

Essence, Not Symbols

Taiwo Olokun

Colossians 2:16-17 “Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a [Jewish] holy-day or a new moon or **Sabbaths**, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

Those who belong to Christ **must judge concerning important things**, but (according to Romans 14) days of gathering for fellowship isn't one of the important things. Also (according to Romans 14), whether someone practices Vegetarianism or not, isn't important. Some Christians teach that God doesn't want us to eat meat or certain animals such as Dogs or sacred-cows (Pets), but 1Timothy 4:1-8 says “Now the Spirit clearly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, listening to deceiving spirits and teachings of demons ... forbidding to marry, and **commanding to abstain from meats which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. Because every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving ... But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. Because **bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things**, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”

Romans 14:1-12, Colossians 2:16-17, and 1Timothy 4:1-8 **complete each other**.

Concerning the darkness/confusion that Evangelical Leaders continue to spread on Romans 14, please i beg you to (for a season) ignore the commentaries/notes in your Bible, ignore the popular teachings, and simply read 1Corinthians ch.8, ch.10 along with Romans 14:13 all the way to 15:12. In “**Non-Judgmental World**”, i give the **correct understanding of these Scriptures which Evangelicals have perverted for their IDOLATRIES under the guise of minor issues, non-essentials and gray areas**. 1Corinthians 11 is **not** subject to private interpretation or cultural interpretation: “the traditions just as I (Paul) delivered them to you ... the churches of God” (v.2, v. 16). **The symbols of Communion, Baptism, and Head-covering instructions in 1Cor 11 are New Testament instructions that any honest Pastor will continue to uphold**. However, most Pastors are yielding to social-pressure and not truly honest to Scripture and God.

The early followers of Christ regularly met for fellowship, **not only on Sabbaths**. Don't confuse this with worship which occurs daily inside a true Christian. Acts 2:44-46 shows that the believers fellowshiped **not only on Sabbaths**: “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So **continuing daily with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” 17:11“**These Jews were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica because they received the word with all readiness, and**

searched the Scriptures **daily to find out** whether what Silas and Paul told them were true.”

Sometime ago, someone asked me: “A question please, Sabbath: Saturday or Sunday?”

Response: Sabbath originates from the Hebrew Scripture; it means “Rest”. In the Hebrew Scripture where it originates from, it is Friday evening to Saturday evening because Elohim created space (the heavens), the earth, and all of life in six days, then rested on the Shabat (Friday evening to Saturday evening). It also signifies the rest/peace the Jews knew after Elohim-YAH delivered them from Egypt by the blood of the lamb (Passover). Ultimately, Shabat signifies the peace/rest found in the only Saviour for those who begin trusting in His Love and sacrifice for us which justifies us, cancels guilt and defeats the power of sin as one is cleansed and made a child of God afresh.

The God of the Jewish Scripture gave many symbolic things to the Jews. Those things speak of spiritual realities which God wants people to receive by trusting in Him. **A sign that points you to a place is not the place; it’s only a sign (a symbol) communicating about the real thing. The real thing isn’t physical.** The real Sabbath (peace with God) is experienced by trusting in His Love for you which made Him give Himself for you and to you.

In the Torah (the books of Moses) God instructed the Jews not to eat certain types of meat. However, Mark 7:14-23 says “When Jesus had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, ‘Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a person from outside which can defile him, but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a person. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!’ When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, ‘Are you without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a person from outside cannot defile him, because **it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, therefore purifying all foods?**’ And He said, ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles a person. Because from within, out of the heart of people, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a person.’”

Don’t be confused by symbols. Many so-called “Christian church” have been misled on this issue. Praise God for the New Testament, in it, all the symbols of the Old Testament are clarified.

A major part of Romans 14 deals with this issue (i.e., **Don’t rebuke or judge anyone on things God doesn’t require**). If someone has began trusting in Jesus as his/her Saviour (whether the person is Jew or Gentile) that person understands that God doesn’t require him/her to keep the Sabbath or any of the other symbolic laws God gave to the Jews. It is okay for a Christian (Jew or Gentile) who lives in a Jewish

community to keep those symbolic laws, but such a Christian knows that the symbolic laws are **not** Salvation but symbols which communicate spiritual realities. Such a person won't judge people based on the symbolic laws God gave to Israel. However, such a person will judge people based on things that God requires. When i say "judge" i mean bringing **informed** correction/rebuke from a caring heart. We must do this first and foremost **because we love God and His Truth**. 1John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments". **Evangelical Leaders have joined the world in making the second commandment to become the First. "Love one another" isn't the number one command. I hope you know what Yah'Shua said is the number one instruction.**

The following are examples of what God requires (**issues of the heart, Not the Symbolic Aspects of the Torah**): 1John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the desire of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does **the will of God** abides forever." In Deuteronomy 6:6-9 God says, "And **these words which I command you today** shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates [and your walls]."

"A-muse-ment" means "Not to think"; a true-teacher of the Mind of God will always discourage the sheep from such a worthless path. Psalm 1:1-2 "Blessed is the one whose ... **delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates [muses] day and night.**" A true Christian doesn't have time for "A-muse-ment".

Examples of what God requires; important things which true-Christians **judge on**: Ephesians 5:15-17 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Leviticus 19:15-18 "You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people, nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.** You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." James (Yakob) 5:19-20 "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

Back to the issue of not judging people over the Symbolic Aspects of the Torah. Acts 15:5-20 "Some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed [in Christ] rose up, saying, 'It is necessary to **Circumcise** Gentile Christians, and to command them to keep the law of Moses [including the Symbolic aspects, e.g., **Circumcision, Shabat,**

Kosher, etc.] ... Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us that, through me the Gentiles should hear the Good News and believe. So God, who knows **the heart**, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith**. Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus we shall be saved in the same manner as they.’ Then all the multitude kept silent and listened ... [then James said] Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that **we write to them to abstain from things polluted by IDOLS, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood ...**”

Superficially, Matthew 5:17-20 seems like a contradiction of the New Testament understanding that God no more requires anyone to keep the symbolic laws of the Torah. Matthew 5:17-20 isn't a contradiction. The Torah is really fulfilled in the lives of true-Christians, not merely symbolically but **in reality**. For example, the rest/peace a true Christian finds by resting in the finished work of the MeshiYAH is the real keeping of the Shabat. Also the rejecting of filthy talk and abstaining from immorality is the real keeping of Kosher (dietary/hygienic laws God gave to Moishe) but now kept even mentally and within, the whole being, sanctification of the real person within; more than the symbolic observations outwardly. This real keeping of the Torah rather than its symbolic laws is what Jesus taught: **“I say to you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven.”**

Some who claim to be Christian (e.g., Seventh-Day Adventists) say that those who gather for fellowship on Sunday are following the mark of the beast (the fake-Christ) instead of God. They say this is because when the Roman Emperor Constantine began claiming to be a Christian, he changed the day of Christian fellowship from the Sabbath to Sunday. Contrary to that, the New Testament (which was before Constantine) shows that the followers of Jesus were already meeting on Sundays (**first day of the week**). They also met on other days too, not only Saturday and Sunday. Constantine's decree (the Sunday Law) cannot affect true-Christians.

John 20:19 “Then, the same day at evening, being **the first day of the week** [Sunday, after the Sabbath], when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” Acts 20:7-11 “Now on **the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread (the Lord's Supper/communion), Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ... Now when he ... had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while even till dawn [Monday morning], he departed.” 1Corinthians 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the**

first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, so there won't be any collections when i come."

Messiah rose from the dead on a Sunday, before dawn. Matthew 28:1 "Now **after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn**, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb." Luke 24:1-3 "Now on **the first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did **not** find the body of the Lord Jesus."

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