

YAIY



Beacon



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The mountains and the hills shall
break forth before you with singing,
and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands, Isa. 55:12

YAIY Beacon

Volume 6 Number 4



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Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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יְהוָה יִרְאֶה

Yahweh - Yir-eh

Yahweh Will Provide

It is certainly true that today's wordly economical situation is on a downswing. Not only do countries owe more than they have assets, but this is also true for people - bankruptcies and foreclosures testify to this fact. Because Yahweh does command that one is to attend His Feasts, He does provide a means of doing so. The means He does provide is called the Second Tithe.

Suppose you were representing a Powerful and Benevolent Dictator in a foreign country. You had volunteered for this position when you understood that you were specially selected because you had the required qualities of perseverance and dedication. You were busy carrying on with your life when one day you were given a letter urging very strongly that you do something special.

From now on your performance would include a new discipline as a way of life. The letter went on to explain that this change of behavior was for your own good and that you would eventually benefit beyond your wildest dreams. You wholeheartedly agreed that the benefits were unbelievable.

You knew that someday you would join others in the land of the Benevolent Dictator. There, many of the things you were now doing would be the standard of behavior for others you would be helping. Yet, somehow you felt these new demands were a little bit too much. It would mean tighter discipline in your life and perhaps even some sacrifice.

You had already made many changes to become a recognized representative of the Benevolent Dictator. And now He seemed to be asking even more. You begin to wonder whether His requests and demands will ever cease. The pressures continue to build.

The thought crosses your mind that your life is your own, and how you live it is nobody's business but your own. Who would know how you carried out the personal things of daily living anyway?

Directive from the Father

What if that letter were from Almighty Yahweh?

After you realized you were one of the few chosen to represent Him, you decided that His demands of you were becoming too great. Would you throw up your hands and walk away from it all, or would you review what He said and prayerfully reevaluate your situation to make sure you fully understood what He required of you?

Yahweh does place His expectations of you in the pages of the Bible—with direct and clear demands touching every facet of your life. He has placed evangelists, pastors, and teachers within the Body of Messiah to assist you to meet the requirements of His unchanging standards.

Those called into the Body of Messiah are to continue growing daily in grace and knowledge. Yahweh's Bible contains more than suggestions, platitudes, and positive thinking. He says Scripture includes His commandments, statutes, and judgments. These you are to follow and make a part of your very being so that you conform to the image of His Son.

When Your Love of Truth Cools

Tithing has been under attack by a host of people. Many feel a deep conviction to conform to biblical principles, but because of real or alleged misuse of tithes and offerings they simply do not want to hear anything about tithing. They question the concept and doctrine of tithing and have allowed their love of the truth to grow cold. They are neither hot nor cold, Revelation 3:16:

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Perhaps you have had serious misgivings about

how others handled money. Almost every person thinks no one can handle money as he can. We are often quick to scrutinize and sharply criticize those in positions of public trust in their handling of funds. Have you looked with jaundiced eye at the financial report of some group and at the same time overlooked your own shortcomings?

Can you unashamedly display your handling of the second tithe to anyone wishing to view your record? Have you used this opportunity to feast on the rich spiritual food during Yahweh's Feast Days? Or have you used the second tithe on your human pleasures and physical feasting?

When is the last time you carefully reviewed Deuteronomy 14:22-27 and 16:11-15?

Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before Yahweh thy Elohim, in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear Yahweh thy Elohim always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose to set His name there, when Yahweh thy Elohim hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose: and thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before Yahweh thy Elohim, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household, and the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,

Deut. 14:22-27.

And thou shalt rejoice before Yahweh thy Elohim, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maid-servant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which Yahweh thy Elohim hath chosen to place His name there. And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes. Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: and thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maid-servant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates. Seven days shalt

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keep a solemn feast unto Yahweh thy Elohim in the place which Yahweh shall choose: because Yahweh thy Elohim shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice, Deut. 16:11-15.

In these verses one reads that there is a close relationship between the responsibility of Yahweh's people to keep the Feast Days and the second tithe: "that you may learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always," Deuteronomy 14:23.

Many do not attend the Feasts with other brethren of Yahweh be-

cause they neglect to set aside the second tithe for this purpose. They claim to be living their life for the Benevolent Dictator, but maintain that how they handle the tithe is their own business and they will be responsible only to themselves.

Then there is the common argument, "I can love and serve Yahweh and His Son Yahshua without meeting with others. I am able to revere Him without following the Old Testament laws of tithing. I don't need to meet with people at a certain place during the Feasts of Unleavened Bread or Tabernacles. I can worship right in my home or in my own back yard."

On and on the arguments go to justify no commitments or sacrifice in attending Yahweh's Feasts with others of like faith.

Faith Shown by Works

A number of people think the Feast Days are no longer binding on the spiritual people of Yahweh. For example, fasting on the Day of Atonement is unnecessary, they reason. The Messiah died for us and was our Atonement. Therefore, we worship Him spiritually through a humble mind instead of an afflicted body. However, we read that Yahshua and the Apostles, including Paul, kept the Feast Days. The Day of Atonement was included (when the "fast was already past," Acts 27:9), as well as the weekly Sabbath (Acts 13:42, 44; 17:2; 18:4).

Yea, a man may say, you have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works ...But will you know, O vain man, that faith without [apart from] works is dead [barren]? (James 2:18,20)

A person cannot satisfactorily keep the Day of Atonement without fasting and still gain the spiritual benefits thereof. Neither can you keep the seventh-day Sabbath "in your heart or mind" without physi-

Yahweh tells us that all increase comes from the land: crops, wool, timber, oil, coal, metals, gas, concrete—everything

cally observing this weekly rest day.

You keep them by remembering that these are holy times Yahweh has given us.

By making His Sabbaths a part of your physical life, you also come to a higher spiritual comprehension of the truths they portray. This comes through your obedience and Yahweh's Spirit working through you.

The same applies to the second tithe. By faithfully keeping it, we are a living witness that we believe and follow Yahweh's way of life given us in His Word.

It is not that Yahweh needs anything from us. He is the owner of this entire earth, Psalm 24. But we have not yet achieved the measure of Yahweh's stature and character.

All of Yahweh's physical laws have a spiritual dimension. Obedience to them accomplishes a spiritual objective. In disregarding these physical laws we lose life's pathway of discipline for spiritual growth.

One can preach sermons and publish articles pointing out the sins of murder, adultery, stealing, lying, coveting, blaspheming and a host of other evils and hardly anyone blinks an eye. Somehow they feel these topics apply not to themselves but to someone else. However, as soon as the topic of tithing comes up, almost as with one voice they ask, "Why me? Why do you zero in on me and talk about money?" Tithing and money are sensitive issues with many. Perhaps this touchiness is the result of guilt.

Tithing is biblical. It is a principle and standard of worship. Through tithing we show that we place Yahweh foremost in our lives. We give to Him first, knowing He will shepherd and protect us along life's pathway. No one can give more than Yahweh.

Abraham, the father of the

faithful, tithed to Melchizedek, Genesis 14. Just what this Servant of the Most High did with the tithes received from Abraham we are not told, and apparently it is not our concern or Yahweh would have informed us.

The New Testament lesson found in Hebrews 7 shows the superiority of Yahshua as of the true Melchizedekian priesthood. We as the faithful ones are expected to tithe as did Abraham and all the ancient worthies.

The true representatives of Yahshua have the obligation to teach tithing to the Body of Messiah and they have the power to abstain from outside occupations and be supported by the brethren in their work in the ministry, 1 Corinthians 9:4-14. Paul did not use this power lest he offend the newly converted, verses 18-22. Other Apostles, however, did exercise this right, verses 4-6.

On the other hand, Paul did expect to be compensated materially for His spiritual labor,

For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that

treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward, 1 Timothy 5:18 (NIV). (See also Romans 15:27 and Galatians 6:6.)

Are Farmers Singled Out?

Ancient Israel and the early patriarchs lived in an agrarian economy. This is the simplest lifestyle known to us, and one easily understood even in today's sophisticated society. Some contend that because the Bible teaches tithing in the simplest terms—in relation to agriculture—that only farmers are required to tithe.

Why, then, are we given the example of Abraham early in the first book of the Bible (*And blessed be the most high Elohim, who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave Him tithes of all, Genesis 14:20*) who paid tithes on the spoils of war? His giving to Melchizedek is commended and given us as an example in Hebrews 7:4 (*Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.*) so that New Testament believers would be taught that tithing is for today as well. Hebrews tells us specifically that Abraham tithed; it does not refer to his giving as merely an offering.

Yahweh tells us that all increase comes from the land: crops, wool, timber, oil, coal, metals, gas, concrete—everything, Leviticus 27:30.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Yahweh's: it is holy unto Yahweh.

If tithing were limited only to agricultural products, then those engaged in fishing, trading, weaving or commerce would not be required to tithe. They would not be supporting the Levitical Priesthood because their income was neither directly from agricultural pro-



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duce nor herds.

If this be true, it would be especially difficult for certain of the tribes of Israel because there is also a second tithe to be set aside for the Feast Days. Thus, the people of Dan who dwelt in ships (Judges 5:17) would not be required to tithe and attend the Feasts. Jacob said that Zebulun would dwell by the sea and be a haven for ships, Genesis 49:13. Moses confirmed this prophecy, saying that Zebulun (and perhaps Issachar) would feast on the abundance of the seas and of the treasures hidden in the sand,

They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand, Deuteronomy 33:19 NIV.

If this distorted view of tithing supposedly being only for the farmer were true, then the tribes of Dan and Zebulun would not be worshipping with the rest of Israel—their income was not always from crops and herds. Those living on the sea-coasts, such as the tribe of Asher (Judges 5:17, Joshua 19:24-31) whose living was in making boats, nets, etc., would be left out, and those who took up jobs in the larger cities such as Tyre, Joshua 19:29, would have no part in the worship of Israel because many made their living aside from farming.

They would not be honoring Yahweh with their substance nor the firstfruits of their increase (Prov. 3:9). They would not be setting aside the second tithe for observing the Feasts, either.

These people would share no responsibility for the Levite, the widows, and orphans in the third year,

At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: and the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within

thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that Yahweh thy Elohim may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest, Deuteronomy 14:28-29.

Notice that Yahweh said He had given to Levi "all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance" for their service in the tent of meeting. That included monies from all the occupations of Israel, not just the farmers and herdsmen.

The Levites in turn were to tithe of the tithe given them, bringing these up to the house of Elohim into the treasure house,

And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our Elohim, to the chambers, into the treasure house, Nehemiah 10:38 (See also Numbers 18:26).

The Holy Days are evident from as far back as Genesis 1:14, where Yahweh made the sun and moon for signs and seasons (*moed*, Hebrew for appointed times). He had already made provision for the "*moed*" (appointed times) on the fourth day of creation.

These same seasons will operate in the new heavens and new earth, for we read there will continue to be 12 months each year. These months are a continual reminder of Yahweh's Feast Days in His redemption plan for mankind,

And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine, Ezekiel 47:12.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations, Revelation 22:2.

Deuteronomy 12 is quite detailed with the provisions for keeping the Feasts Yahweh gave His people. Beginning in verse 5, His people are to meet at the place Yahweh has chosen to put His Name for His dwelling. He chooses the place through His ministers and Elders. That is why Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua has put His Name first.

Tithes and offerings are to be brought. There, in the presence of Yahweh our Elohim, we and our families shall eat and shall rejoice because Yahweh has blessed us, verse 7, NIV.

The purpose and the reason for the second tithe is given in Deuteronomy 14:22-27. Note that a tenth is set aside each year. This tithe is to be eaten in the presence of Yah-

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Mini Study



**Never Let It Be Said,
You Have Robbed Yahweh!**
— The tithing principle for today —

A letter reached our office recently requesting some of our mini-studies. The solicitation ended with the words, "Send them if they are free." The implication was, if they are not free then don't send them.

Our ministudies explain the teachings of Yahweh. Among this person's requests was a study on proper baptism into Yahshua's Name — a priceless truth that is central to salvation itself. Rather than "free," this information is invaluable. It is precious. Yet the nature of the request revealed how little value was actually placed on it.

Obviously, publications, tapes, and even ministerial trips don't just happen without many sharing the burden of the expense. Nothing that is produced comes without cost. Someone must bear the expense of materials, labor, and distribution even when they are provided free of charge.

'Free' Truth?

The salvation that comes through Yahshua was purchased at the highest possible price — the very life of the Son of Yahweh. Even the Word of Yahweh has come to us at the highest of costs. Countless saints down through history have suffered torture and even death to pass on the truth given ultimately to us, including the Scriptures themselves. We have the Bible today because zealous, totally devoted people paid with their very lives to preserve it!

Some do not esteem the truth of the Word as highly as others, even though their very salvation hinges on it. In contrast, Yahshua spoke of a merchant who, in dealing in pearls, found a special one and sold all he had — including all other pearls — in order to

weh and we are to rejoice before Him and to buy whatever we desire in food, wine, or strong drink, verses 26-27. The tithe mentioned in Deuteronomy 12:5-8 and 14:22-27 is not the same as the tithe in Leviticus 27:30. These are two different tithes.

The second or "Festival Tithe" is for the believer and his household. It is to be consumed at the Feasts. The tithe is not to be consumed at home, "within your gates," Deuteronomy 12:18. Its purpose is so that you and your family and the Levite might rejoice and thank Yahweh for His goodness.

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Yahweh's: it is holy unto Yahweh, Leviticus 27:30.

This verse tells us that the first

tithe is holy to Yahweh. It is given to the Levitical (now Melchizedek) priesthood,

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation...But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto Yahweh, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance, Numbers 18:21, 24.

Note that this tithe was not to be used by the Israelite, but was given to the Levite for his service in the tent of meeting. The Israelite was not to buy food or drink with this first tithe and consume it himself. The Levite in turn was to give 10 percent of the tithe he received to the priests,

Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for Yahweh, even a tenth part of the tithe, Numbers 18:26.

The second tithe was not given to the Levites; it was not turned over to the priests. It was used by the offerer for the Festival. Through our obedience to Yahweh, we always will have the means and can afford to keep the annual Holy Days.

The second tithe is not optional. The command is there. We are to keep His Feasts so that we can rejoice before Him and forever stand in awe of His majesty and magnificent power.

Second Tithe for Feast

The second tithe is a discipline that we assume because of our love for our Heavenly Father and His Son. Through the second tithe we are assured that we will be able to attend the seven annual feast days. There we can enjoy the fellowship with the Body of Messiah

and are able to act out the plan of salvation as portrayed in His Feast Days.

Is it possible to keep the Feast Days at home and still enjoy the benefits of Yahweh's goodness? Did Yahweh intend festival celebration without convocation and fellowship with others of like faith, without hearing sermons and instruction by others who have been moved by the Holy Spirit to share the truth He has given them?

The Bible studies, singing, prayer instruction, and fellowship are all uplifting and a highlight of the rich spiritual experience that we have come to expect with joyful anticipation. This is what we seek as we keep the Feasts year by year.

Yahweh works through His human instruments. He has set in the Assembly those who have shown

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Mini - Study



Yahweh's Appointed Feast Days Now YOU Can Afford to Attend

The Bible reveals as far back as the days of creation that Almighty Yahweh established certain appointed times that were specially chosen by Him for His called-out people. These are unique times when He would meet with His True Worshipers:

"And Elohim 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" (Gen. 1:14). The word seasons is Strong's Hebrew No. 4150 mowed, and literally means "appointed times." It is a term used for the annual gatherings of Yahweh and His people:

A number of scholars understand that the first mowed took place in Genesis 4:3-7, where Abel correctly kept the Passover by offering a lamb, and Cain brought an offering more suitable for the Feast of Tabernacles, the work of His hands. Abel's offering was accepted, Cain's was not.

Tradition has it that Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees on Passover, and the Feast days can be traced through his journeys and stopping places in Genesis 12. Certainly the appearance of the three celestial beings in Genesis 18 took place in the spring as Abraham fed his guests unleavened cakes (v. 7, margin); and later Lot did likewise, Genesis 19:3. Likely this was also a special time of mowed.

It is apparent that Abraham kept all Yahweh's Sabbaths and Feast days: *"Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). The Feast days were again given to Israel after they came out of Egypt, when they agreed to the Covenant. These are*

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Mini - Study



Yahweh's Feasts

What should you do when you learn there are Biblical holy days that you should be observing now? How do you know when they should be kept and where do you keep them? These and other important questions are answered here. There are scriptural holy days that the True Worshiper is commanded to keep, rather than the paganistic ones most of the world indulges in today.

Thoughtful people who study their Bible in earnest soon raise the question, should not we also be observing the annual Feast days today in addition to the weekly Sabbath?

Are these days indeed still binding on Yahweh's people in today's modern ages? If we are to observe these times, where do we gather to keep them? What do we do at the Feasts? What time of the year are we to observe them? How long are they?

Abraham, Father of the Faithful

All who have entered into the New Covenant with Yahweh are to have the same attitude of faithful Abraham who did not flinch from doing Yahweh's will, for *"Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws,"* Genesis 26:5.

Abraham departed Ur of the Chaldees, the pagan moon-city, journeyed to Palestine and to Bethel, from there to Egypt and back to Bethel. (Some Bible scholars perceive his travels and stop-overs a foreshadowing of the

by willing obedience to His Word to have the qualifications to be prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers,

And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers, Ephesians 4:11.

These men are to help in perfecting the saints, for the work of the ministry and the edifying of the Body of Messiah,

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah, Ephesians 4:12.

Those ministering to the Body of Messiah are charged with finding a place for the congregation of believers to assemble to keep the Feast Days. When His people are gathered with His ministers, there is Yahshua in the midst of them. Those having His Spirit are sealed with His Name and the Father's Name in their foreheads,

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads, Revelation 14:1 NIV.

Thus, He has placed His Name at that gathering and is in the midst of them,

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them, Matthew 18:20.

Providing a place for keeping the Feasts is a responsibility and good use of the second tithe. A "tithe of the tithe" has often been asked for this purpose, which is based on Bible principles.

N e h e m i a h 10:32 tells of the returning captives who "made ordi-

nances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our Elohim." The people voluntarily gave a third of a shekel (although others routinely gave a half shekel, Exodus 30:13-14, 2 Chronicles 24:4-14) for upkeep.

Yahweh wants us to rejoice at His Feasts, to make them a memorable and joyful occasion. But we are not to rejoice alone:

You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days. . . and you shall rejoice in your Feast, you and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maid-servant, the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow that are within your gates, Deuteronomy 16:13-14.

We are not to forget the needy so they also may attend the Feast and rejoice with us. There is always the newcomer who is attending the Feast for the first time who may have to travel many miles to gather with us. At one time most of us were strangers to His Covenant and did not understand until someone else took it upon themselves to help reveal His great truths to us either in person or in written word.

Listen to Yahweh's Word,

For Yahweh Elohim is Elohim of Elohim. . . which regards not persons, nor takes reward. He does execute the judgment of the fa-

therless and widow, and loves the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love therefore the stranger: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt, Deuteronomy 10:17-19.

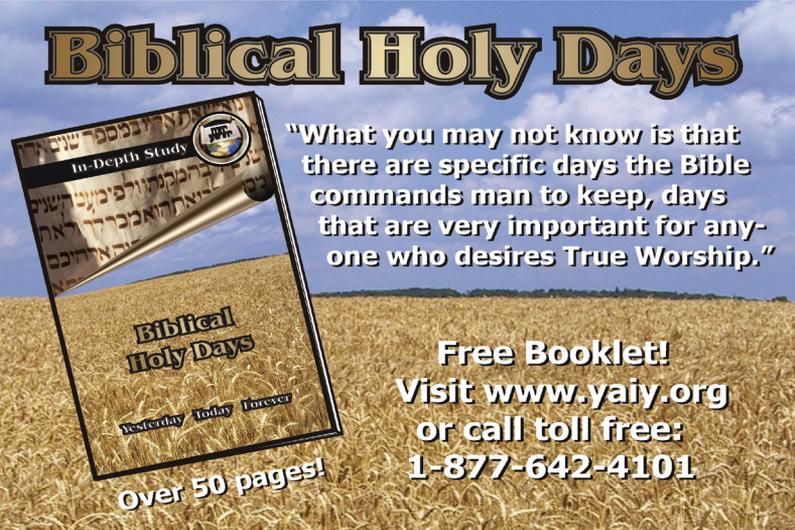
We should plan for saving excess second tithe and use it to help others in attending the Feasts. This is the true love Yahshua spoke of in providing for others without expecting anything in return,

Then said He also to him that bade Him, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just," Luke 14:12-14.

Veteran Feast-goers have developed a routine to prepare from one year to the next. It is a family time, and the family enjoys doing their part in preparing for this great "adventure," especially where there is overnight travel involved. Packing for the Feast takes planning and thought. If you have children, make this a learning experience.

Above all, save your second tithe for enjoying the Feast. It is Yahweh's plan for you to keep His holy times so that you will be better prepared to rule with His Son in the Kingdom. When you join others of like faith with songs of praise to Yahweh, it is a sweet-smelling savor to Him.

When you join others in prayer and petition, the Holy Spirit is there to strengthen and nurture your growth and understanding



Biblical Holy Days

"What you may not know is that there are specific days the Bible commands man to keep, days that are very important for anyone who desires True Worship."

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in the Messiah. Don't neglect assembling together with others of like faith, and so much more as you see the day of Yahshua approaching.

Three times (cycles, rhythms) in the year you shall keep a Feast unto Yahweh, Deuteronomy 16:16.

Three Tithes in Scripture

The First Tithe

The first tithe is holy to Yahweh:

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is Yahweh's: it is holy unto Yahweh. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto Yahweh. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed, Leviticus 27:30-33.

- The 10th of seed or fruit claimed by Yahweh is holy to Him.

- Offerer could retain same by adding one-fifth to its value.

- Every 10th calf and lamb of increase was set aside.

- This offering not to be redeemed or exchanged, but if done so, both were holy to Yahweh.

- The first tithe is holy to Yahweh and given to the Levites,

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, Numbers 18:21.

- No produce of land or increase of herd is exempt.

- Offerer had no voice in its disposal.

- While called a heave offering, none was returned to offerer.

- This tithe is not diminished, nor alms of offerer's choice, but a claim by Yahweh; withholding regarded as dishonesty,

Will a man rob El? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings, Malachi 3:8.

The Second Tithe

Second tithe, Deuteronomy 14:22-27, is at discretion of offerer:

Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before Yahweh thy Elohim, in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear Yahweh thy Elohim always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose to set His name there, when Yahweh thy Elohim hath blessed thee: then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose: and thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before Yahweh thy Elohim, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household, and the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

- Increase of the land.

- Eaten by offerer, his household, Levite; with firstlings of the flock, but only at the place of worship.

- That Israel might always fear Yahweh.

- Could be converted into money, to be used for feasting.

- Tither was to eat and rejoice before Yahweh.

- This tithe involved a stay of a week or so at three Feasts, Deuteronomy 16:5, 13, 16.

- They were to assemble in

worship, Deuteronomy 12:6-7.

The Third Tithe

Third tithe, Deuteronomy 14:28-29, at discretion of offerer:

At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: and the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that Yahweh thy Elohim may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

- The third is to be laid up at home.

- Shared by local Levite, stranger, fatherless, widow.

- That Yahweh might bless the work of the tithe-payer's hands.

- It is collected every three years, Deuteronomy 26:12-14,

When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; then thou shalt say before Yahweh thy Elohim, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all Thy commandments which Thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed Thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of Yahweh my Elohim, and have done according to all that Thou hast commanded me.

Elder Donald R. Mansager



Learning How To Walk

As a toddler one learns to physically walk in a short period of time. But, as an adult, to spiritually walk is indeed more difficult.

Are You Alive and Walking in a Steady and Orderly Fashion?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live, Deut. 30:19.

Here, Yahweh is being very blunt with us. He is giving us a choice between life and death. Yahweh is not only speaking to us in a spiritual sense, as most will interpret this verse, but also in a physical sense, because of what a human body is capable of doing when put into a set of harrowing experiences.

Physical Sense

Thanatophobia, or the fear of death, is reported to be a complicated phobia, where some fear being dead, while others fear the actual act of dying. Apparently, this type of experience is very real to many people.

This phobia will cause a person to experience a sense of danger and stress. When humans are faced with danger or stress, a biological trigger, the brain's hypothalamus gland, is activated to help us decide whether to stay and fight or to take a flight. This initiates a series of chemical releases and nerve cell responses that gets us ready for the impending scenario. Adrenaline is released into the blood stream, our heart rate increases, blood is pumped more quickly into our muscles and limbs. Our awareness, sight and impulses all intensify and quicken. Early man faced a lot of dangers, and the fight-or-flight response helped them evade or battle those dangers in order to survive. Today, it's what allows an ordinary Joe to rush into a burning build-

ing or a mother of three to lift a car off of one of her children -- a phenomenon known as hysterical strength. It also helps us out in non-life threatening situations like a boss screaming in your face or possibly fleeing -- or worse, getting involved in -- a bar-room brawl. This survival instinct is also apparent in an infant's cry. No one teaches babies to cry. It's an automatic response to let the parents know that they need something. The pitch and volume further indicates the severity of the cry.

It is certainly true that some people may not experience the survival instinct. They may feel overwhelmed by some circumstances and not feel a necessity to react.

As Deut. 30:19 tells us, we should "choose life so that you and your descendants may live." By choosing life, we shall be alive. But, there is more to being alive than having our blood flow through our veins.

Physical Walk

As a toddler, one learns to physically walk in a relatively short period of time. Periodically, a toddler will fall down, scrape their knees and elbows, maybe the chin and nose, shed a few tears, but will eventually get up and learn to take the lumps and bruises of life. Such happenings continue throughout one's life and for reasons other than physical. Everyone who is reading this article is physically alive and has learned to walk that physical walk. But there is another walk we must concentrate on -- a spiritual walk.

Spiritual Walk

Yes, there sure is another, more important walk we must concentrate on – a spiritual walk. As an adult, to spiritually walk is indeed more difficult to perform than a physical walk. As Matt. 7:14 says:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Yes, a few will find it.

The word *gate* is the translation of the Greek *πυλε*, *pule*, (poo'-lay), meaning a gate or a wing of a folding entrance.

Yahshua is our gate, our door, our way of entering into life everlasting, as John 10:7-9 reads:

Then said Yahshua unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

In Matt. 7:14, the word *strait* is the translation of the Greek *στενε*, *steneé* (sten-a'), meaning, from a base word, narrow because of obstacles. The way of seeking perfection is not easy. There will always be obstacles confronting us.

In Matt. 7:14, the word *way* is the translation of the Greek *ὁδός*, *hodós* (hod-os'), meaning a mode or means to accomplish something.

In John 14:6-7 we read:

Yahshua answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Hence, the proper way is through Yahshua (the gate or door and the way).

The word *narrow*, in Matt. 7:14, is the translation of the Greek *επι-λιμνε*, *ethlimné* (eth-lee-me'-na), meaning, from the base word, not only narrow but also to

afflict or suffer tribulation.

The four parts spoken of in Matt. 7:14 (strait, gate, narrow and way) can be used to refer to both the physical walk and the spiritual walk as follows:

1. Just as a toddler selects a place to walk towards, we do also, in our spiritual walk, a walk towards that gate.

2. Just as a toddler finds out there are many obstacles to get to where he is heading, we also find obstacles or tribulations in our spiritual walk.

3. Just as a toddler uses his walking technique to get to where he wants to go, we also have our own way of accomplishing our task of seeking everlasting life.

4. Just as a toddler will experience bumps and bruises in learning to walk, we also will experience such things as tribulations during our journey of walking a spiritual walk.

The Big Question

So the big question now is: "Are you alive and walking today in a steady and orderly fashion?"



The way may be straight and narrow but it is not free from tribulations.

The word "alive," and many similar forms as "was alive," "is alive," "to be alive," etc., is basically a translation of, or has as its root word, the Greek #2198 *ζαο*, *zao*, (dzah'-o); a primary verb; to live (literally or figuratively).

Here, literally alive means to be physically alive, which we all are, while figuratively alive points to be spiritually alive.

When one thinks of this saying it is really speaking of a desire to be spiritually alive. How does one know then if you are spiritually alive? And, how does one walk in a steady and orderly fashion?

A meaningful Scripture which also speaks on this is Matt. 5:48:

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

The first word "perfect" is translated from the Greek *τέλειοι*, *teleioi* (tele'-i-oi), having Strong's # 5046, *teleios* (tel'-i-os), meaning completeness, as its root word. The second word "perfect" is translated from the Greek *τέλειος*, *teleios* (tel'-i-os), Strong's #5046, meaning completeness.

Two different Greek words, with same root word, imply the two words are pointing to different entities. The second reference is pointing to Yahweh, Who is perfect; the first one pointing to mankind, which we know is not perfect. This is why the verse begins with "be ye therefore perfect..." The word "be," in Matt. 5:48, is the translation of the Greek *εσομαι*, Strong's # 2071, *esomai* (es'-om-ahee), meaning "will be."

Thus, it is speaking of a future time when we will be perfected. But now, one is not and must seek perfection.

Hence, knowing that we can never be perfect in our present body, Matthew is telling us since we are in training to become first-fruits and will be made perfect in a spiritual body at the first resurrection, we are to do, now, what is

necessary to learn and to do what we must in order to obtain that goal of everlasting life.

In Eccl. 7:20 NIV we read:

There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

We will not obtain perfection in our physical body.

Paul tells us in Rom. 3:23 NIV:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Yahweh.

When the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in the very act of committing adultery before Yahshua and asked Him what should be done, He simply told them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her," John 8:7. Yes, we are, indeed, not without sin. Eph. 2:1 says that we are "dead in trespasses and sins." With this being true, we must seek a way out of being "dead."

Who is the father of those who continue in sin? In answering this question, Yahshua's answer to the Jews was:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin, John 8:34.

Who does one really serve by being a servant of sin? Yahshua gave the Jews His answer to this question, quite succinctly, in John 8:41:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Yes, indeed, we are sinful and unclean. That is the nature of mankind. As we have read in Deut. 30:19, we are to choose to strive toward perfection by desiring to follow Yahweh.

Follow Yahshua

Have you ever gone to a

busy restaurant and placed your name on a seating queue. When your name was called and you identified yourself, the person simply said, "Follow me." And you dutifully followed. This is the same as Yahshua told the disciples when they were instructed to follow Him, as Matt. 4:18-19 tells us:

And Yahshua, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And He saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Yahshua paid the price and because of this, what are we told to do? We find the answer in 1 Pet. 2:21:

For even hereunto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps, 1 Peter 2:21.

We are to follow His steps. What are we promised, if we follow Yahshua?

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand, John 10:27-28.

Here, Yahshua tells us that if we do follow Him, we will receive eternal (everlasting) life. Now, what does it really mean to follow Yah-

shua? Must we follow Him every minute of every day? This, we all know, is not possible. Yahshua is the only One who is sin-free.

John 12:26 gives us the answer:

If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Mathematically, the first phrase, "If any man serve Me, let him follow Me," is equivalent to, "If any one does not follow Me then he does not serve Me." To follow Yahshua, we must imitate Him; we must serve Him; we must receive Yahshua; we must be a servant of Yahshua and of Yahweh.

Serve Yahshua

We are to be a servant of Yahweh and His Son, Yahshua. We are well aware of the inheritance promised those who are His People and that He will use the same standards in His judgment.

Remember that as your reward, you will receive the inheritance from the Master. You are slaving for the Master, for the Messiah. Don't worry — whoever is doing wrong will be paid in kind for his wrong, and there is no favoritism shown, Col 3:24-25 CJB.

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Messiah, hath not Yahweh. He that abideth in the doctrine of Messiah, he hath both the Father and the Son, 2 John 9.

Must Receive Messiah

When we are immersed into the name of Yahshua, and had the hands of the elders laid on us, we were given an earnest of the Holy Spirit to help us in the path we are to follow:

Then Peter said unto them,



The path to the gate most likely will be full of obstacles causing hardships and pain

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahshua Messiah for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38.

Acts 2:38 helps us to understand what it means to “receive Yahshua.”

This being true, we are to allow the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to lead us so that we can be called one of Yahweh’s.

Rom. 8:14 tells us what will happen if we allow Yahweh’s Spirit to lead us:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh.

To become a child of Yahweh, John 1:12 says,

But as any as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of Yahweh, even to them that believe on His name.

Here, to receive Him means to believe on Him, as is expressed at the end of the verse: “even to them that believe on His name.”

Generally, the great masses of people, including the scribes and Pharisees, rejected Him. A few in His lifetime received Him, and many more after His death. To receive Him, here, means to believe on Him, as is expressed at the end of the verse: “even to them that believe on His name.”

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Yahweh, John 1:13.

John 1:12-13 gives us the marvelous promise of Yahweh that anyone who receives the Messiah, “believes on His name,” “accepts Him,” will be begotten again, and enter the family of Elohim!

Once we receive Him, accept Him, what is the next step?

Time to Walk in Yahshua

As ye have therefore received Messiah Yahshua our Master, so walk ye in Him, Col 2:6.

The phrase “ye have received”

comes from the Greek παρελάβετε, *parelábete*, Strong’s #3880, which indicates having an intimate relationship with a person.

In answering the question posed by a lawyer to which is the greatest commandment in the law, Yahshua answered in Matt. 22:37:

Yahshua said unto him, Thou shalt love Yahweh thy Elohim with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

The word *love* comes from the Greek ἀγαπάω, *agapao* (*ag-ah’-o*), Strong’s #25, meaning unconditional affection.

In this verse, the type of love Yahshua says He loves us (*agapao*) is the same type of love we are to show towards others. By knowing that we do love (*agapao*) Yahshua, then we are to show this love by keeping the commandments,

If ye love Me, keep My commandments, John 14:15.

From this verb comes the corresponding noun, ἀγάπη, *agape* (*ag-ah’-pay*), Strong’s #26.

In John 13:34-35, Yahshua says,

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also

love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

What must be our responsibility when we want to walk with Yahshua?

Then spake Yahshua again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, John 8:12.

So, what does Yahshua mean when He says “to follow Him”? This He said to many people. (See Matt. 4:19, Matt. 8:22, Matt. 9:9, Mark 2:14, John 1:43, etc.)

Then said Yahshua unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his torture stake, and follow Me, Matt. 16:24.

It seems to say the same thing twice: “come after Me,” and “follow Me.” “Follow” is the translation of the Greek ἀκολουθεῖν, *akoloutheo* (*ak-ol-oo-theh’-o*), Strong’s #190, meaning to accompany. “Come” is the translation of the Greek ἔρχεσθαι, *erchomai* (*er’-khom-ah-ee*), Strong’s #2064, also meaning to accompany. “After” is the translation of the Greek ὀπίσω, *opiso* (*op-is’-o*), Strong’s #3664, meaning enclitic of direction with the preceding word. An enclitic is a grammatical unit which is connected to another word which it usually follows. Together, “come after” can be viewed as meaning the connections that the persons have are going in the same direction. Hence, by following Yahshua, our intentions, our goals, must be in agreement with Him.

To accomplish what Matt. 16:24 says, what does it mean “to deny himself”? “To deny himself” comes from the Greek ἀπαρνησάσθω, *aparnesásthoo*, Strong’s #533, meaning to disown or to abstain. Barnes’ Notes says, “[Let him, deny himself] That is, let him surrender to Yahweh his will, his affections, his body, and his soul. Let



The clock is ticking,
The time is now,
Change your heart,
And follow the plow.
The King is coming,
To set the pace,
For those who wish,
To win the race.

him not seek his own happiness as the supreme object, but be willing to renounce all, and lay down his life also, if required. Yahshua was able to do this, but this is truly a tall order for anyone else to accomplish.”

When Yahshua says: “To deny oneself,” He is presenting His disciples with a choice to make concerning two approaches to life. Each approach shows toward whom we align ourselves. Two things should come to mind in each approach when you walk with someone:

- 1) be in agreement with, and
- 2) activity towards.

One approach involves:

- 1) live for yourself,
- 2) ignore the torture stake,
- 3) follow the world,
- 4) save your life for your own sake,
- 5) gain the world,
- 6) lose your soul, and
- 7) lose His reward and glory.

These seven actions point to those who seek physical and earthly treasures.

The other approach involves:

- 1) deny yourself,
- 2) take up your torture stake,
- 3) follow Messiah,
- 4) lose your life for His sake,
- 5) forsake the world,
- 6) keep your soul, and
- 7) share His reward and glory.

These seven actions point to those who seek spiritual and heavenly treasures.

Let your answer to what Deut. 30:19 suggests (*I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*) be a resounding YES to each of the following:

1. Do you desire heavenly treasures?
- 2) Do you desire to follow Yahshua?
- 3) Do you desire to walk with Yahshua?

Three Action Words

Walk Worthy of Yahweh

Speaking to the people of Thessalonica, Paul advised them:

That ye would walk worthy of Yahweh, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory, 1 Thess. 2:12.

On the phrase: “That ye would walk worthy of Yahweh,” Barnes’ Notes says, “That you would live in such a manner as would honor [Yahweh] who has chosen you to be His friends; notes, Eph. 4:1. A child ‘walks worthy of a parent’ when he lives in such way as to reflect honor on that parent for the method in which he has trained him; when he so lives as to bring no disgrace on him, so as not to pain his heart by misconduct, or so as to give no occasion to any to speak reproachfully of him. This he does, when:

1. He keeps all his commands;
2. He leads a life of purity and virtue;
3. He carries out the principles of the family into his own life;
4. He honors a father by evincing a profound respect for his opinions; and
5. He endeavors to provide for his comfort and to promote his well-



Are you alive and walking with Yahshua in a steady and orderly fashion?

fare. In a manner similar to this, a true [Believer] honors [Yahweh]. He lives so as not to bring a reproach upon Him or His cause, and so as to teach the world to honor Him Who has bestowed such grace upon Him.”

Just as a child “walks worthy of a parent,”

1. We should live in such a way to reflect honor on Yahweh,
2. We should live in such a way to bring no disgrace on Yahweh,
3. We should live in such a way so as not to show any misconduct, and
4. We should live in such a way so as to give no occasion to speak reproachfully of Yahweh.

Walking Honestly

In 1 Thess. 4:12, Paul also says:

That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

“Honestly” is the translation of the Greek εὐσχημόνως, euschēmónoos (yoo-skhay-mon’-ose), Strong’s #2156, meaning decorously (conformed to proper and dignified manners and behavior). Barnes’ Notes adds the following concerning the phrase, “walk honestly”:

“It does not refer here to mere honesty in the transaction of business, but to their general treatment of those who were not professing [believers]. They were to conduct themselves toward them in all respects in a becoming manner—to be honest with them; to be faithful to their engagements; to be kind and courteous in their conversation; to show respect where it was due, and to endeavor in every way to do them good. There are few precepts of religion more important than those which enjoin upon [believers] the duty of a proper treatment of those who are not connected with the [assembly].”

<see **Walking** page 21>

Is Salvation by Faith, by Works, or by Both?

During the interval between the first and second salvations we are commanded to "work out" our spiritual (second) salvation with fear and trembling, Philipians 2:12:

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

If Yahweh is with us, what should we fear?

We need to fear the temptation to turn back to the ways of the world and become enslaved again by the spirit of disobedience. Why should we be fearful and tremble about falling? Ephesians 6:12 tells us why:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Without the spiritual strengthening of Yahweh's indwelling Holy Spirit, the individual is helpless against these forces. But Yahweh will not do the resisting for us. He will only show us the way to avoid sinning and strengthen us to endure the trials and tribulations the evil forces will bring upon us for resisting them.

Each believer must personally will to resist evil and make a determined effort to live by Yahweh's commands or Yahweh will withdraw His Spirit and leave a vacant temple for evil spirits to return to. This is the reason Paul was warning the Galatians about the danger of becoming enslaved by the spirit of disobedience.

Working Out Your Salvation

Apparently, these first-century Galatians didn't understand any better than most people do today that we are living in the interim period between the first and second salvation. And that, even though we are in the New Covenant, the promise of eternal life is not unconditional. We must not only believe and have faith but we must obey also.

Can "work out your salvation" mean anything else when demanded of a baptized believer? Doubtless,

these Galatians had been taught, just as we have, that Scripture says the righteous shall live by faith and that if we confess our sins, Yahshua will forgive our sins,

It is evident that no man is justified by the law in the sight of Yahweh, for the just shall live by faith.

On the basis of this Scripture and the fact that the Bible also says, "The flesh is weak," Matt. 26:41 and Mark 14:38, man's doctrines teach that a baptized believer doesn't need to fear sinning because Yahshua will forgive our sins—all sins.

The Holy Word indicates that a person who doesn't believe that Yahshua is the Messiah, or that He will raise us in the resurrection, is not likely to submit to baptism in Yahshua's Name. Even if a person submits to baptism, but does not have real faith, meaning a firm conviction of a coming resurrection and the assurance of the promise of eternal life, the person is not likely to exercise the willpower to obey. He won't remain under Yahweh's grace to receive the spiritual strength to resist temptations and endure trials and tribulations to the end.

It is sad that so many people who think of themselves as "born again" remain spiritually blind to the fact that, even after receiving the first salvation, they must continue to work—strive, do good works, all mounting to obedience to Yahweh's law—in order to receive the second salvation.

Because of a mistranslation of 1 John 3:9 (*Whosoever is born of Yahweh doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of Yahweh.*), they are taught that they don't sin because they can't sin. A bit of word study shows that the Scripture is not saying we can't sin; it is telling us "we don't sin because we do not continue in sin."

As one reads in Romans 6:1, Paul asked baptized believers,

What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

There should be no question that many Scriptures plainly indicate that a baptized believer can sin.

If the Spirit can be put in us, it can also be with-

drawn from us. What else can Yahshua mean by,

Remain in Me and I will remain in you, John 15:4?

Yahshua and Yahweh are one, John 10:30. They are one in the Spirit as the brethren are one in the Body. If the Spirit isn't in us we are not His,

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of His, Romans 8:9.

The idea that once a person comes under Yahweh's grace that He will never withdraw His Spirit from the person is a false doctrine Satan wants the believer to believe. The only way Satan can get his evil spirit back into that fleshly temple is by deceiving the believer into quenching Yahweh's Spirit and deliberately continuing in sin to gratify a sinful nature.

Living according to our sinful nature is death,

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live, Romans 8:13.

Satan wants the baptized believer to believe that this warning applies only to nonbaptized worldly people.

Even in the NIV the Greek word *gennao* (Strong's No. 1080) is mistranslated "born." This is another factor leading to misunderstanding (1 John 3:9). *Gennao* is the Greek word used in the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament for the Hebrew word *yalad* (Strong's No. 3205). *Yalad* means "to beget." *Gennao* means "to procreate" and figuratively "to regenerate."

John is telling us that once we are begotten by Yahweh's Spirit we will not continue to transgress His law. A person with Yahweh's Spirit dwelling within can be thought of as a spiritual embryo. Before birth, a physical embryo has no choice in a decision to abort the fetus, but a spiritual "embryo" can choose to

live or die before being born into eternal life.

Remaining Faithful Is Crucial

Many Scriptures tell us Yahweh will not cast off and destroy people who accept His Messiah's sacrifice for sins IF they abide in the Messiah and endure to the end. But, many Scriptures also warn us that Yahweh WILL cast off and destroy even converts to Yahshua who do not remain on the vine (Yahshua) and bring forth fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

During the flood Yahweh destroyed the entire human race except for righteous Noah and his family because of the people's wickedness and disobedience,

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with Yahweh. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before Yahweh, and the earth was filled with violence. And Yahweh looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth. And Yahweh said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth, Genesis 6:9-13.

Noah and his family were saved (rescued) because of their faith and obedience,

By faith Noah, being warned of Yahweh of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith, Hebrews 11:7.

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the unrighteous, 2 Peter 2:5.

Israel was delivered from bond-

age to Egypt (first salvation) only because they were the offspring of righteous Abraham with whom Yahweh had made a covenant (agreement).

Then, not long after the deliverance, Yahweh told Moses He was going to destroy the Israelites because of their disobedience and lack of faith. Yahweh spared them immediate annihilation only because righteous Moses pleaded for mercy upon them, Numbers 14:11-23.

Yahweh could have destroyed that generation of Israelites and raised up another nation through Moses' offspring without breaking His covenant with Abraham because Moses was a descendant of Abraham.

Yahweh didn't destroy them, but neither did He allow them to enter the Promised Land. Israel had failed to remain obedient as promised.

Moses was a mediator of a covenant with Yahweh and was a type of Yahshua the Messiah, Who is the mediator of a New Covenant with Yahweh,

And to Yahshua the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel, Hebrews 12:24.

We are told that the things that happened to the Israelites because of their idolatry and disobedience happened as examples to warn us of the consequences of idolatry and disobedience.

What should New Covenant Israelites understand from the examples?

Moses pleaded for mercy upon the Israelites and Yahweh did not destroy them in a sudden, total annihilation. BUT NEITHER DID HE ALLOW THEM TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND!

Yahshua continually intercedes with Yahweh to be merciful, as our idolatry and disobedience is because of ignorance and misunder-

standing resulting from being deceived by Satan's false prophets. Yahweh heeds Yahshua's pleading and allows us to live in spite of our sins.

It is a fatal mistake knowingly to continue in lawlessness because we believe Yahweh will allow us to enter His kingdom as a result of Yahshua's intercession on our behalf.

Take heed to the following three Scriptures:

And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering. And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before Yahweh, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him. Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them. But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth Yahweh; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of Yahweh, and hath broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him, Numbers 15:27-31.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries, Hebrews 10:26-27.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see Yahweh: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of Yahweh; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when

he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears, Hebrews 12:14-17.

If these Scriptures are not ignored, they will open the eyes of a lover of Yahweh's Truth to this danger impeding a future spiritual salvation.

Without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh,

But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to Yahweh must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, Hebrews 11:6.

Yahweh gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him,

And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom Yahweh hath given to them that obey Him, Acts 5:32.

Believe and obey with faith! There is no other way to receive the promised inheritance (eternal life in the Kingdom), even in the New Covenant.

The promise, in the New Covenant, is NOT UNCONDITIONAL any more than it was in the First Covenant mediated by Moses. Yahweh cast off the northern 10 tribes of Israel because of their idolatry and cut off the Jews because of their faithless, hypocritical obedience. Are not these also examples of Yahweh's displeasure with even His own people now who persist in Baal worship or a faithless, hypocritical obedience and vain worship of Him?

This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me, Matthew 15:8.

Is a Lawkeeper a Legalist?

Many so-called "born again" Christians agree that Yahweh requires obedience of His people. Even with these people, however, there are questions about what

should be obeyed.

What are good works? Some don't believe obedience to even the moral law is required. They teach that all that Yahweh requires is that a baptized believer confess guilt and the sin will be forgiven.

Others who believe that obedience to the moral law is required do not believe that "good works" means obedience to all Old Covenant law that was not changed with the change in the priesthood,

For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law, Hebrews 7:12.

In their minds, a preacher who teaches more than obedience to moral law is a legalist, such as the apostles had to contend with.

They are convinced that the law of love, expounded by Yahshua and the apostles, is an entirely different law than Old Covenant law. To them the change in the law was the replacement of a law of sin and death with a law of love and grace and not merely an elimination of no longer necessary sacrificial ritual laws and priestly laws with a re-focusing upon the spirit of the law rather than the letter.

In his commentary, *Paul's Epistle to the Galatians*, Dr. Charles Erdman says Paul's epistles establish an essential Christian truth: "Justification by faith alone." He also says that this faith must be so real as to involve complete submission to the perfect law of love.

To Erdman, does submission mean obedience? If not, what does it mean? It can be proved in Scripture that the "law of love" in the New Covenant is the same good, spiritual, Old Testament law by which Paul was trained:

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin... If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good, Romans 7:14, 16.

I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia,

yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward Yahweh, as ye all are this day, Acts 22:3.

Man's doctrine of "faith alone" was first proclaimed by Martin Luther and can be proved false. The doctrine may be essential to most Christians, but it is contrary to Bible truth. The statement that faith must be so real it involves complete submission (obedience) is a contradiction of the idea of "faith alone." Man's doctrines not only contradict Scriptures, but also man contradicts himself in his teachings of them.

The truth of this will be revealed to anyone in complete submission to the influence of Yahweh's Spirit (grace) who will study to sift the wheat from the chaff in man's teachings and test everything against the Word of truth—the Bible.

The doctrine "faith alone" ignores James 2:24,

You see a person is justified by what he does and NOT BY FAITH ALONE. (emphasis added).

Obvious contradictions like this are not shown and false beliefs rest upon twisted meanings of other Scriptures that would show up as obvious contradictions if the Scriptures were correctly understood.

If what is made to appear as a contradiction in Scriptures is studied until the correct relationship of the verse involved is understood, the falseness of the doctrine will become obvious.

Paul's Two Opposite Factions

Paul's epistles reveal that he was confronted by two almost opposite problems because his teaching about faith and law was misunderstood.

One problem was Gentile converts who believed that because they were under Yahweh's grace that they didn't need to be con-

cerned with obedience to the law.

The other problem was Jewish and some Gentile converts who didn't understand the change in the law believed that they must still obey all Old Covenant law, including circumcision of the flesh,

Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Messiah shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law, Galatians 5:2-3.

Concerning the problem with Gentile converts, read 1 Corinthians 5:1 through 6:11. Then read Galatians 3:1 through 5:15. This last addresses Jewish converts and some Gentiles influenced by Jews who Paul says are trying to pervert the Good News,

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Mes-

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Mini Study



The Early Assembly's Activities Looting and Binding

In Acts 15

The success of the jubilant Apostles in converting many Gentiles to the Messiah was not popular with everyone in the Jewish community. Some felt Gentiles who had converted to the Messiah were not being taught in the ways of Judaism. The problem comes to light in this fifteenth chapter of Acts. Simply stated it was that Gentiles became followers of the Savior and were baptized without having the background of Judaism. More than that, the Gentiles were not circumcised!

Note that it was not the leaders of Judea who questioned the activities of the Apostles, but common people. "And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, [and said], Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." (Acts 15:1) These "certain men" had troubled a number of assemblies, verse 24. "Certain men" even today contend all males are to be physically circumcised even though baptized. We understand men need not be circumcised, but infant children should. Baptism is circumcision made without hands.

It is interesting that the problems of the true believer are brought about by some self-righteous people who have set their own standards of righteousness, and go about striving to get followers after their way. But that is another topic.

Peter had been teaching since Pentecost that calling on Yahweh's Name was the important lesson to be learned from that momentous day when the Holy Spirit was given. Peter had taught in Acts 2:21, "Whoever calls upon the name of Yahweh shall be saved," (quoting from Joel 2:32). Nothing said about being an initiate of Judaism. Paul taught in Romans, Galatians and

siah, Galatians 1:7.

Circumcision of the flesh was the Old Covenant sign of righteousness,

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also, Romans 4:11.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands, Ephesians 2:11.

The New Covenant sign of righteousness is circumcision of the heart and is not made with hands,

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Messiah, Colossians 2:11.

This sign is not visible in the flesh, but is evident in the change from living according to the natural, sinful man to living in the likeness of the Messiah,

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh...For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren, Romans 8:13-14, 29.

The Gentiles were reminded that they had been lawbreakers before turning to the Messiah, and warned that if they now continued in lawlessness or in associating with immoral sinners that they would lose their salvation. The warning is not so subtle that serious Bible students should miss it.

Surprisingly, even distinguished Bible scholars never seem to see it or understand it.

On the other hand, Paul warned Jewish converts and probably some Gentiles influenced by the Jews that they were also in danger of losing their salvation for an entirely different reason, Galatians 2:14-5:4.

His warning was: Anyone who receives ceremonial circumcision of the flesh becomes obligated to keep the whole law. "Whole law" must mean all (unchanged) Old Covenant law. Paul warns that ritual circumcision of the flesh cuts a man off from the Messiah and the spiritual influence of Yahweh's grace.

Paul was telling the legalists that works without faith are dead works. Sometime after Paul wrote to Galatia, James deemed it necessary to remind Gentiles who misunderstood Paul's teaching that faith without works (obedience) is a dead faith.

Both men understood good works to be the result of obedience to "torah" (all the teachings of Yahweh, including the changed, New Covenant law).

Yahshua said,

If you love me, keep My commandments, John 14:15.

Paul said,

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law, Romans 13:10.

You Can't Have Both, They Claim

The Epistles of Paul to the Galatians by Charles R. Erdman has a chapter entitled "Christian Liberty," in which he says that there are two very real dangers to salvation: Legalism and lawlessness. He goes on to say that the convert to Yahshua who has received Yahweh's grace is at liberty to choose life or death and there can be no compromise, no divided allegiance, no combination of contradictory methods. It is either law or grace, either faith or works.

This statement indicates just

how subtle, profound and pervasive the deception implanted by the spirit of disobedience is. It is true that the danger to salvation is legalism and lawlessness, but the real division is whether a person serves Yahweh or the Adversary.

For the person who serves Yahweh, it is not "either/or." It is law AND grace, faith AND works. It takes Yahweh's grace to obey the law in spirit and truth, and it takes real faith to do good works and remain steadfast in grace.

Without real faith, a person will tend to put trust in a meticulous obedience to the letter of the law or in ritualistic observance of religious rites, so-called sacraments and traditions of the fathers.

Many believe that "good works" means only moral deeds and cheerful support of the church and charities.

Study Hebrews 10:26-31 in conjunction with Numbers 15:22-31 and understand the warning! Yahweh's grace does not nullify this warning in the New Covenant.

People who want to believe that it does may point to Matthew 18:21-22 and Luke 17:3-4 and ask, "Does Yahweh require us to be more merciful than He is?" No. Yahshua is only telling us that Yahweh will not be merciful with us if we are not merciful with brethren. He is not telling us to forgive a brother an infinite number of times who repeats the same offense over and over.

A babe in the Word, through ignorance, may unintentionally commit several offenses in a day, but if the offender receives Biblically sound correction and repents, then endeavors not to repeat the same offense again, the spiritual babe must be forgiven for each offense.

A Contrite Heart Is Essential

An elder or a person having preaching, teaching or other leadership responsibilities, who sins because of ignorance or lack of un-

derstanding, must be reproved and corrected scripturally as a brother and forgiven upon repentance.

A repentant babe in the Word or otherwise scripturally immature brother must bring forth fruits worthy of repentance,

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, Luke 3:8a.

He must do the good works that prove repentance to remain under Yahweh's grace,

But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to Yahweh, and do works meet for repentance, Acts 26:20.

An elder who sins because of ignorance or lack of understanding is unqualified for spiritual leadership. The elders who laid their hands upon the fallen brother to ordain him were either too hasty, 1 Timothy 5:22, or they seriously misjudged the brother's spiritual maturity and understanding of Yahweh's Word.

Even though Yahshua tells His disciples, and all elders, in Matthew 18, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," He cannot mean an unwitting sin of ignorance cannot be forgiven even if the elders and brethren refuse to forgive the sinner.

Yahshua sees the sinner's heart and knows the mind and motive that impelled the act, whereas the brethren's reactions result from what they see outwardly. This must be why the brethren are commanded not only to avoid evil, but also even the appearance of evil.

Abstain from all appearance of evil, 1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV.

Avoid every kind of evil, 1 Thessalonians 5:22 NIV.

Regardless of the brethren's reaction, a fallen brother or sister, guilty of an unwitting sin of ignorance, is not in danger of losing

salvation unless they quench the Spirit (put it out of their hearts). This happens when we harden our hearts against spiritual correction or allow anger over what we perceive as an injustice to prompt us into committing deliberate sins.

Isaiah 57:15 and Hebrews 3:8 and 4:7 warn against hardening the heart.

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones, Isaiah 57:15.

Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, Hebrews 3:8.

Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, Hebrews 4:7.

Psalms 51:17 tells us that Yahweh does not despise a broken, contrite heart,

The sacrifices of Yahweh are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O Yahweh, thou wilt not despise.

A Warning to Teachers

We are warned several times about the danger of false prophets and teachers. Paul says in Philippians 1:15-18 that some preach Messiah out of envy, rivalry, and selfish ambition. He says their motive for preaching is not important, but he doesn't say that what they preach isn't important.

Yahshua told the Jews to go to the Pharisees because they sit in Moses' seat and do what they say to do, but not to do as the Pharisees do because they do not do what they preach,

The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye

after their works: for they say, and do not, Matthew 23:2-3.

Paul verifies this in Romans 2:17-23.

Here, Paul reproaches Jews who were supposedly the embodiment of knowledge and truth for teaching one thing and doing something else. Such conduct by a New Covenant preacher or teacher is unacceptable to Yahweh. Why?

Psychologists say that a child learns more by following the examples of parents and other adults than by listening to their instructions. The same is true of a spiritually immature babe in the Word. That is why Timothy is told to set an example for believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity,

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity, 1 Timothy 4:12.

"Monkey see, monkey do!" "If it is okay for him, it is okay for me, too." "He is no better than I, and Yahweh is no respecter of persons." Following the leader is a natural tendency and Satan tempts us to act on such thoughts and follow his false prophets.

People don't understand that the Scripture, "Yahweh is no respecter of persons," means that the lowliest blind sheep which follow a highly esteemed and charismatic blind leader will be led into judgment! What else can Yahshua mean by, "If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit"?

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch, Matthew 15:14.

What has all this to do with salvation? A preacher or teacher who doesn't live by what he preaches is quenching Yahweh's Spirit. He is resisting Yahweh's spiritual influence (grace) either from ignorance and a lack of understanding or his motive for preaching is not love of the brethren and Yahweh.

He is a false teacher. And if he doesn't accept correction from Scriptures when pointed out to him, but continues in the error of his ways, he will forfeit his salvation and bring his followers into judgment with him.

The basic instruction for salvation is plain, simple, and easy to understand. Believe, repent, and be baptized into Yahshua's Name! Could anything be plainer and simpler?

The trouble is that preachers and teachers of man's doctrines do not tell their followers that repent does not mean to feel sorry for having sinned only, but also to turn away from continuing in sin! The person who follows the basic instruction and receives the free gift of righteousness and Yahweh's Spirit, also receives the promise that the Spirit will lead the believer into all truth.

The secret, hidden wisdom in Yahweh's Word, however, is imparted only to people who have studied enough to mature in knowledge and understanding,

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: but we speak the wisdom of Yahweh in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which Yahweh ordained before the world unto our glory, 1 Corinthians 2:6-7.

Even babes in the Word are commanded to grow in grace and knowledge of our Savior in order to avoid being carried away by lawless men,

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Master and Saviour Yahshua Messiah. To Him be glory both now and for ever, 2 Peter 3:17-18.

The only way to grow in grace and knowledge of Yahweh and His

Messiah is to study the Bible and sift the wheat from the chaff of everything else people have written about these Mighty Ones. Those who have grown and matured in the Word are commanded to preach and teach the Word and be examples of righteousness for the babes to follow,

These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee, 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

I charge thee therefore before Yahweh, and Master Yahshua Messiah, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry, 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

Do not accept anything as truth until you have studied the Scriptures to separate the wheat from the chaff. Just make sure that what is rejected is rejected because it contradicts a correct understanding of Scriptures and not some doctrine of man.

Make sure that whatever truth is revealed that wasn't known before,

has been revealed to you by Yahweh's Grace (holy influence of His Holy Spirit in your heart).

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, Revelation 7:13-14.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely, Revelation 22:17.

Now is the day to study to show yourself approved and grow in grace and knowledge of Yahshua the Messiah. Now is the day to cast out the spirit of discontent and allow the Spirit of obedience to come in and shed light on the narrow pathway of righteousness Yahshua walked between works without faith (legalism) on one hand and faith without works (lawlessness) on the other.

May Yahweh's grace and the grace of our Master and Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, enlighten all who seek to worship in Spirit and truth.

Elder Ralph Henrie, deceased

<Walking from page 14

This Scripture reflects on how we should treat all people, including non-believers, by:

1. Conducting ourselves toward them in all respects in a becoming manner – to be honest with them,
2. Being faithful in our engagements with them,
3. Being kind and courteous in our behavior with them,
4. Showing respect where it was due, and
5. Endeavoring in every way to

show goodness to them.

As we are a child of Yahweh and are to walk worthy of Yahweh, we should behave towards Yahweh, towards Yahshua, and towards anyone, as a child should behave towards his own physical parents.

Walk in an Orderly Fashion

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of Yahweh dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Messiah, he is none of His. And if Messiah be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Yahshua from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Messiah from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh, Rom. 8:9-14.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit, Gal. 5:25.

The word "walk" is the translation of the Greek στοιχῶμεν, stoichoómen, Strong's #4748, which, along with "walk" appearing in Gal. 6:16 and Phil. 3:16, means to march in (military) rank (keep step) in an orderly fashion.

And, the orderly fashion is that which is set out by Yahweh's Holy Spirit. Walking involves direction and goal. It is not going in circles. In our walk, one may stub one's toes or stumble. But, we must get up and journey towards the only real goal which has any true lasting meaning. And that goal is everlasting life.

YES, THIS IS HOW WE SHOULD WALK.

Elder Roger G. Meyer

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q I wonder why Yahweh prohibited planting a grove of trees near the “altar of Yahweh,” Deut. 16:21. Perhaps that would encourage pagan worship too close to camp?

A The Bible uses the word “grove” as an euphemism for the sacred pillar or pole:
“Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of Yahweh thy Elohim, which thou shalt make thee.” (Deut. 16:21 AV)

This reference to “grove of trees” refers to the pagan custom of cutting the top off a tree and fashioning it into a phallic symbol used in Baal worship of the Asherah. The following is an example:

“For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.” (1Kings 14:23 AV)

Q Did Yahweh approve of strong drink as stated in Deut. 14:26?

A The tithe was saved up and given to the storehouse every three years, not weekly or monthly as we do today.
Deut. 14:28 & 26:12.

There are three tithes taught in Scripture. The third tithe is every three years. Yes, the question about strong drink is a part of the second tithe and is to be used to attend the Festivals each year. This tithe is to be kept by the offeror so that he can enjoy the feasts away from home. Strong drink is allowed, (Deut. 14:26). Note that this tithe is used to buy food to enjoy at the feasts. These second tithes are not said to be holy, but are kept by the individual at home.

“Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: but thou must eat them before Yahweh thy Elohim in the place which Yahweh thy Elohim shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that [is] within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before Yahweh thy Elohim in all that

thou puttest thine hands unto.” (Deut. 12:17-18 AV)

However, the (first) tithe of the land and of the herd is indeed holy and set apart to Yahweh, Leviticus 27:30-34. (Request our booklet which explains the Tithing principles Yahweh expects from His people.)

Q When Yahweh divided the Land of Israel by tribes, He did not give land to the tribe of Levi, why?

A The Levites proved to be sincerely striving to obey Yahweh’s WORD at the incident of the golden calf:

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who [is] on YAHWEH’S side? [Let him come] unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.” (Ex. 32:26 AV)

The Levites were the ones who took care of the temple worship and are often referred to as “ministerial servants.” Because they were busy with the affairs of the Tabernacle, they would not have opportunity to care for crops or livestock.

However, Ezekiel 48:31 shows that the coming kingdom will have Reuben, Judah and Levi with their respective names on the gates northward. Revelation 7:7 lists Levi with 12,000 sealed as are the other eleven. Revelation 21:12 lists 12 tribes each having a gate into the city. Thus, Levites will definitely be in the Kingdom.

Q Ecclesiastes 12:7; Acts 7:59 and Luke 23:46 use the word spirit as a part of man that returns to Yahweh at death. What is that spirit?

A Ruach (Hebrew) is spirit in the Old Testament, and pneuma (Greek) is spirit in the New. Both are often translated “wind.” We cannot see wind (air in motion), but we can see what it does. Spirit is the air we breathe and thought of as the “breath of life.” Yahweh gives life and takes it away. In the resurrection, Yahweh’s Set-apart Spirit will be given to the firstborn which will make them immortal. Spirit is looked upon as energy or force and has various meanings, including the Holy or Set-Apart Spirit.



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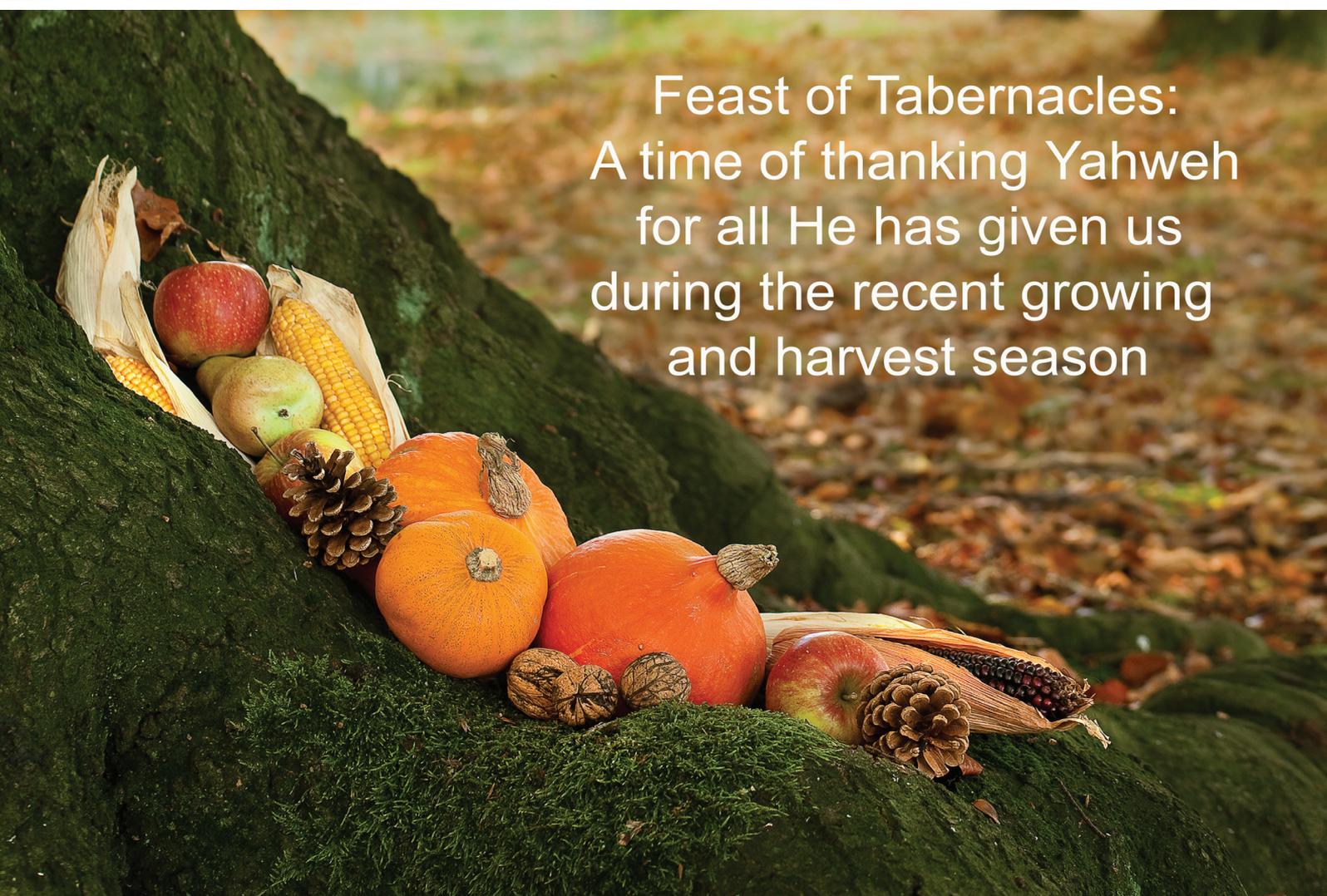
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A photograph of autumn harvest produce including pumpkins, corn, apples, and pinecones on a mossy log. The scene is set outdoors with a background of fallen leaves.

Feast of Tabernacles:
A time of thanking Yahweh
for all He has given us
during the recent growing
and harvest season