

SH'MA AMERICA

By Dr. Scott D. Oliver (October 1st, 2014)

The Way Messianic Congregation

“Hear (Sh'ma), O Israel (America), the Lord (Adonai) is our Elohim (God), the Lord (Adonai) is One. Blessed be His name, Whose glorious Kingdom is forever and ever.” (Deuteronomy 6: 4)

Sh'ma, O America, Elohim has a message for you today! Sh'ma, O Churches today, Elohim has a message for you today also!

It is very clear from recent polls that most people that fairly regularly attend a church or synagogue today, and even many who don't regularly attend, believe that there is a God. The problem arises when you ask them if they believe the Bible is really God's Words of instruction to mankind and womankind, and if they believe we should apply God's Words to our everyday lives. Yes, we believe that there is a God, but we really don't want to accept His “perfect Torah, Prophets, Writings (as Psalms) and the New Covenant writings” as being God's revelation to man or as the true voice of Elohim! Psalms 19:7 says, “ *¶ The Law (really it says Torah in original Hebrew) of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul. The Testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple.*” Messiah Himself taught directly from the Torah, Prophets and Writings while on earth almost 2000 years ago because He Himself recognized it to be the everlasting Word of His Father in Heaven, and by the way this was the only Scripture that He could refer to; remember, the New Covenant Scriptures were not written until some 50-60 years after Yeshua's (Jesus') resurrection. The Gospel writers account was just being played out and Paul had not yet established churches, so he did not write his letters to those churches until several years later.

Most of the churches today have allowed Secular Humanism to creep in and now it is in vogue to allow a church board or church council or general assembly to declare by majority vote that particular church group's stand or doctrine on what many times has already been established by God Himself in His divine Torah or law. And then we leave it up to our so called theologians for our particular religious group to

devise a so called Biblical interpretation to support our already decided vote. Then, we teach our new theological stand to young men and women in various aspects of ministry as a Biblical fact perpetuating the dogma decided by men, not by God. Man and woman's biggest fault today is that they don't listen (sh'ma) to Elohim (God); they do not study to see if what the leaders of their particular religious group are teaching is really what God wants them to hear (sh'ma). The average church goers are placing a great deal of faith, actually more than they place in Elohim Himself, in their particular group's leaders or ministers or priests. Salvation is the most precious gift that we will ever receive in our life time. Is it not worth the effort and time to check and see what the Scriptures really say on particular issues? Are we really receiving God's Divine truth from our pulpits today? God has given each of us a mind to use to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling". It is no one's responsibility but our own! We will be held responsible individually by our Creator for what we know and what we don't know about His Word and His will for our lives in this time and in this place!

For instance, when did you last hear from your local pulpit a sermon on Matthew 5:17-19. Messiah said, *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. (Most clergy will stop here, because they don't know how to explain the next verse.)¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law (Torah) until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."* Has heaven and earth passed away yet? Not unless we are living on an unreal earth or in a dream; I can touch earth and feel it; I am sure it's really still here! This passage does not fit well into the humanly devised dogma of most churches today. They have decided that the Torah's commandments, statutes, testimonies, precepts and judgments are not for today's church; they are for another time and another place. I don't think Messiah, from what He said in Matthew, believes this current church dogma; the question is, do you? Sh'ma O Church! Also, in this passage of scripture Messiah is establishing the fact that to achieve the highest level in His Kingdom, one must not only apply the Torah and the Prophets to their lives, but they must be very careful to teach it correctly to others, leaving not even the

smallest commandment out. All the commandments of the Torah are important in our God's eyes. He created us; He knows better than us what we need!

We see another companion scripture in Luke that gives us some additional information. Let's see what Yeshua says here: Luke 16:17.

¹⁶ The Law (Torah) and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law (Torah) to fail.

Again we see the emphasis on the fact that it would be "easier for heaven and earth to pass away" than for the Torah to pass away. Notice also the phrase "the gospel of the kingdom of God". It should be clear to the reader that the gospel and the Torah are both very important and must complement and support each other. What is the "gospel"? The gospel of the kingdom of God is the "good news" that the "Messiah", Who was for many years foreshadowed in the Torah and the Prophets, has come and was now standing before the people and saying these words we just read. Yeshua has come for the salvation of those who believe in Him and to establish God's Kingdom.

We then, in Matthew 23:1-3, again hear Yeshua supporting the Torah when He says, *"The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them."* It was their deeds or actions that Yeshua told them not to model; they were to listen to the reading of the Torah and do what it said to do. These religious leaders were not practicing Torah in their lives. Yeshua was, and still is, the Torah in the flesh! He articulated God's Torah from Mt. Sinai and called creation into being for God (John 1); now He has come in the flesh to show and teach Torah to Israel and all the nations of the world.

We then hear the Apostle Paul echoing the importance of Torah when he says in Romans 3:31, *³¹ Do we then nullify (GK. Katargeo can also mean abolish) the Torah (Law) through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish (Gk. Meaning is to endure or hold upright) the Torah (Law).* And Paul calls the Torah "spiritual", "holy", "righteous" and "good" in Romans 7:12-14.

¹² So then, the Law (Torah) is **holy**, and the commandment is **holy** and **righteous** and **good**.

¹³ Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by affecting my death through that which is good, so that **through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful**.

¹⁴ For we know that the Law (Torah) is **spiritual**, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

Romans 7:7. "Then what shall we say? Is the Torah sin? God forbid? But **I did not know sin except through the Torah**: for I would not have known coveting except the Torah was saying," You will not covet".

Note: It is the purpose of the Torah to give us God's definition of sin. Without Torah we do not know what constitutes sin and have no idea what we need redemption from. Also the sacrificial system was only for unintentional sins; there was no sacrifice for an intentional sin. If there would have been David would have not pleaded for Ha Shem's (God's) forgiveness and that Ha Shem's Spirit not leave him after committing an intentional sin. David would have gone into the Tabernacle and offered a sin offering. That is why in the New Covenant (Brit Ha Dashah) the Holy Spirit writes the Torah on our hearts. In the New Covenant there is forgiveness through Yeshua for both intentional and unintentional sins. This is what Paul is referring to when he talks about the "curse of the law" (Torah). Even though the Torah has a curse associated with it, it still is "perfect" in Paul's eyes.

The Apostle Paul also says:

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall (wall in Temple between Jews and Gentiles), ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained in* **ordinances** (Gk. dogma; opinions, not Torah laws), so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2: 14-16)

In Galatians 3:24-25 the Greek word used is pedagogue which in Greek means the one who brings one to the teacher, not the teacher himself. The Torah is the instruction of God that from Genesis has pointed to or in other words leads us to a Messiah, our perfect teacher. Paul is simply saying here that there is no need for one to lead us to Messiah, if Messiah has already come!

In Romans 7:22-23 Paul says, *"²² For I joyfully concur with the law (Torah) of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner-of the law of sin which is in my members."*

We as humans are in a constant battle between what we know God wants us to do (Torah instruction) and what our sinful human nature wants us to do ("a different law").

*James also supports the notion that the Torah is still in effect today in James 1:22-25. "²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his-natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the **perfect Torah** (law), the **Torah (law) of liberty**, and **abides by it**, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does."* Notice James says very clearly that the Torah or law is "perfect" and he even calls it the "Torah or law of liberty". If it is the Torah or law of **liberty**, why do so many church members and clergy see it as just a list of rules that God's grace supposedly did away with?

Romans 10:4 "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth"

This is often used to teach the annihilation of the law or Torah. Such an interpretation is contrary to Yeshua's words in Matthew 5:17-19, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law . . ." The Greek words translated "the end of the law," mean the goal of the Torah, not *the cessation of the commandments*.

A modern day parable that I feel might help at this point is the story of three high school aged boys who go out on a Friday night and they drink even though under age. They try to determine which one of them had consumed the least amount of alcohol and would possibly be the best candidate to drive all of them home. They make their choice and on the way home they get pulled over by the police. This is a city that has night court and they are immediately brought into the court with evidence in hand. To the young driver's surprise the judge that night was his own earthly father. Evidence was presented, guilt was evident and the sentence was pronounced; \$1000 fine or 3 months in jail. The young man pleaded with his father for mercy knowing that he did not have the \$1000 and as a result would have to spend time in jail, but the reality of the situation was, the father could not change the Law even for his own son. The father at this instant takes off his judge's robe, comes down off the platform and pulls out his check book and writes a check for \$1000. He then returns back to the platform, puts his robe back on and cracks his gavel and says, "pay your fine or go to jail". Notice, the father extended grace to his own son without changing the law; so did God when He sent His only Son to earth; Yeshua took off His Heavenly clothes and put on earthly human clothes so that God might extend His grace to forgive all of our sins (violations of God's Torah commandments). Notice, God also did not change His own Law (Torah) even for His only Son. Why do we think that we are more special than His only Son and that He would now do away with Torah for us and for our salvation? The extension of grace does not mean that God has abandoned His "perfect Law" (Psalms 19:7); God has completed His plan of salvation within the context of His Law. Something perfect like God's Law cannot be improved upon and never becomes obsolete. And by the way we will be judged by that same Torah law at the end of our lives on earth. "And the dragon was enraged over the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, the ones keeping the commandments of God, and having the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 12:17) and "here is the patience of the saints; here are the ones keeping the commands of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Rev. 14:12). In both of these verses those rewarded are those "keeping the commandments of God" and having the "faith of Yeshua (Jesus)". And finally in Revelation 22:14 we read: "Blessed are the ones doing His commands, that they will be given the right to use the Tree of Life, and to use the gates that they may enter into the city."

Some aspects of God's Torah we may not rationally understand, but we must follow God's instructions in Torah and all of His Words in faith. Yes, it is a test of how much we love God and how much faith we have in Him. So on this issue, as Paul would say, "what do you say now brethren?" Are we going to believe the words of Yeshua, Paul and James (other scriptures could also be cited) or are we going to go on believing the dogmas of men that contradict Yeshua, Paul and James? Are we satisfied with our own present doctrines concerning the vitality of the Torah or would we rather leave what we believe up to clergy and priests? The only problem is our eternal life could very well depend on it. 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 *"¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* Again, what "Scripture" is verse 16 referring to? What Scripture was written at this time? It's not the New Testament; it is the Torah, Prophets and Writings. An even harsher warning in when Yeshua says, "²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.*" ²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works?*" ²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* (Matt. 7:21-23). And in Daniel's prophecy we see a very troubling picture: Daniel 7:25 says, "*And he (the little horn of the beast) shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the appointed times (moed'im) and the law (Torah); and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.*" Whatever your interpretation of Daniel, it is certain that this is a future time occurrence. Satan loves to tempt us to change or even disregard the Torah instruction or Law of God. He also wants us to abandon the moed'im, God's feasts (ie. Passover, Sukkot and so on). That is exactly what he did with Adam and Eve in the garden; did God really say that you could not "eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil"? Satan seems to know God's Torah better than most of us. I feel Satan has been working overtime in a lot of theological seminaries in the past several hundred years. God speaking in the Torah, Prophets and Writings means exactly what He says. So why do we think God, when speaking through Yeshua, His Son, Paul and the other apostles, doesn't really mean what He in clear language is saying?

How do we deceive ourselves into thinking that manmade distorted doctrines are better than the eternal God's holy words?

Isaac was told by the Lord that He would honor the promise that He made to his father Abraham because Abraham had "obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My Torah." (Gen. 26:5) Interesting, the Torah was in oral form before it was written down.

It is so very interesting today how the church selects which Torah commandments they will accept and which ones they will not accept. The tithe is only found in the Torah and we accept that, but we reject the Sabbath commandment and several more. If the Torah has been replaced by grace, then that means all the Torah, not just part of it should be eliminated because of grace. Sh'ma O America! Sh'ma O Churches! Most churches today say they accept the Ten Commandments, but they really only accept 8 of them. They do not keep the 7th day Sabbath and they allow pagan gods to infiltrate their religious celebration of Yeshua's death, burial and resurrection. These events are, in most churches, celebrated on a pagan fertility goddess Eostra's (from Eastre, meaning spring) day, when we know from Scripture when these events occurred. The Bible tells us that Yeshua was placed on the cross on Passover, and three days later resurrected within the seven day feast of God's Appointed Time, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the day of the First Fruits of the barley harvest. So why do we adopt a pagan fertility goddess's day to celebrate something as holy as our Savior's supreme sacrifice for our sins? Human sacrifices of virgins were made in her honor every year on this date so she would perform the miracle of rabbits laying eggs, and then those eggs were dyed red with the virgins' blood. Think about that every time your church has an Easter egg hunt for your children and every time you meet to celebrate Yeshua's resurrection on "Easter Sunday". There are also several other pagan influences that we need to get out of the church of our Lord as well that we won't get into right now.

We are commanded many times in the Torah and the Prophets to honor and keep holy the Sabbath. Yeshua honored and observed the Sabbath and so did all the Apostles including Paul. So why aren't we? It is one of the Ten Commandments and this is the only commandment that God prefaces with the word "remember" in Exodus. Remember, a double

portion of manna was to be collected in the Wilderness the day before Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given on Mt. Sinai, because the Sabbath was created by God himself “in the beginning” (Gen. 1 and 2). Gentiles, as well as Jews, will be rewarded for honoring God’s very special day as we see in Isaiah 56:6-8.

*“Also the foreigners (gentiles) who join themselves to the LORD,
To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD,
To be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath
And holds fast My covenant;*

*⁷ Even those I will bring to My holy mountain
And make them joyful in My house of prayer.*

*Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;
For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”*

*⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares,
“Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.”*

Why did Paul in Colossians chapter 2 seem to allow for worship on any day of the week, but then always observe Sabbath worship himself and even preached to both Jews and Gentiles on the Sabbath multiple times? He even, and also the early church, observed all the Appointed Times of God (Moed'im; Festivals). If you look at to whom and why Paul writes this letter to the Colossians in chapter 2, you will find that there were many discrepancy about worship practices among various “sects of the Jews” because of pagan practices coming into their circles. In verse 8 Paul warns them about empty philosophies creeping into God intended purpose for His Kingdom. In verse 22 Paul caps this chapter by saying, “Don’t do anything based on manmade rules”. He never gives them a license to break God’s rules or commandments (Torah). For Paul to say such a thing would not have been consistent with all his other teachings. Also, remember, Paul is addressing some Gentile believers who their Jewish brothers in Messiah may feel should keep Sabbath in the Jewish traditional way of their sect and not just in resting and in the worship of God and Yeshua. This is not and cannot be used as a support of Paul’s giving up Sabbath worship, and or teaching those in the church to do so. This interpretation is not consistent with all of Paul’s other writings and

more importantly his actions and practices among the other congregations to whom he ministers.

Sh'ma O you Churches! Honor God's appointed day of worship, not a man appointed day of worship (by the Catholic Church in about 300AD). Nowhere in the Bible do we have a "thus saith the Lord" or even an example of Sunday worship. The Sabbath was observed by the majority of early congregations of The Way sect or Nazarene sect until about 325AD, when the organized, political, Roman church, administrated by Emperor Constantine, officially changed it and moved worship to Sunday (the Roman sun god's day). Initially there was much resistance from many congregations (the Bishop of Florence still worshiped on Sabbath, but Bishop of Rome changed to Sunday worship; hence, the phrase from the Bishop of Florence, "when in Rome do as the Romans do") until there was no choice; about 16 years later, at the Council of Laodicea, it was determined that you worship on Sunday or else you suffer the consequences, you are thrown out of fellowship with your church. (you can look this up in any encyclopedia.) Yeshua, the apostles, Paul and the early church in Acts frequented the Temple in Jerusalem for the 9am and 3pm prayer times and burnt offering times daily, and the synagogue on the Sabbath. Peter, the Apostles and Paul often used these worship times to teach about Messiah and His resurrection reflected in the Torah and Prophecy. The Temple remained a worship center for them until just before its destruction by Rome in 70AD (clearly seen in the Book of Acts). There is no scripture commanding a change in Sabbath worship; only a manmade edict in 337 AD by the pope of what later became the Roman Catholic Church. The phrase "first day of the week" is a mistranslation from the original Greek manuscripts to support this manmade idea to make it appear more Biblical. In each place in Scripture the phrase "first day of the week" appears (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19; Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor. 16:20), the Greek really says, "mia ton Sabbaton", literally "one of the Sabbaths". Most churches today still follow this manmade mandate rather than God's given Sabbath Law, even though it is one of the Ten Commandments. In

essence most churches break the Sabbath commandment once a week deliberately, when they do not honor the Sabbath as God's day of worship and rest. God is not going to bless a church, its leadership and its congregation, no matter how well intentioned they are, if they continue to willfully ignore His Sabbath, His commandments and His Torah. He did not bless Israel for their disobedience in the past; why should He bless us today for our disobedience. In Hebrews 4: 1 we read, *"Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it."* The phrase "His rest" is a Hebrew idiom for the Sabbath; the writer of Hebrews is warning us not "to have fallen short of it", or in other words, to not forget to observe it.

The story has been told about a Protestant and a Catholic theologian debating the pope's right to change Scripture to meet the needs of today's church. After several minutes of debate the Catholic theologian said, "If you don't think the pope has the right to change Scripture then why are you worshipping on Sunday? That was a papal decree and there is no Scripture to support it." This silenced the Protestant theologian. What could he say?

When the Apostle Paul was asked to defend himself before the governor, the Jewish leadership accused him of being an agitator and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. (Acts 24:5) To this Paul responds: *"But this I do admit to you: I worship the God of our fathers in accordance with the Way (which is called a sect). I continue to believe everything that accords with the Torah and everything written in the Prophets."* (Acts 24:14) The interesting thing in this passage of scripture is that Paul does not call himself a "Christian". Let me try to bring some clarity to this matter. The Hebrew word Yeshua is translated from Greek to English as Jesus. The original Hebrew word Yeshua means literally "salvation". This meaning is lost when we change the name from Yeshua to Jesus. It is always better if we want to preserve the original meaning to just use the original Hebrew name. The same thing is true with the Hebrew title Mashiach which is translated from Greek to English more closely to its intended meaning, Messiah, but some -times it is translated as Christ. So with this in mind let's look at Acts 11:26b "It was in Antioch the disciples

for the first time were called “Christians”. This can be more correctly translated “Messianic”. This gave their sect of Judaism a distinct characteristic over other sects of that day; they believed that Yeshua Ben (son of) Yoseph was the Messiah! Messianic was a characteristic of the sect, not really a name. “The Way” was a title or name. That is why Paul used it in his defense. Notice Paul also says he believes “everything according to the Torah and the Prophets”; not just eight out of the Ten Commandments and the part of the Torah concerning the tithe. “Everything” means in Greek and English “all”; absolutely every part of something. So in those places in Paul’s letters to the various congregations where he appears to be saying that the Torah or law is no longer valid when analyzed further, we will find, is either a, 1) translator’s bias to justify the position of most Protestant and Catholic churches today, or 2) involves our lack of really understanding Paul’s intended message to that church. Paul is not going to contradict himself and he is definitely not going to contradict Yeshua, the Son of the living God! In some of those sections of scripture you will notice several words in italics which mean they have been added by the translators supposedly to make the text clearer. Clearer to whom may I ask? Some of the best examples of both of these cases follow. Ephesians 2:14-16. *“¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall (wall in Temple between Jews and Gentiles), ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances (Gk. dogma; opinions, not Torah laws), so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”* And a clear example of word additions that throws a passage completely out of context by a translator(s) is found in the Mark 7:19 and in the Book of Hebrews. In Mark 7 we see an added phrase “thus he declared all foods ritually clean” that is not found in any of the original transcripts; it is a translator’s addition and it changes the tone of the verse, bending it in a very biased direction. Mark 7:18, 19 reads: *“¹⁸ And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?”* (***Thus He declared all foods clean.***) This passage is not about kosher law; it is about a man made law mandating the washing of your hands before you eat. That is what Yeshua is criticizing the Jewish leaders for: man

made rules that are additions to the Torah. If we as readers are unaware of the addition of the above phrase in red by the translator; it would seem that Yeshua is changing God's Torah, but of course this is not the case! Another similar situation is in Hebrews. Each of the red lettered words "covenant" in these scriptures have been added by the translator and are not in the original Greek manuscript. The context for Hebrews chapters 8 and 9 is about Yeshua as a High Priest, not any "covenant". Yeshua as High Priest is foreshadowed in the Mosaic Covenant and this part of this Covenant is fulfilled in Yeshua. If you substitute "High Priest" for "covenant", then the context is not altered. *Hebrews 8:7. "For if that first **covenant** had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second."* *Hebrews 8:13. "When He said, 'A new **covenant**,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."* *Hebrews 9:1. "Now even the first **covenant** had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary."*

Paul is saying that the personal opinions (dogma) on Torah law, not the Torah law itself, must be put aside so Messianic Jews and Gentiles can live together and worship together as "one new man" in the first passage of scripture above. Paul is all about Jew and Gentile living and working together in God's Kingdom under Torah and grace. Grace is needed when we cannot keep Torah; we can be forgiven through the blood of Yeshua. Also why would Paul support Torah in many places in his letters and then not support it in other portions of his letters. That makes no sense! Paul glorifies the Torah in Romans chapter 7 as "holy", "righteous", "good" and even "spiritual" as we saw above. If the Torah is "written on our hearts" in the New Covenant, then I guess most of the church today has nothing written on their hearts. For they see no value in the Torah or the deeper study of Torah, and they feel it is not necessary to apply it to their everyday lives.

In the second and third passage of scripture we have a great example of translator(s) bias. The word "**covenant**" in red above has been added three (3) times in the passage from Hebrews. Even though it is very clear what the context is, the translator(s) can adjust it to get it to say what they want it to say, changing Mark's and the Hebrew writer's intent dramatically. Yes, part of the passage deals with the Torah being written on our hearts, but the thrust of the passage is that a new High Priest has arrived on the scene, not on earth, but in Heaven. Notice, the Torah instructions for the earthly High Priest still stands.

When I see this type of addition to scriptures, I feel strongly that the reader has been cheated and misled; the truth is lost just so an incorrect theological position can be perpetuated. We know where the Apostles and Paul stand on the Torah of God, so we need to assume their belief in every instance in scripture. I feel this is what Yeshua is referring to in Matthew 5 (as seen above) concerning those that are “the least in the Kingdom” or maybe even the group that He says “I never knew you”. I personally have no empathy for supposedly knowledgeable people leading others astray when “the truth is not in them”. I feel they are justifying their personal dogma at another’s expense. I would not call them a “true scholar”, but rather a “true deceiver”! Wake up! Sh’ma O America! Wake up! Sh’ma O Church! Hear the Word of the Lord!

It is interesting to note how the early church determined that Paul was teaching the truth. “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” (Acts 17:11) What Scriptures did the Bereans examine? Remember, the New Testament had not been written yet; the Scriptures referred to here would be the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings (as Psalms and Proverbs). It is interesting that they checked the Torah, Prophets and Writings to make sure Paul’s doctrine was sound. It seems we need more followers of Messiah in the pews today checking on their minister’s and clergy’s sermon materials. We seem to accept any and all doctrine without question. One does not need to have a degree in theology or Bible to be able to read plain English or whatever your native language is. The last part of Matthew 5: 17-20 has a harsh warning attached to it for anyone, and that means just what it says, anyone, who dares to teach against the Torah of God. I would be very concerned if I was teaching that the Torah of God is no longer in effect for the church today! If we look at Acts 7 and the account of Stephen’s death, the false accusations of the “false witnesses” were that Stephen was speaking against the Holy Place (Temple), against the Torah and against the customs of Moses. Remember, these were “false witnesses”; they accused Stephen of false charges that Stephen in his defense says are not true. By saying the false charges are not true, Stephen is really saying the he was teaching about “the Holy Place (Temple), the Torah and the customs of Moses”. Interestingly enough, here is a follower of Messiah still teaching and learning Torah and seeing Messiah in Torah. It is sad, but many

church members and ministers would levy the same charges against those few of us that still accept the vitality of the Torah, Prophets and the Writings in the church today.

The extension of grace does not mean that God abandoned His “perfect Law” (Psalms 19:7); God has completed His plan of salvation within the context of His Law. Something perfect like God’s Law cannot be improved upon and never becomes obsolete. So on this issue, as Paul would say, “what do you say now breather?” Do we not even investigate the matter further? Are we satisfied with our own present doctrine about the Torah or is it that we really don’t want to spend the time to study the issue? The only problem is our eternal life could very well depend on it.

2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 “¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” Again, what “Scripture” is verse 16 referring to? It’s not the New Testament; it is the Torah, Prophets and Writings. An even harsher warning in when Yeshua says, “²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.” ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matt. 7:21-23).

Again in Daniel’s prophecy we see a very troubling picture: Daniel 7:25 says, “And he (the little horn of the beast) shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the appointed times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.” Whatever your interpretation of Daniel, it is certain that this is a future time occurrence. Satan loves to tempt us to change or even disregard the Torah instruction or Law of God. Satan seems to know God’s Torah better than most of us. I feel Satan has been working overtime in a lot of theological seminaries in the past several hundred years. God speaking in the Torah, Prophets and Writings means what He says; so why do we think God when speaking through Yeshua His Son, Paul and the other apostles does not really

mean what He in clear language says. How do we deceive ourselves into thinking that manmade distorted doctrines are better than the eternal God's holy words?

"Wake up! Sh'ma O America! Wake up! Sh'ma O Church! Hear the Word of the Lord!

Who was the "New Covenant" given to by God himself? Was it the "church"?

³¹ **"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My Torah within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer. 31:31-34)**

Even in Deuteronomy 30:6 it is written "And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your whole being, so you may live".

Note: It was "the house of Israel and the house of Judah". The Torah (law) will be located in a different place the New Covenant; it will be in their hearts. How then can we even access the New Covenant? Only by being "grafted into the olive tree of Israel" (Romans 11).

But has the full New Covenant been realized? The answer lies in the question: Do we still need a teacher? Ephesians 1: 13 and 14 we read: "In Whom (Messiah) also yourselves, because you heard the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, in which also as you believed, you were sealed by the

promised Holy Spirit, Who is a down payment of our inheritance, salvation, for a redemption of the purchased possession, in praise of His glory.” The Greek word for “down payment” in this text was also often used for an engagement gift before marriage. We only have a “down payment” of the Holy Spirit now, the full measure of the Holy Spirit is to come and then “we will no longer need a teacher”.

Yeshua (Jesus) Himself said to Samaritan woman:

²⁰ Samaritan woman: “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for **salvation is from the Jews**. ²³ But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming; when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.” (John 4: 20-26)

Note: Yeshua (the Hebrew for Jesus) means “salvation”. Yeshua is God’s ultimate salvation.

Always remember the best commentary for studying the New Testament (Brit Ha Dashah; Gospels, Letters and Revelation of John) is the Old Testament (Tanakh). It is in the Old Testament (Tanakh) that God defines (not man) all His basic terms and establishes His basic concepts and patterns that we need to use to extract a complete and a correct meaning from the New Testament. In Roman’s 2:26-29, Paul says, “²⁶ So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law (Torah), will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who

is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God”. This is a great example where Paul is challenging today’s basic assumption that the Torah Law is not in effect today. Notice, Paul clearly states here that our circumcision not made by hands or “not physical” is dependent on us keeping the Torah or law. If we do not keep the Torah, are our hearts truly circumcised? I feel that it is time for today’s church to stop creating God’s doctrines in their own human image, but to take a moment and listen to what God intends the image of His eternal doctrines to look like. In the end it will not matter at all what we think, but it will matter a whole lot what God thinks! Remember Matthew 5:19 “¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven”. The time has come, before Messiah returns, for a Messianic revival in God’s congregations back to what God intended His church to be at the time His Son Yeshua and His apostles established it! May the God of our Fathers through Yeshua His Son’s death, His Holy Spirit, His Holy Torah and His Holy Scriptures make us into a new creation to serve God until the fullness of His Kingdom comes! Amen.

”Wake up! Sh’ma O America! Wake up! Sh’ma O Church! Hear the Word of the Lord!