

Righteousness - By Faith, Not By Self

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Acts 10:34-35 “Then Peter said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him”. In Matt 18:3, Jesus told His **disciples**: “unless you be converted and become as **little children**, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven”. Clearly sanctification was taken place in them before they came to truly understand Justification (the real power for sanctification). Also in Acts 10:1-8 and how God sent Peter to bring the full-message of God’s Love to Cornelius’ household (a devout household). 1Peter 1:13, “... rest your hope (assurance) fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”, those who are truly being sanctified by faith, will at the end be Justified again.

Jesus and His Apostles preached from the Tanakh (Old Testament). The New Testament that Jesus inaugurated and propagates is contained in the Tanakh (OT) although not as powerful as the New Testament He has established for us. Yom Kippur (atonement), the animal sacrifices in OT, the command to love neighbor as self but to first love God above all, are NT commands from the Torah (the Law), yet they transfer into NT. The commands against sexual immorality or **what is sexually immoral**, the commands that we should shun covetousness and be content in the Lord and rejoice in the Lord, are all from the Torah (the Law). God Himself is the Good News and He communicates this in the Torah. New Testament Book of Hebrews says: “indeed **the gospel** was preached to us **as well as to them** (in the Torah), but the message which they heard did not profit (the majority of) them, **not being mixed with faith in those who heard it**” (4:2)

That Christ is the end of the Law for **righteousness** (Romans 10:4) doesn’t mean that New Testament Scriptures such as Hebrews 10:16-17 “... I will put **My Laws** into their hearts ...” is heresy that can be ignored because God writes His Laws into us (His children) along with the power to keep His Laws/Instructions, otherwise how do we Love God without following His Path. In Matt 7:21-23, Jesus says He is going to say to **MANY** Pastors and Christians: “I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice **Lawlessness!**”.

The following is from the “Meditations” page of my website:

When NT says “we are not under law but under grace”, **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

The sense in which the word “Law” is used in the New Testament varies, it doesn’t always have the same sense, and any honest person would know by the reading, if their hearts are really into these things. I will come back to this later; also there are various aspects in this issue of the relationship between

the Torah and NT. 2Peter 3:15, “consider that the patience of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures”. Romans 3:31 “Do we then make void the law through faith [and Grace]? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law”. ...

Here are some examples that show that the word “Law” in NT has various sense/meaning: Romans 8:2-4, “For **the law** of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from **the law** of sin and death. For what **the law** could not do in that it was weak through SELF, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ...” ... Does this mean Christians can carry-on with **Lies and Idolatries** such as Christmas, etc? The DECREE which the Jewish Apostles wrote to the Gentiles in Acts 15 forbids us from **idolatries** which church leaders today are allowing in various ways. 1Cor 10 and other Scriptures repeats this decree. **The other point in that DECREE in Acts 15** is a rejection/correction of certain Jewish Christians who contrary to the Jewish Apostles were teaching that Gentiles had to keep the symbolic aspects of Torah but the Jewish Apostles said: NO. Romans 14-15, Gal 4 and other Scriptures repeats this side of the decree.

In the New Testament, the following are the various sense/meanings of the phrase “the law”, based on usage: “dynamics” (principle), another is SELF which is humanity's root problem synonymous with “SIN” a departure from our Maker into independence and the Deceit of Self-Resource as if we created ourselves or anything. Another sense in which the phrase “the Law” is used in NT is this: the ways of the Lord, His instructions which cannot be separated from His Person, His Character, the Living Word of God. It's important to understand the particular sense being communicated whenever you see the phrase “the law”. 1Cor 15:56, “The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.” Romans 7:11-14, “Because Sin, seizing an opportunity through the law, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore **the law is holy**, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the law might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual, but i am carnal, sold under sin.” The root of all manner of distortion, destruction and deformity: “SIN” is incredibly insidious beyond description, “the mystery of lawlessness” (2Thess 2:7, Jer 17:9-10) . Most so-called “Bible-believing” Pastors today are seizing an opportunity, taking advantage of Grace in a wrong way by biblical statements concerning imperfection of the Apostles (e.g., Romans 7:14 “but i am carnal, sold under sin”). These insidious Pastors blind their minds to the fact that the Apostles especially Paul were diligent in seeking God's Instructions on every issue and were not lackadaisical concerning allowing His instructions to prevail

in them and in their teaching on every single issue because they loved God although imperfectly compared to His Infinite Majesty. On the other hand, we must not allow SIN (the deceit of Self-Resource) to seize an opportunity through God's Perfection (the law) and make us feel that we must relate to God based on our performance (never adequate) instead of His Parental Love (unmerited favour) which is the real way our Maker truly gets all the glory. Isaiah 42:8 ...

There's a state of being required for someone to receive true Christian Salvation and to remain in the ark of Salvation. I'm trying to describe that required state of being. Yes, true Christian Salvation is **not** based on SELF-Responsibility or self-works but i'm trying to describe the required state of being for Salvation and for abiding in the ark of Salvation which never stops producing good works. Here are some of the characteristics of that state of being: **Acknowledgment of Need for God's Loving Sacrifice; Trembling At The Word of God (repentant spirit); Revere Him; Embrace Holiness; Painful Honesty.**

Some Evangelicals (e.g., *The Berean Call*) teach **unconditional security**, therefore they make statements such as the following concerning Evangelicals who are now following Catholic teaching of Salvation by **self-works**:

... on the one hand, we recognize all of this **False Teaching**, and what is it doing - if the Lord carries - what is it doing to the evangelical believers? Well, I don't believe you can take away your salvation, you know? Once saved, always saved. That's important and scriptural. However, Satan, and erroneous teachings and false doctrines, can undermine your fruitfulness in Christ. That's why Satan has a gameplan ... (Oct 2015)

This is December 2015, and *The Berean Call* still refuses to publicly repent of their statements/judgments that: Rick Warren **LOVES THE LORD** and is a Christian brother. TBC made those statements years ago while exposing what they considered **anti-Christ teachings of Rick Warren**. However, Jesus says: John 10:27-28 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and **THEY FOLLOW ME**. And I give them eternal life ..." . 1Tim 4:16 "Take heed to yourself and to the teaching. **Continue in them**, for in doing this, you will save both yourself and those who hear you". 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Unconditional Security is Heresy which many Evangelicals have preached to many who now have **False Assurance**.

God's Law (the Torah) shows us God's Character, His Spirit, His Name, and we are to surrender to His revealed character. No matter how good a human being is, no one can be received by Heaven based on self-works because such a person is still imperfect. A right attitude before God is really needed to be pleasing in God's sight. To be accepted by God, this state of being must be in us: Tremble At His Word (a repentant spirit); Revere Him; Trust In His Loving Sacrifice For Your Sins; Embrace Holiness. When the New Testament says we are not under Law but under Grace, is it saying we shouldn't surrender to God's Revelation of His Character? as many Evangelicals tag "Legalism" on anyone who dares to practically follow God. Here's the full quote which most Evangelicals partially quote: Romans 6:14 "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace".

The Expectation Is Higher On Those Who Know of Grace (Luke 12:47-49).

Nov-2013:

Most Calvary Chapel and Evangelical leaders refuse to understand the following: Although "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4), true Christians allow Christ to dwell within and fulfill God's moral law. **Romans 3:31 "Do we make void the law through faith [and Grace]? Certainly not! On the contrary we establish the law."** Matt 5:17-20 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ..." . Jesus said that, on Day of Judgment, He will say to many who claim to be Christian: "... depart from Me, you who practice **Lawlessness!**" (Matt 7:23). Luke 13:24-27 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ... Depart from Me, all you **workers of iniquity**"

James (Yakob) 2:20-23 "But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Yitzaak his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works, faith was made perfect. And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God."

In the New Testament, the phrase "the law" can mean SELF-Responsibility; also that phrase "the law" refers to the instructions God gave to the Jews through Moses (the Torah). Apart from the clear moral instructions, the law also contain many symbolic commandments (communicating spiritual truths). For example, the Torah forbids eating of certain meats, but in the New Testament: Mark 7:18-23, "Jesus said to His disciples, 'Are you without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever [physically] enters a person from outside cannot defile him [spiritually], because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods ... What comes out of a

person's heart is what defiles a person. Because, from the heart 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". Colossians 2:16-17 "So 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.**"

Commenting on the symbolic laws of the Torah, see Hebrews 9:9-12 which says: "It was symbolic for the present time ... concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances [**physicals**] imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption".

Among the early believers in Christ, there were some who thought that God still requires the followers of the Jewish Messiah to perform physical circumcision, keep the Shabat, keep Kosher, and other symbolic laws God gave through Moses, but the Holy Spirit corrected the early Christians through the Jewish apostles. For example, Galatians 5:2-5 says "... if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And i testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace. For we, through the Spirit, eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

Since the Saviour has come, God no more requires anyone to keep the symbolic laws of the Torah. Anyone (Jew or Gentile) who desires to keep them may do so **but make it clear that those things are not Salvation** but symbols communicating spiritual realities (Romans 14 to 15:13, Colossians 2:16-17).

1Tim 1:5-8 "The purpose of the Law is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. **But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully**"

Torah (the Law): Leviticus 19:17-18 "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 ... but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

New Testament: Romans 13:8-10 “Owe no one anything except to love one another because whoever loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Is God’s Law Sin? Romans 7:4-7 “My brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ... **What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary,** i would not have known sin except through the law. For i would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’”

God Reveals His Character To Us By His Instructions. By God’s Law We Know What’s In Accordance To Him, And What’s Sinful. The MeshiYah Himself Being The Word of God. A true Christian turns away from pleasure-mania, focuses on God’s instructions (especially the New Testament) and does good because of affection and deep-respect for the Saviour (the Lord Jesus) who made the person acceptable to God through His own sacrifice for us. No one is good enough for the Holy God. A true Christian lives as a Heavenly citizen feeding on **God’s Instructions**. Such a person continuously gives-up his authority over his life of following human desires. He doesn’t live for self doing whatever he/she feels like doing. Romans 3:31 “Do we then void the law through faith [and Grace]? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”

True Liberty Vs. Earthly Liberties:

Some of us have been taught that unlike the Law, the grace of the New Testament gives us liberties such as: listening to Hollywood’s music, watching the plays of the world, going to the beach to surf and have fun (even-though these American pastors know that the beaches are full of naked women). They have also told us that the New Testament liberties allow Christians to watch Hollywood’s Marian Catholic movie *The Passion of the Christ*, enjoy carnivals, shows, sports, etc., (all focusing on human glory and earthly glory). **These American pastors categorize many things under “Christian Liberty”,** including the Deceiver’s indoctrination that Pets/animals are not delicious meat to be eaten since **Pets are humans (an IDOLATROUS Thought contrary to God’s Truth)**. 1Corinthians 10:5-10 warns: “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become **IDOLATERS** as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat, drink, and **ROSE UP TO PLAY.**’ Nor should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in

one day twenty-three thousand fell, nor should we tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents, nor complain [against discipline] as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.”

Anytime i try to correct these falsifiers of Christian liberties, they usually call me a “legalist”. They often respond by saying: “Stop being legalistic, we are not under law, we are under grace”. A mis-quote of Romans 6:14 which actually says, “Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace”. Listen to the Master (Jesus) who Himself is the New Covenant: Matthew 7:22-23, “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name ...’ But I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Servant to the Lord Jesus and in-line with His Spirit, Romans 8:13-15 declares “If you live according to the human nature, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will have life. Because, as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”

Being under grace doesn’t excuse us from passionately pursuing after God and seeking to always please Him practically with our whole heart and life. True grace leads true-Christians in this direction: “... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). True grace of the New Testament empowers true-Christians to be separate from the world. It commands us **not** to go back to the world; it empowers true-Christians to be holy. Hebrews 2:1-3 “Therefore we must pay serious attention to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”

Being under grace and not under law results in more accountability, Jesus said: **much will be required from those to whom much has been given (Luke 12:47-49)**. The judgment that will fall on those who know Grace of New Testament is more than the judgment that will fall on those who don’t know about this grace. **The Expectation Is Higher On Those Who Know of Grace.**

By Faith, Not By Self:

No matter how clean we are, **clearly** we fall short of our Maker’s original design. **Clearly**, anyone who is a friend of the Creator, or who wants friendship with the Creator, seeks to always do what is pleasing to Him. Acts 10:34-35 “... God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him”. 2Cor 6:17-18 “Therefore ‘Come out from

among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.” 7:1 “Therefore having these **Promises** [of **GOD’S GREAT LOVE For Us Which We See At The Cross of Adoption**], beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filth of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Also it is clear that: if your performance is what you are depending on, then you cannot know peace with God because in God’s eyes, our best righteousness is filth. Dependence on God’s Love is the only way you can be at peace with Your Loving Creator. One of the evidence that a person is **not** under law but under Grace is this: **Overflowing Thankfulness For God’s Love**. “God is Love” (1John 4:16). Romans 4:2-8 “If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to a worker, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does **not** work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the person whom God declares righteous apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the one whose sin the LORD will not count against him.”

Isaiah 64:6 “We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Titus 3:4-5 “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us ...” Gal 2:21 “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.” 5:4-5 “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

In a proper understanding of God’s Law, **one of the things we learn is this: we are in need** of a Heavenly Advocate (a Saviour) and our Loving Creator communicates this in the **Animal Sacrifices for sins** in the Law. This Advocate does **not** argue that we are good. He agrees that every human-being is naked no matter how holy he/she maybe; those who belong to this Saviour confess the same truth. Our Advocate clears us by His **Loving Payment** in that He gave His Life for us, which adequately covers our nakedness. Gal 3:24, “Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith**”.

Titus 2:11-14 “The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people, teaching us to turn away from ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed

hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**”

The glory of what i am about to communicate might not be clearly seen by today’s people, however, in history and forever, it is very important: **the full acceptance into Yisrael’s blessing, of Gentile followers of the Jewish God** (Acts 11:1-18, Ephesians 3:1-12).

The Jews, God’s Chosen People:

Ezekiel 39:7 “... [After the great tribulation and Armageddon] Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.” That scripture and many like it are still in the future. They will take place at the end of human government. God will fight for the Jews when the nations of the earth are about to kill the Jews. The nations of the earth will be crushed by the God of the Hebrew Scripture. 39:7 “... Then the nations shall know that I am YAH, the Holy One in Israel.” John 4:21-22 “Jesus [Yah’Shua] said to her, ‘... You worship what you do **not** know; we know what we worship, for **salvation is of the Jews.**”

Through the Law (Torah), God separated the Jews from all humanity. He set them apart for some crucial reasons **for the benefit of all humanity**. Through the New Testament of the Jewish Nation (**Jeremiah 31:31-33**), God made it possible for Gentile believers in the Jewish Messiah to partake of **His blessings to Israel the blessed**. Eph 2:11-13 “Therefore remember that you [Gentiles] ... at that time you were without Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.” 2:17-20 “And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off [Gentiles] and to those who were near [Jews]. For through Messiah we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the [Hebrew] saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the [Jewish] apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone”

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