Paul is far from doing away with JAHUAH's holy days- rather he is admonishing them against observing "days, months, seasons and years" that have their roots in paganism! These would obviously include such days as **Christmas, Easter, Halloween** and any other days that originated from the worship of pagan idols- yes even Independence Day can be traced back to the day that the Hebrews proclaimed their Independence from the CREATOR, by erecting the Golden Calf.

Sadly, the very scriptures that warn against returning to these anti-Torah holidays are being used by some today to persuade members of the church to forsake JAHUAH's holy days in exchange for this world's holidays!



The lesson to be learned from these scriptures is that **JAHUAH** has called us *completely out* of the ways of this world including the pagan customs and traditions of the world. We should have nothing to do with such "*weak and poor elements.*"

The customs and traditions of Over-Comers are the same ones that Jahshua observed— JAHUAH's holy days which He has commanded to be observed in His Holy Word. These are the days that we rejoice in- as we walk in the footsteps of Jahshua , living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of JAHUAH!

[end of part one of video lesson]

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

Faith without works is dead!
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James 2

Every single word, sentence, paragraph, and phrase written in JAHUAH's Word, is important. However, if a matter is *very important*, JAHUAH will repeat it again. If it is *Very, Very Important*, JAHUAH will repeat it *TWICE*.

Such is the case with the doctrine of the necessity of **WORKS** and **FAITH**, here written by JAHUAH through His apostle James in chapter two of James' epistle.

Clearly then, it is *Very, Very Important* that we understand that **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD**. But along comes another apostle—Paul, in his letter to JAHUAH's church at Ephesus—and just look at what he has to say:

Eph 2:8 For by *favor* you are being preserved, through the belief; and this gift of Eloah is not of you;

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Some compare these two passages and declare, "The Bible contradicts itself, so how can it be the inspired Word of JAHUAH?" They then use this and other perceived contradictions as excuses to discard completely the whole written Word of JAHUAH. Others take the "path of least resistance." Adopting Paul's words, but completely ignoring JAHUAH's instruction through James, they claim, "All you need is **GRACE** and *Faith*. Works are not necessary!"

Is there a contradiction? Do we or do we not need works? And just what are "works" anyway?

These are questions vital to our salvation. True, spiritual understanding of **Ephesians 2:8-9** and **James 2:14-26** reveals that the Bible does *not* contradict itself on this subject of *Faith* and **WORKS**—nor anywhere else, for that matter.

When we read Ephesians 2:8-9, the first thing we notice is that we are confronted with a whole list of spiritual-sounding words: *Grace, Saved, Faith, Gift and Works*. Even those of us who have been with JAHUAH for many years and who may clearly understand each of these words individually, are slowed down in our comprehension of these verses when faced with such terms presented one after the other.

Grace ^{G5485} favor, thanks, pleasure.

Saved ^{G4982} make whole, heal, and be whole.

Faith ^{G4102} assurance, believe, fidelity.

Gift ^{G1435} present, offering.

Works ^{G2041} deed, doing, labor.

Ergon is the original Greek for the English word "**WORKS**." It does not appear to be a very difficult, ambiguous, or confusing term. So, one is compelled to ask; What do the many people and churches who claim that "**WORKS**" are not required- perceive "**WORKS**" to be?

Opinions vary. One group perceives **WORKS** to mean the whole Torah in general. A second group perceives **WORKS** as specific portions of JAHUAH'S Torah, which they look upon as being only for "Jews" or "Old Covenant," or that they are just not willing to keep and teach. A third group, amazingly enough in their rejection of it, perceives this term as meaning *Works of Charity* in general!

Individuals or groups who choose to substitute the word "**Torah**" for the word "**works**", and who thus say that "New Testament Christians" do not have to keep JAHUAH's Torah, do not appear to mean it totally and literally. Instead, **most of them reserve the right to choose which parts of the "Torah" they wish to keep** ("*You shall not kill,*" "*You shall not steal,*" etc.). JAHUAH has nowhere given authority to His people to be selective in these matters, thus this stance toward the Torah is inconsistent and even hypocritical.



Conditions for Salvation

Salvation is a Gift- one cannot earn salvation by charitable works or by obedience to JAHUAH'S Torah. **However, obedience is a condition we must meet before JAHUAH will give us His Gift of Salvation.** Let's go to the *Regenerated Covenant* and look at the overwhelming evidence on the matter.

Acts 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is **the Ruach Ha'Oodesh,** which **JAHUAH has given** to those who **OBEY HIM.**

I John 2:4 He who says, "I know him," and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him.

Matthew 19:17 So He said to [the rich young ruler], "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, JAHUAH. But **if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**"

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My ordinances.

Paul does not say that works are not required at all. The purpose of his statement is to show that works do not save us, but that Favor and Trust do!

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Jahshua unto **good works**, which JAHUAH hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

This verse shows that JAHUAH calls members of His church for the very purpose of performing good works. Paul's language is very clear. JAHUAH desires us to walk in good works, and He has prepared our spiritual educational process so that we will learn to do them.

No Contradiction

Finally, is there any contradiction between the opinions of Paul and James on this matter?

Simply, no- of course not! Paul says that faith is required and, as we have seen- says that good works are also required.

James, in the second chapter of his epistle, says that faith and works are inseparable:

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

In his *Bible Handbook*, Henry H. Halley states that:

Paul's doctrine of Justification by Faith, and James' doctrine of Justification by Works, are supplementary, not contradictory. Neither was opposing the teaching of the other—they were devoted friends and co-workers. James fully endorsed Paul's work (Acts 15:13-29; 21:17-26). Paul preached Faith as the basis of justification before JAHUAH, but insisted that it must issue in the right kind of Life. James was writing to those who had accepted the doctrine of Justification by Faith but were not Living Right, telling them that such Faith was No Faith at all. (p. 659, capitalization as in original)

The Revised Standard Version translates **James 2:20** in a very interesting and appropriate way:

"Do you want to be shown, you shallow man, that faith apart from works is barren?"

It is this word 'barren' that is so intriguing. In the Bible, several women—for example, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah, and Elizabeth—could not have children- They were 'barren'. In the physical realm, a fertile male and a fertile female are both required conditions for reproduction for most forms of life.

Spiritually, *ACTIVE FAITH* and *ACTIVE WORKS* are both required conditions to reproduce a spiritual life in us. In both cases, *LIFE*, whether spiritual or physical, is a gift of JAHUAH, the Creator and Life-Giver. If either condition is absent or inactive, *barrenness* or lack of new life results.

Another meaning of *barren* is that of a land without vegetation, a desolate place. Land that is barren- receives plenty of sunshine **but too little rain** it is barren and desolate.

Such a land cannot be worked because it will not produce anything profitable. In the same way, a person having only faith will produce nothing profitable; he needs a steady "rain" of work to grow and mature.



So, there is no contradiction. **Faith is required. Works are required.** Works toward JAHUAH are to do HIS Will and HIS Work and, yes, **to obey His Torah.**

Faith without works is dead. Faith with works is life—eternal life!

Do you know millions who actually believe in the Messiah Jahshua have no salvation at all...because they trust in the wrong kind of faith?

NO SUBJECT pertaining to salvation is more generally misunderstood than that of saving FAITH!

Just "BELIEVE in the Jahshua, and **thou shalt be saved;**' is the popular teaching today. And that statement is absolutely true — if you understand what kind of BELIEVING is required!

Unfortunately, millions are being deceived—led to trust in a faith that will never save one single soul by a very popular and very false teaching. It is customary to quote only a PART of the Scriptures on this subject — reading a false meaning into them — and thus by subtle half-truths popular teachings shackle most Christians to spiritual blindness and deceptions.

JAHUAH does not usually reveal all the truth regarding a particular subject in any one passage alone.

Isa 28:9 Whom will HE teach knowledge? and whom will HE make to **understand the message (Doctrine)**...

Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little.

To understand any general subject in the Bible, it is necessary to view all the scriptural evidence touching on that particular subject. And we cannot read our desired meaning into any particular passage; for "**no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation,**" *II Peter 1:20*, but each passage is interpreted by, and in the light of, other texts.

For example. It is quite popular to quote *Romans 3:20*: "**Therefore by the deeds of the LAW there shall no flesh be justified in HIS sight,**" and from this passage alone assume that salvation comes by faith in disobedience to JAHUAH'S Torah! Those who thus interpret this passage never tell you that in **Romans 2:13** the same Apostle Paul was inspired to write: "**Not the hearers of the Torah are just before JAHUAH, but the DOERS of the Torah shall be justified.**"

Is there contradiction here? If the one Scripture is intended to reveal that we do not have to make an effort to obey JAHUAH'S Torah to be justified and then saved — but that we are saved by faith without obedience to JAHUAH'S Torah, then, indeed, JAHUAH contradicts Himself in His Word! And if you wish to make *Romans 3:20* say that, you must consistently acknowledge there is contradiction in the Scriptures; and if this be true, you have no basis for your faith!

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the Torah there shall no flesh be justified in HIS sight: for by *the Torah is the knowledge of sin.*

Eph 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of JAHUAH:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

This Gift of Grace is the Gift to all men being welcomed into the Abrahamic Covenant through the promise and allowance of adoption.

But those who quote this text so freely to teach the doctrine of "*No Works*," never tell you that the same inspired Scriptures say also:

James 2:14 My brothers, what profit is it if a man says he has faith and does not have works? Can faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

James 2:16 and if one of you says to them; Go in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them those things which are needful to the body, what good is it?

James 2:17 Even so, if it does not have works, faith is dead, being by itself.

James 2:18 But someone will say; You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, **and I will show you my faith from my works.**

James 2:19 You believe that there is one Eloah, you do well; even the demons believe and tremble.

James 2:20 But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

There is no contradiction here!

Rather, by putting all the Scriptures on the subject of "Saving Faith" together, we learn that there are TWO KINDS of faith. And the kind so blindly trusted in by the majority of this day is nothing but a **DEAD faith** — and a **DEAD faith never will save one soul!**



Notice! "Faith without works is DEAD" —It's just a DEAD faith.

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:22 Do you see how faith worked with his works, and from the works faith was made perfect?

James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed JAHUAH, and it was imputed to him for righteousness, and he was called the friend of JAHUAH."

James 2:24 You see then how a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Then are we saved by works instead of faith? No, NEVER! We are saved by FAITH! But faith wrought with our works and **BY WORKS, our FAITH is MADE PERFECT! That is LIVING FAITH!**

Why do we even need salvation? Because we have SINNED, and **the penalty of sin is DEATH!**

But how have we sinned? What IS sin, anyhow? Sin is the transgression of THE TORAH- is JAHUAH's answer. **The Torah is Our Creators Covenant with man**

I John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Torah: for sin is the transgression of the Torah.

There are still those who would argue... "But we are not **under the LAW** today, **but UNDER GRACE!**" Why certainly! But this Grace is an invitation into the Creators covenant – it is not a "Get out of Jail Free" card- this Grace- is the opportunity for ALL MEN to be adopted son's – thus becoming a people who were not a people- the House of Israel. Through this Grace- we are transformed into a Nation of Priests as proxy to JAHUHA'S promise to Abraham.

1Peter 2:9 But you *are* "an elect race," "a royal priesthood," "a holy nation," "a people for possession," so that "you may openly speak of the virtues" of the *One* who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; *LXX-Ex. 23:22; MT-Ex. 19:5, 6*

1Peter 2:10 *you* who then were "not a people, but now *are* the people" of God; "the one not pitied *then* but now pitied."

That is GRACE in a nutshell-

"What then?" asks the inspired Paul, "shall we SIN" — (transgress the Torah) — "because we are not under the Torah but under grace?" And Paul's answer is, "JAHUAH FORBID!" *Romans 6:15*.

And again...

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Romans 6:2 JAHUAH forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

The Torah has a penalty — DEATH. It claims the life of the one who transgresses it. The Torah has power to take the life of the transgressor- It therefore is more powerful than the sinner — and is **OVER** the sinner, holding a claim on his life. Thus, making the **SINNER UNDER** the Torah.

But when the sinner **REPENTS** of his transgression, and accepts the Blood of the Covenant that Jahshua made as payment for the penalty of the Torah, the sinner is then **ABSOLVED**— the Torah no longer stands **OVER** him claiming his life.

It is those who are sinning that are **UNDER** the Torah! And those who, through **repentance, obedience** and **FAITH** have turned from disobedience and are, through faith, **KEEPING the Torah, are the only ones who are UNDER GRACE!**

JAHUAH's Spiritual Mirror

Let us understand it! "By the deeds of the Torah no flesh shall be justified in His sight." No, certainly not! That Scripture is 100% true, and there is no contradiction! You cannot be justified **BY** the deeds of the Torah — not at all!

WHY? The last half of this same verse gives the answer — why do most preachers never quote it? "**For by the Torah is the KNOWLEDGE of sin**" *Romans 3:20*. **THAT'S WHY!**

The purpose of the Torah is not to forgive, to justify, to wash away, to cleanse. Only **THE BLOOD OF JAHSHUA** can do that! **Sin is the transgression of the Torah — that's what sin IS.** The purpose of the Torah is **to tell us what sin is — to define it — to REVEAL it, so we can quit it.**

Take for instance the the little mirror in a woman's handbag. She knows what it is for. Every once in a while, she takes out the mirror to take a peek at her face. Sometimes it reveals a speck of dirt. And we might truthfully say, "By the use of the mirror no dirty face is washed clean." But do you throw your mirrors away because by them your faces are not washed? Of course not — what a silly question it seems! And if we ask you **WHY** your faces are not washed clean by your mirrors, you answer: "Because by the mirror comes the **KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIRT.**"



JAHUAH'S Torah is HIS spiritual minor. We look into it, and see the dirt on our hearts! But by looking at the Torah, or keeping it, no dirt is WASHED from our hearts — only Jahshua's **BLOOD** can do that. By the Torah comes the **KNOWLEDGE OF SIN!**

James 1:22 But become doers of *the* Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:23 Because if anyone *is* a hearer of *the* Word, and not a doer, this one is like a man studying his natural face in a mirror;

James 1:24 for he studied himself, and has gone away, and immediately *he* forgot of what he was like.

James 1:25 But the *one* looking into the perfect Torah of liberty, and continuing *in it*, this one not having become a forgetful hearer, but a doer of *the* work, this one will be blessed in his doing.

Is it Possible to Keep the Torah?



The "**no LAW**" **deceiver** may argue, "No man can keep the Commandments, it is not humanly possible. **Since FAITH has come, we keep no law** — faith has made it **VOID.**"

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Jahshua.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Thus even "Satan himself is transferred into an angel of LIGHT. Therefore, it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness — For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of JAHSHUA.

Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the Torah through faith? JAHUAH forbid: yea, **we establish the Torah.**

Yes, faith establishes the Torah! By keeping it is faith made PERFECT!

Yet, **can we keep the Commandments?** Is it possible? Satan's "**No Law**" deceivers say **NO!** What is the **PLAIN TRUTH?**

A man came to Jahshua and asked how to be saved. Jahshua Himself replied, "If thou wilt enter into life, **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS**" *Matthew 19:17.*

Mat 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying; Who then can be saved?

Mat 19:26 But Jahshua beheld them, and said unto them; **With men this is impossible; but with JAHUAH all things are possible.**

There is Jahshua's own answer! With men it IS impossible, — utterly impossible to really KEEP His Father's Commandments. But — here's the blessed truth — **WITH JAHUAH**, it is possible, even to keep His Commandments. Do you begin to see it? **IT TAKES FAITH!**

Faith in the power of JAHUAH!

And, just as your own diligent effort of obedience coupled with faith makes faith perfect, so faith coupled with your effort of obedience makes **PERFECT OBEDIENCE!** The two go hand in hand. And you cannot have the one, without the other!

A LIVING FAITH — the only kind that will SAVE — is an active faith — one that TRUSTS JAHUAH to make it possible to OBEY HIM — to live a true life in the Messiah — to KEEP His Father's blessed Commandments!

Think! Could a just Eloah command men to do what is IMPOSSIBLE? Or can we imagine Jahshua as a smart-aleck young man who knew more than **His FATHER**, who did away with His Father's **COMMANDMENTS**? **How absurd!** Yet this is the popular conception today!

JAHUAH'S TORAH is ETERNAL

JAHUAH'S Torah is not a horrible monster! Just and right ordnances are a thorn only to the criminal — they are made to PROTECT the good!

Psalm 19:7 The Torah of JAHUAH is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of JAHUAH is sure, making wise the simple.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the Torah is spiritual:

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the Torah is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Psalm 111:7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

Psalm 111:8 They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

Don't you believe it, when men tell you differently!

JAHUAH's Torah is, simply, **LOVE!** It is the perfect way of life. Every particle of human suffering, unhappiness, misery and death has come solely from its transgression! It was given to make man **HAPPY**, and is the only philosophy of life that can do so! It came from an Eloah of **LOVE**, and **LOVE** is the fulfilling of the Torah!

But not **YOUR** own natural love! It requires "the love of JAHUAH, shed abroad in our hearts **BY THE Ruach Ha'Qodesh**"

Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of JAHUAH is shed abroad in our hearts by the Ruach Ha'Qodesh which is given unto us.

JAHUAH has, and will give you the love that will fulfill His Torah. And so, praise His blessed Name! It is possible, through **FAITH**, and the **GIFT** of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh, for man to keep His Commandments! And whoever claims differently, JAHUAH calls a plain **LIAR**.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

The true Commandment-keeper is mandated to **trust JAHUAH** to make obedience possible. And thus, **faith does not void, but establishes the Torah! And to keep the Torah requires FAITH!**

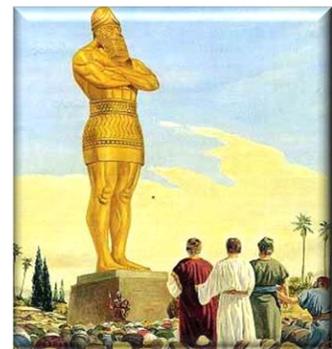
A thrilling example of this eternal truth is recorded in the Book of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, erected a great golden image.

Dan 3:4 Then the herald cried with strength: To you it is commanded O peoples, nations, and languages,

Dan 3:5 at the time you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, zither, the lyre, harp, bagpipe, and all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

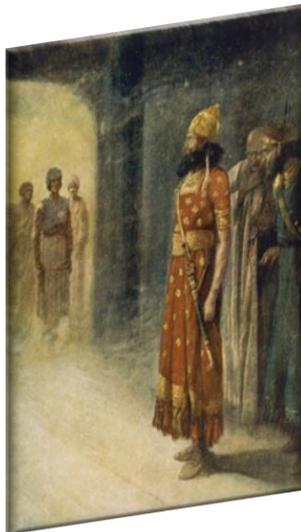
Dan 3:6 And whoever does not fall down and worship, at that moment they will be thrown into the middle of a burning, fiery furnace.

Set over the affairs of the province of Babylon were Daniel's three young Hebrew friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. One of the Commandments of JAHUAH's eternal spiritual Torah forbids such worship of images.



Had you been in their place, what would **YOU** have done? Would you not have said, "*Well, I have to bow down to this image — I have to do it or be killed!*" And perhaps you would have excused yourself by reasoning thus: "*I don't think JAHUAH would be fair if He punished me for this, when He knows I am **FORCED** to do it.*" Yes, it is easy to use reason to excuse disobedience to JAHUAH. But JAHUAH is not looking for chances to punish us.

Instead, He is looking for opportunities to **SAVE** us through faith! To save us from the folly of **SIN** and the sad consequence our own acts impose! Whatever we sow we shall reap. JAHUAH's Torah is intended to protect us from suffering.



But these three young Hebrews knew the truth, that we should **OBEY JAHUAH** rather than men, it is through **FAITH** that JAHUAH makes it possible. When they **firmly REFUSED to bow down** to worship the king's image, Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded them brought before him.

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to return a word to you on this matter.

Dan 3:17 If it is *so that* our Eloah whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning, fiery furnace, then He will deliver out of your hand, O king.

Dan 3:18 And if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.

Sometimes JAHUAH tries our faith. He tried theirs. You might think He failed them, but He only permitted their faith to be tested.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the form of his appearance was changed; . . . therefore he spoke, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was normally heated — Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments," — surely Eloah whom they trusted would have them released now? But no — there was no physical evidence whatever that JAHUAH so much as heard! —

And they were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace!

Dan 3:22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Dan 3:23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

JAHUAH permitted them actually to be thrown in! Was He unmindful of those who trusted in Him to make possible the keeping of His Commandments? Not JAHUAH!

Dan 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded, and rose up in haste, and spoke, and said unto his counselors; Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.



Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of Eloah.



So, Nebuchadnezzar came near the mouth of the furnace and called to them. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! ye servants of the Most-High JAHUAH, come forth, and come hither!

Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came forth from the midst of the fire. . . . these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Nebuchadnezzar spake and said; Blessed be the Eloah of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent His angel, and **DELIVERED** his servants that **TRUSTED IN HIM!**"

THERE was an example of **living FAITH!** A faith that **TRUSTED JAHUAH** to make it possible to live the way of His Torah! **Yes, WITH JAHUAH, it is possible to keep all His Commandments—and don't let any man deceive you to the contrary!**

CAN YOU BELIEVE and WORSHIP JAHSHUA in VAIN?

When JAHUAH'S Word says, "**BELIEVE in the Messiah Jahshua, and thou shalt be saved,**" it does not mean the **DEAD** faith now popularly taught! Though common teachings of this day distort this to mean a mere belief in the **FACTS** of Jahshua's existence, His sacrifice, and His saving work. **Just accept these FACTS, and accept HIM—without any obedience to JAHUAH'S Torah!** But the devils believe these things — and they **TREMBLE!**

Jahshua was the Messenger of the Regenerated Covenant — **A Messenger sent from JAHUAH.** You cannot **BELIEVE** on such a divine Messenger, unless you believe, and obey the **MESSAGE** that He brought!



Acts 2:38 "If thou wilt enter into LIFE," was His teaching, "**KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!**"

"**REPENT,**" said the inspired Peter, and then believe and be baptized for the remission of sins, and "ye **SHALL** receive the gift of the Ruach Ha'Qodesh ".

Acts 5:32 ... JAHUAH gives His Ruach Ha'Qodesh **only to them that OBEY HIM.**

The Ruach Ha'Qodesh is the **LOVE** which JAHUAH gives us to fulfill and to keep His Commandments! And it all comes **BY FAITH!**

Jahshua came to save us **FROM**, not in, our sins! To **FREE** us from the enslavement of sin and the unhappiness and wretchedness it brings—not to make us free to commit sin! Is it possible to **BELIEVE** in Jahshua — to worship Him — in the customary manner of the day, and yet be lost? **Jahshua Himself says, "YES!"**

Mat 7:21 Not everyone that saith unto me, MASTER, MASTER, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

Hear Him again!

Mar 7:7 Howbeit **in vain do they worship me**, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mar 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of JAHUAH ye hold the tradition of men...

There it is! From JAHUAH'S own lips! **Such a dead faith — such worship — is IN VAIN!** Those who trust in it, and in the men and denominations which teach it, **ARE LOST!** And the quicker we come to realize it, the better!

JAHUAH'S *Purpose* in salvation is to rescue men from **SIN**, and its resulting unhappiness, misery, and death! To **REPENT** of sin is the first step! Then the **BLOOD OF JAHSHUA**, upon acceptance and faith, cleanses of all past sins. And by **FAITH** we are kept from sin in the future. Thus, the resulting righteousness is of **FAITH** — the righteousness imparted from JAHUAH.

We are not justified BY THE TORAH — we are justified by the blood of the Messiah Jahshua! But this justification will be given only on Condition that we REPENT of our transgressions of JAHUAH'S Torah — and so it is, after all, only the DOERS of the Torah that shall be JUSTIFIED.

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to depose of the Torah, or the prophets: I am not come to depose, but to fulfill.

This word “Fulfill” is plēthō ^{G4130}: “*fill*” -literally or figuratively to *imbue, influence, supply; to furnish.*

Our Messiah literally came to SUPPLY us the Torah- not to do away with it or nail it somewhere.

Mat 5:18 For amen I say to you, until whenever shall pass away the heaven and the earth, one iota or one dot in no way should pass from the TORAH, until whenever ALL comes to pass.

Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, **he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven:** but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

How Plain, and how Beautiful is JAHUAH'S TRUTH!

Extra-biblical standards of behavior used to measure godliness is Legalism not OBEDIENCE.

Obedience is not legalism. Obedience is obedience. JAHUAH commands us to obey HIS Word, and when pressed with those commands we must not cry foul — '*Legalism!*' No, disobedience is sin, and obedience is not legalism.

On the contrary, any violation of JAHUAH'S commands is sin, and there are no exceptions allowed. No custom, no family tradition, no 'We've always done it this way or that!' will cover it. Scripture insists that violation of JAHUAH'S Torah is sin. Simply put, we needn't fear that we may obey our Master too much. Jahusha said that if we love him, we will obey him."

Jeremiah 7:23 But I commanded them this thing, saying; *Obey My voice, and I will be your Eloah, and you shall be My people. Also, Walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, so that it may be well with you.*