

**A TORAH
VERSE
BY VERSE
COMMENTARY
OF PAUL'S
EPISTLES**

RE'TZON HA'EL

ADOPTED SON OF ELOHIM

THIS IS MY NAME FOREVER;
THIS IS HOW I AM TO BE
REMEMBERED GENERATION
AFTER GENERATION.

Exodus 3:1

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3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul** also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

3:17 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.

3:18 But grow in favour, and in the knowledge of our Master and Saviour **Yeshua** the Messiah. To him be glory both now and for ever, amen.

2 Peter 3:13-18

DEDICATION

Dedicated to all Saints who love Torah, sprinkled with clean water by Yeshua, given a new spirit by YHVH Elohim, put in their inward parts and written in their hearts of flesh by the Holy Spirit and walk in the statutes of YHVH Elohim, keeping and doing His judgements.

INTRODUCTION TO PAUL'S EPISTLES

Some basic yet fundamental assumptions shall be laid down in order for the reader to follow the expositions clearly. A wide range of names for Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father are being used depending on the particular denomination or sect of Christianity or Messianic following that one prescribes to. In all honesty there is no absolute, concrete evidence to know how to pronounce the original Hebrew names of the Son nor of the Father, hence a broad, open, rational and accepting mind is required in order for the message to at least reach the student of the Bible. Please do not find offence at my personal preference of usage and pronunciation of names.

Ultimately there is only one enemy the devil, Satan, whose kingdom still quakes at the name of the Son of Elohim, irrespective of how His name is pronounced nor in what language it is rendered. That is the beauty of the power of the Holy Spirit, which is only given to a pure, contrite heart, whose intentions are for the setting free of captives. Hence, despite the devil's 6000+ year head start on us, we still can through our very tainted clay tabernacles, be used by the Holy Spirit as vessels of power against the gates of hell and its residents.

My personal preferences arisen through years of intense study, names of which I do not wish to impose upon anybody are as follows:

1. Elohim- the term 'God' is of questionable origin, and I cite Isa 65:11, which has been thoroughly butchered in the KJV and should read:

'But ye are they that have left me, and forget my holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill up the drink-offering to Fortune'. Greek Septuagint LXX Bible read in Yeshua's day.

"But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number." KJV

The Hebrew word for 'devil' here is 'G-d'. There is absolutely no sound explanation as to why KJV has translated it as 'that troop'. Regardless it must be noted that the name God has been used by great men of Elohim from times past who have had the power of the Holy Spirit work through them. Ignorance on one's part of truth does not preclude them being used by the Holy Spirit, hence why believers are given gifts in measure, according to their level of truth, as the Pauline epistles reveal.

Because Hebrew, according to scripture, was spoken by our forefathers, and Yeshua Himself, I am compelled to use the names for reference to their Heavenly Father as they would have known.

2. Yehovah- The letter J is absent in Hebrew. I base my parlance or rendering of the name on a great study done by *Nehemiah Gordon*, proving to a great degree the proper pronunciation of the sacred Name. Although he is not a believer in Messiah and is a self-professed 'Karaitic Jew', this does not disprove that section of truth revealed to him.

3. Yehoshua- The name 'Jesus' is quite clearly not Jewish, bearing in mind that the man to whom this appellation is ascribed, was, and is still a Jew, of the line of David. Additionally, the letter J is non-existent in Hebrew. Furthermore, it is made abundantly clear in Acts 7:45

of KJV that the Jesus referred to was Joshua of the Old Testament, who in Hebrew is Yehoshua.

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; Acts 7:45 KJV*

In modern Hebrew this is shortened to Yeshua. American Messianics further shift the emphasis of shoo to give variance in pronunciation i.e. 'Yeshooah', as opposed to simply 'Yeshwa', as the Hebrews/Ibrim would enunciate.

4. Although I would prefer to stick to original Hebrew names such as Shaul, Kepha, Yochanan etc, for the sake of avoiding confusion to the not so advanced student of scripture I, in most instances will interchange from the English rendition to Hebrew. As they are not my Creator, I do not feel the need to deify them and be compelled to expressly verbalise their names with fastidious precision.

5. **Yah**-rendered Jah in KJV, is an unchallengeable name of the Most High Elohim, which may appease the yud heh vav heh contenders and hopefully be a name we can all agree on without unnecessary quibbling.

Yeshua is a Jewish man at present, sat at the right hand of Elohim the Father i.e. of the tribe of Judah and shall return a Jewish man to rule for at least a thousand years on earth. He lived as a Torah-observing Jew, and Isaiah and Ezekiel expressly without a shadow of a doubt prophesy the re-inception of Torah observance inclusive of animal sacrifice in that millennial reign to come. I shall present my exposition from the lens of the Messianic believers, Jew and Gentile in the days of Paul and the apostles i.e. in the 1st century AD, and shall totally be oblivious and deliberately ignore any new teachings of the Romanised church fathers thereafter. I do so as they certainly did not contribute to scripture, hence most doctrinal teachings on their parts shall not influence that which I read. I do not intend to interpret the Bible but to lay out that which I read as a little child would, and where ambiguity or worse, contradiction, may seem to be present in scripture, I will use the witness of other related scripture to expunge such.

Paul's writings are indeed the most difficult to understand especially for the novice who is new to the Bible study, and it is here that Satan and his spiritual and bodily minions have crafted and perpetuated much doctrinal confusion through great sophistry, which has appeared as immutable truth which most deceived people have engrained in their minds, and refuse with all their might to question under any circumstances.

Yeshua is truth, and none of us have the whole truth, of which we shall fully appreciate in our uncorrupted new bodies when we meet Him in the air and are transformed on that glorious day of His return. However, the more we study scripture in Holy Spirit power, the greater the truth is revealed to us, and the greater the power from on high is bestowed upon us, spiritual weaponry of which no principality or power of Satan can overcome. Hallelujah.

The **Proclaim His Holy Name KJV Bible** shall be used, as it has Yehovah's name inserted in the so-called Old and New Testaments, and also the names Yehoshua and Elohim. The 1611 KJV is preferred to other English translations, for its thoroughly researched compilation and attention to detail, and is not beleaguered by as much corruption as most versions written thereafter, which miss verses, passages, and even add texts that weren't in the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. This is not the platform to debate my affirmations thus far, and maybe with time I may veer off into these philosophical debates. My main goal

is to simply present an unbiased non-interpreted exposition of scripture. I may from time to time refer to the Septuagint Bible which was used in Yeshua's time in order to reverse engineer some Greek words, to compare with the Hebrew of the Tanakh/Old Testament, for the sake of erasing ambiguity as to Paul's intended meaning in some cases. I am greatly indebted to **Professor James Strong** for his exhaustive *concordance of the KJV*, which any serious student of scripture will find invaluable in deciphering the true meaning of English words in the Hebrew for the Old, and the Greek for the New Testaments.

PART 1

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Introduction

Most commentaries delve into long-winded introductions outlining the historical setting, background, genre of the book to be studied, purpose, dating, proof of the writer and his historical background and so forth, most of which is contrived. I believe that the Holy Spirit used men of old to prepare a message from Genesis to the book of Revelation, which if closely studied based on the original manuscripts, gives a flawless message cf 2 Tim 3:16, which precludes the need to speculate and lean on conjectures which do not assist the reader or listener of the Word. I have no desire to follow these pursuits of theologians be they contemporary or past, as my goal is to get into the meat of the gospel message and seek its truth which I believe would be more edifying and profitable to the spirit. So, without further ado let us get straight into it.

Chapter 1

V1 of Acts 9:15-**servant=doulos** which is a bondman or slave. In Septuagint cf Ex 21:27, Joel 2:29, Lev 25:39,42 where doulos is definitely translated as ebed in Hebrew meaning slaves with no rights of their own. The last 3 examples given clearly demonstrate that once one has been chosen by Yehovah the Son or the Father, they belong to Him as ebed/slave (Lev 25:42) and are not his sakiyr/hired servant (Lev 25:39)

It is important to note that once one commits themselves to be a bondservant of Yeshua, you enter into a covenant that you **MUST** not break as the consequences of choosing to be in the light of truth, and then rejecting it at a later date can only be dire and one risks being destined for the lake of fire cf Josh 24:14-25 which clearly illustrates that choosing Yehovah as your Elohim is a very serious pledge not to be trifled with, as the consequences of breaking the covenant are dire. Also, cf Heb 6:4-8

Apostolos/delegate sent forth with orders. Orders are from Yeshua, not our own concocted orders. We must not corrupt the gospel freely given to us slaves of Yeshua to share with lost souls. It is not our gospel, but that of our Master Yeshua, as much as He chose Israel and made a covenant for them to be His priestly nation delegated with the duty of preaching truth of the true Elohim to the heathen/Gentile nations cf Ex 19:6, 1 Pet 2:9, Rev 1:6
Gospel/euaggelion-note that it is of ELOHIM the Father, concerning Yeshua the son (verse 3). This gospel was promised in innumerable prophecies in the Old Testament of the advent of Yeshua haMashiach. There are many man-made definitions of the gospel, but here is concrete evidence of the definition of these glad tidings.

V2-4 Paul expressly states that this gospel of Elohim, the Father is that spoken of in the holy scriptures. In his day and thereafter until the council of Nicaea of 325 AD, the only scriptures considered to be holy were that of the Tanakh or modern-day Old Testament! It is a great

delusion on the part of Satan to state that the gospel is the doing away of the Old Testament and the Torah/law. Yeshua categorically stated the contrary in Matthew 5:17-19.

Furthermore verse 3 clarifies more that the gospel concerns Yeshua the seed of David, which identifies Him as being of royal blood to prove his Messianic status, and concurrently identifies his Jewishness i.e. of the tribe of Judah and ultimately being in covenant promises with His Father YHVH. This covenant promise is something Yeshua embodied and lived by here on earth. Never did He break Torah. He fulfilled it and lived in it as it should have been, and further brought greater understanding of how it should be lived inclusive of the boundaries within which Sabbath keeping fell.

He came to do away with the fences created by pharisaic apostasy and misinterpretation of Torah, which had been a tool used by Satan to keep the simple truth of Torah out of the understanding of the chosen people. Yeshua hence had the right to state that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life Jn 14:6 as these are the characteristics of Torah outlined in the Psalms: Ps 119:1,142,105 and Pro 6:23

Paul additionally highlights that Yeshua came in the flesh, just as we are, yet because He lived a sinless life, in Holy Spirit power, He defeated death and was qualified without a shadow of a doubt to be THE Son of Elohim the Father. Hence why when we are baptized in Yeshua's name, we die to sin (when immersed in water) brought about by our carnal nature, and rise from out of the water a new man with Holy Spirit power cf Rom 6:4-10 and are adopted as sons of Elohim cf Gal 4:3-7

v5-6-grace/charis cf Jn 1;17 and Ps 25:10; 57:3,10; 89:14. Grace translated as chesed in the Hebrew and charis or eleos in the Greek, has the connotation of pity, compassion and mercy that Elohim has for us. This grace is afforded to those who have a heart willing to follow Torah as Ps 25:10 stipulates. Unfortunately, most born-again Christians/believers are like the seed that fell by the wayside cf Matt13:4,19, whereby Torah written in the heart of the new believer (born-again) cf Jer 31:33 have the truth of Torah snatched away by the fowls of the air/wicked ones i.e. spiritual deception of demonic invisible powers, through false doctrine perpetuated by equally deceived 'theologians'. This has been occurring since Yeshua's ascension and is nothing new.

Paul by the Holy Spirit carefully placed the words obedience to the **faith/pistis**. Pistis is conviction to truth as defined in Strong's concordance, and Truth being Yeshua is embodiment of Torah. What else could possibly be referred to as being obeyed?

The called/kletos means those invited as to a banquet cf Lk 14:15-24. We are all called by Yeshua by the gospel being preached to us. There is no excuse nor a leg to stand on at judgement day, as this gospel has been preached to us all, and it is our obligation to accept the invitation or reject it. For those accepting it, there is the additional condition of obeying the laws attached to the banquet i.e. obedience to the faith, which ultimately is embodied in Torah. There is no way of escaping this most indispensable biblical truth.

V7-9 saints/hagios=most holy ones. On accepting the invitation of the gospel, and submitting to Yehovah as His bondman, our very bodies become filled with the Holy Spirit and we become most holy cf 1Cor 3:16. It is not a light thing to be called a saint. We must wear that badge with honour, and live it through holy deeds, governed by Torah keeping. There is no other way of defining a Holy life. Paul in these verses on 3 occasions separates Elohim the Father from Yeshua the Son. This concept needs to be grasped from an early stage for the student of scripture to not lose track of whom Paul refers to when he uses the term Elohim.

We additionally are given clear understanding that the Father and the Son, although one as Yehovah, the deity we should serve (Yeshua was worshipped by several individuals in the

gospel and hence is Yehovah since the commandment expressly states to worship no other than Yehovah), they are actually separate individuals within the Elohim-head. Paul throughout his epistles establishes this truth, hence any preconceived notions of oneness and anti-triune Elohim teachings need to be discarded as they oppose these biblical tenets of truth.

V9 Elohim is Spirit and hence must be served in spirit. Unfortunately many believers have the truth at their disposal but lead fruitless, powerless lives as they fail to grasp the concept of serving in spirit cf Jn 4:24. One must humble themselves, despise carnality, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill up the heart, replacing the carnal nature of demonic spirits, in order for one's life to then be guided by the Holy Spirit of Yeshua in power evidenced in speaking in tongues, casting out demons, healing the sick i.e. setting captives free cf Mk 16:15-18.

V11-12-the Christian walk is not easy. Contemporary Christians congregate as a routine tick-the-box type of chore. We should meet to impart spiritual gifts through our experiences and to comfort one another in the wake of attacks from the enemy. Most churches are lulled in a sense of false security, never experiencing adversity, being themselves stroked into slumber in the lap of Satan's beguiling, deceiving forces of evil. There is hardly any evidence of Holy Spirit power and there is much illness and captivity of other types in the so-called congregations. Only the mutual faith shared by Paul and the Roman ecclesia may allow Holy Spirit power to operate in our lives, faith of which Paul goes to great lengths to define and outline in this epistle and others.

V13-15 The purpose of our Christian walk is to bear fruits i.e. win true souls, make disciples of Yeshua out of lost souls of Greeks, Barbarians, wise and unwise i.e. from all walks of life. Otherwise one's walk would be a waste of time cf Matt 25:14-30. The unfruitful servant is cast out into utter darkness i.e. lake of fire, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is a frightening and very much sobering thought to be a Christian sitting on his laurels and not seeking souls to win. I pray this teaching will win some souls for Yeshua and the Most High Elohim.

A sign of soul winning in one's life, is the inevitable resistance from Satan and his cohorts, that would come as in Paul's torrid walk. Praise Yeshua when you find yourself in times of trouble and give all thanks to Elohim, for the very knowledge that you are destabilising the kingdom of darkness, when affliction against your preaching of truth arises in your walk cf 2Cor 11:16-33

V16-if you as a Christian ever cast out demons or heal the sick, or simply speak in tongues by the power of the Holy Spirit, I can guarantee that you will never be ashamed of such power but would rather crave it more and more. The oracles of Elohim were bestowed upon Israel first, and Yeshua's first advent was for the sheepfold of Israel cf Matt 15:24. These chosen were then expected to preach this gospel truth to the Gentiles.

Hence Paul is not being racially or ethnically fanatical in stating to the Jew first, then to the Gentile but is stating fact of Elohim's will and plan for mankind. Unfortunately, we see from biblical and contemporary history the Jews' wholesale rejection of Messiah, hence Gentiles should with humility be grateful for having been chosen to be a part of the commonwealth of true Israel cf Eph 2:12-13.

V17 cf Habb 2:4 where in Hebrew the just=tsaddiyq/righteous, lawful i.e. Torah keeping. Faith is emunah=faithfulness, truth, steadfastness, all of which are connotations of Torah-keeping in the Old Testament. Paul, as we shall discover, never introduced new doctrine of his own but simply gave a commentary of the Tanakh/Old Testament for it to be understood by both Jew and Gentile through Yeshua's eyes and not fallen man's perspectives. It is a travesty to gospel truth for this verse to be peddled in churches as justification for discarding the Torah, when it is actually advocating its obedience!

V18 This goes on to qualify my last statement, whereby both Jew and Gentile have been presented with truth, but have used it to their detriment, twisting it, being puffed up by it and ultimately being fooled and deceived by forces of darkness to oppose it willingly or through chosen ignorance. Humility and death to one's carnality is the only means by which Holy Spirit indwelling of one's soul, may allow for this truth to be profitable to the believer who serves in spirit, not in letter.

V20-21 This is self-explanatory in that even non-human creation i.e. birds of the air, beasts of the field and fish of the sea understand that Elohim is the creator, so we are without excuse. The order in nature is clear in proving that a designer of infallible magnitude is at play, that atheism and agnostic religions are fraught with pride and wanton ignorance. Even worse v 21 relates to those who know Elohim or experienced His power at some point in time, yet were blinded by pride instead of humbling themselves for further spiritual growth. Truth is indeed a double-edged sword which when respected leads to eternal life, but if handled outside the parameters of Holy Spirit power, will lead to destruction.

V22-32-most expositors feel this solely relates to non-Christians, yet Paul in v21 clearly refers to those who KNEW Elohim behaving this way through mishandling of the truth. All the behaviour described is rife in churches of today and I do not need to go into a philosophical exegesis of what is clear within our midst.

V22 fools/moraino=of salt that has lost its flavour depicting Christians who are no longer profitable in the kingdom of Yah.

v23-27 cf Eze 8:10 and typical of Roman Catholicism for example e.g. veneration of 'saints', statues bowed down to in churches, Mariolatry. Reformed churches are guilty too of bowing to the cross, venerating pictures of a blue-eyed, blonde, white Jesus; Pentecostals and Charismatics sucked in by prosperity gospels and placing preachers on pedestals, venerating them at times. Homosexuality has increasingly become accepted in all sects and denominations e.g. offshoots of SDA, Methodist homosexual churches, gay bishops in Anglican churches, paedophilia in Roman Catholic churches.

V28 is a terrifying reality-it is bad enough to know truth at first, and then wilfully abandon it. However, on doing so, Yehovah Elohim, the Almighty Father Himself goes out of His way to give us up to an unfit/adokimos mind to do that which is not convenient. The narrative in Job ch1 and 2 together with Elisha's spiritual visualisation in 2 Ki 6:17, give us a glimpse of the order in spiritual warfare. It is hardly an inference but more so factual that in the heavenlies/spiritual realm, Satan and his cohorts may only act perfidiously and maliciously against us when Elohim allows it cf 1Ki 22:20-23; Is 19:14. More so this is allowed when we are no longer in communion with Elohim, by wilful rebellion or wilful ignorance/apathy to seek truth cf 1 Sam 16:14,16,23; 18:10; 19:9; Judge 9:23; Eze 14:9. Clearly protection by the Holy Spirit within us is lost, leaving the sinner open to demonic attack at the behest of Satan's request as he seeks permission in the throne room of Yehovah cf Job 1:6 and 2:1.

V29-31 This is greatly descriptive of the cloak and daggers behaviour in power hungry assemblies in prosperity gospel churches and reformed and Roman Catholic churches.

V32 ultimately seals the proof that Paul is referring to all this evil occurring within the so-called body of Messiah.

Chapter 2

V1-2 judge/krino. Under NO circumstances are we to ever judge other unredeemed human beings, even if one is living in covenant relationship with Elohim as a new man, for we were once lost and it is only by the grace and mercy of Elohim that we are afforded this privilege, which is not accomplished by any work of ours. Instead we should fervently fight spiritually against the forces of darkness to win those souls that are lost, as we once were. We are condemned to sin by the very DNA inherited from our first Adamic father, so no matter how good our deeds may be, we tend to buckle from time to time under the constant, continuous pressures we are subjected to by the cohorts of Satan, visible or invisible. We still reside in corruptible bodies, and hence have no right to throw stones from our glass houses. Only the judgment of Elohim which is truth, may be dispensed upon any of His creation.

It is crucially important however, to be aware of the restriction and the right to judge those who are in the body of Messiah, who may have gone astray in their walk, in order not to allow them to contaminate the rest of the members of the body. This is to ensure that the Holiness of Yeshua our Messiah is not blasphemed cf 1 Cor chapter 5.

V3-6 If Elohim were so patient to wait for us to surrender to him (cf Daniel ch 4 where Nebuchadnezzar, despite his most vilest of atrocities, still found favour and forgiveness, once his soul surrendered with a contrite heart to the true Elohim), then who are we to be so impatient to condemn those who are yet to see the light and truth of Messiah, as we so graciously did before it was too late for us? Those who judge the lost, shall without doubt be judged too, possibly inclusive of every sin committed prior to being redeemed by Yeshua's blood even. This is not a matter to be trifled with. It surely can disqualify, deem redundant and declare null and void all the other good that you might have done in your life prior to judging others, as v6 clearly warns.

V6 cf Ps 62:12-Clarifies that the mercy/chesed/grace of Elohim renders to every man according to his works. Faith is not mentioned because it is presumed that one would be expressing that faith through exemplary works. The two (faith and works) are NOT mutually exclusive and must both be concurrently operating in a believer's life.

V7-11 There shall be 2 judgement days/periods:

- a. Bema seat judgement-that of the righteous after Yeshua's second coming cf 2 Tim 4:8; 1 Cor 9:24-27 and
- b. Great white throne judgement-That of the unrighteous after the millennial reign of Yeshua on earth cf Rev 20:11-15

V7 clearly states that patient continuous good works/deeds for the purpose of seeking eternal life which is composed of glory, honour and immortality. The '*once saved always saved*' doctrine is immediately relegated to the trash can, and the doctrine of '*faith only*', devoid of Torah-keeping/ good works, is also immediately disqualified cf Jm 2:14-26; Matt 7:21-23,26-27; Tit 3:8

V9-11-although Elohim is no respecter of persons, His judgement begins with those entrusted with His Torah and gospel cf 1 Pet4:17-18; Eze 9:6; Heb 13:17.

V12 age-old question has remained almost unanswered as to what happens to those Gentiles, who never had the opportunity to hear the gospel, on the day of judgement. Will they be unfairly condemned to the lake of fire? Or might they through ignorance be granted a free pass into eternal life? The answers lie in this whole chapter, commencing in verses 5 and 6, where we are informed of the yardstick that shall be used by our great Judge Yeshua, the Messiah cf Jn 5:22,27. Our deeds on earth, shall be used to judge mankind. Mankind is composed of body, soul and spirit. The soul defines who we are where our mind, will and emotions are expressed. The soul's decisions are either susceptible to the carnal inclinations of the flesh, wherein is the law of sin; or to the warnings of the mind where our spirit resides, which we loosely refer to as our conscience. It is in the mind wherein the law of Yehovah inherently resides that defines good and evil cf Rom 7:18-25. Hence to those over the course of history, who never had the opportunity to hear the gospel of Torah truth, their response to their conscience to choose good over evil versus their susceptibility to succumb to the evil nature of the flesh, will be used to judge them, outside of the parameters of the codified Torah of Moses. Those who have had the opportunity to know of Torah, however shall be more accountable as there will practically be no excuse for having not abided by the written law that defines good and evil. Also, cf Rev 20:12-15.

V13-16 Why is it that Paul's epistles are claimed to do away with the law when he clearly in more than just this instance reiterates that Torah-keeping is central to a believer's life? V13 clearly states this. We are indeed justified by faith, yet those of faith need to be doers of the law in order to qualify their faith! Even Gentiles with a good heart, unknowingly do Yehovah's will to their eternal benefit. Judgement shall be based on the secrets in men's hearts, wherein the Torah is written in this new covenant prophesied of in Jer 31:33.

V17-23-the Jews inclusive of all grafted into the commonwealth of Israel Rom 11:20-24, are expected to know Torah and to uphold it in fullness if they are to qualify their faith. Coals shall only be added upon the heads of self-appointed gate keepers of truth, who fail to live exemplary Torah-keeping lives in the midst of the very congregations that they preach to. By teaching that Torah is null and void, these deluded shepherds have led innumerable members of the flock astray, and shall account for their folly to a greater degree than the congregation members cf Matt 23:13,15; 7:21-23

V24 cf Isa 52:5; Eze 36:21. Both these OT passages clearly define in the narrative blasphemy of YHVH's name being due to sacrilege of the Torah. Paul is simply doing a commentary on these passages and not nullifying them.

V25 The Jews accepting of Yeshua as Messiah, were greatly perturbed by new converts in Gentile lands partaking in communion with Elohim in their Synagogues on their Sabbath assemblies. They still had the proselyte mentality of forcing circumcision upon new Gentile converts, before even teaching them the basic tenets of scripture which would elucidate the need for eating Kosher, circumcision etc. They were putting the cart before the horse, and this most likely was a hindrance for Gentiles to accept conversion, as they did not understand the need.

The council of Jerusalem in Acts 15: 1-21 stipulated that the new Gentile convert, devoid of understanding was at the very least required to observe the weightier commandments of Torah outlined in Acts 15:20, and were to then with time be educated every Sabbath in the synagogues of Moses' teachings of Torah, in order to in a sense bring them up to speed gradually. A gung-ho approach of conversion is in most instances met with hostility as opposed to patient preaching and teaching with a defined end goal cf Matt 10;16. Note: being circumcised is a necessity as a sign of faith in YHVH, sealed in the immutable Abrahamic covenant of Gen 17:13-14, Eze 44:7,9. However it is not a 'once saved always saved' covenant as the Jews in Paul's time believed, as the rest of Torah must needs be

observed. Paul later on explains how Abraham was redeemed first through faith and circumcised 25 years later.

V26-29 The uncircumcised refers to the ignorant Gentile, oblivious of Torah which was never preached to them. The circumcised refers to the Jew who knew Torah and should know better to observe it. Paul's argument here is that why major on outward circumcision as a delineating factor and external identification mark of a believer, yet totally disregard the rest of Torah. This is a haughty, ethnically bigoted approach of identifying oneself as a believer, coupled with hypocrisy of the highest order. The uncircumcised ignorant Gentile whose conscience is clean and in line with the fundamental basis of Torah of loving thy neighbour as thyself Gal 5:14, is far better off than the nit-picking Jew cognizant of Torah, who chooses to major on part of Torah yet lives a loveless life and has total disregard of his neighbour cf Matt 23:23-24

In summary Rom 2, if it is read side by side with Matt 23, where Yeshua rebukes the scribes and Pharisees, it will be readily understood that Paul (who was a Pharisee of Pharisees, and hence knew of their nature) had the exact same understanding as Yeshua regarding how Torah was meant to be observed. Ch 2 and following chapters give a step by step guide into breaking down the preconceived misconstrued notions of the Jewish pharisaic mind of his day, which strove to keep in bondage the messianic believer (both Jew and Gentile). There were over 7000 laws created by the Pharisees from their Babylonian captivity through to Yeshua's time, that ring-fenced and strangulated the simple essence of the 613 Torah laws, making it almost impossible for their victims, the Israeli congregation from fellowshiping with our heavenly Father.

Chapter 3

V1-2 for all the anti-circumcision, anti-Torah contemporary Christians who misinterpret Paul's somewhat difficult teachings due to spiritual immaturity cf 2 Pet 3:15-18, Paul by the Holy Spirit never ceases throughout his epistles to clear any perceived ambiguity in his writings. These 2 verses more than ever categorically state that the abolition of circumcision is not the intended point to be made, but rather its role in Torah-keeping is being clarified as being part of a whole, and certainly NOT the be all and end all, as the self-righteous, somewhat ethnically bigoted Jews were claiming was mandatory for salvation.

Circumcision does indeed profit a believer, but it does not guarantee salvation, just as much as justification by faith does not guarantee eternal salvation, as righteous works in spirit and in truth must accompany such. Following Messiah is a journey throughout one's WHOLE life, which must end on a high note lest you lose hope for salvation at the end despite having spent most of your life following Yeshua wholeheartedly. Hence why Paul expresses that he lived the Christian walk in fear and trembling lest he should lose that hope of salvation in his last days! Our conscription into Christianity is no joke, and unfortunately the greater part of Christendom smugly lives in a false sense of security, erroneously convinced that they are guaranteed a free pass into eternal life cf 1 Cor 9:26-27 also 2Pet 2:20-22.

V3-4 Refusing to believe in the will of YHVH, despite having been presented with truth and been made a custodian of this truth, does not nullify the effect of Truth itself. If your pastor preaches against Torah truth and leads many astray, do not follow the crowd, as the truth remains relevant whether you like it or not. If circumcised Jews therefore, because of their unbelief in Yeshua as Messiah, is a reason for you refusing to become circumcised too in accordance with the Abrahamic covenant and Torah requirement, it does not change the fact that circumcision ultimately will be necessary for that Christian who has come to the understanding of its role! Satan is very patient in his beguilement, and preys on immature Christians who remain spoon-fed by preachers of equally Bible-truth ineptitude.

V4 on judgement day your false preacher shall not be present as an advocate for your spiritual ineptitude, and apathy to seek scriptural truth. Let every man be a liar in everything you read or hear, inclusive of this teaching until you personally study scripture yourself to prove that it is in line with Elohim's truth, for despite my benevolent intentions to share what I believe to be scriptural truth, you dear listener cannot rely on me wholeheartedly as you do not know me, and I certainly am not your Saviour. Take the time to study scripture more than anything you have ever studied in your life. I cry out to all worldly scholars be they physicians, aeronautical space engineers, professors of various disciplines to please study Bible many times more than you have your heavenly-deficient worldly literature. Worldly knowledge shall not save you on judgement day.

V5-8 Paul, having been a great scholar at the feet and tutorship of the revered Pharisee Gamaliel, and having grown up in Tarsus, which was a hub of scholarly abandon, used a lot of intrapersonal dialogue and wordplay to get his point across. He would artfully argue with himself in his endeavours to snuff out false beliefs, hence the reader of his writings would need to avoid losing track of his thought processes and read the whole section of dialogue in order to avoid falling into the trap of creating heretical doctrines out of the passage.

Unfortunately, Christendom has fallen into this trap from the age of the church fathers to this very day, whereby sections of Paul's writings are hand-picked and taken out of context, ultimately to justify one's own viewpoint to back up carnal pleasures which oppose Torah and the will of Elohim.

V5 Speaking as a man and not in spirit leads us to arrive at seemingly sensible conclusions from a worldly perspective, yet spiritually dangerous and detrimental to one's relationship with Elohim. Most agnostics/atheists regurgitate the argument that if Elohim is love and knows the beginning from the end, then why allow Satan to get away with his evil and not destroy him and start afresh. Great debates are held to disprove Elohim's existence, yet nature and the order of it clearly screams out His existence, but arrogant rebellious worldly philosophy greatly keeps them blinded to their own destruction. Paul asks why is Elohim punishing us if our unrighteousness makes Him distinct from us and hence makes Him look good. Sounds logical yet is foolish as it shows no respect for Elohim and a desire to be unrighteous.

V6 Paul then counters this with a passionate 'Elohim forbid', if He ignores our unrighteousness then how is justice ever going to be met?

V7 Like a schizophrenic with voices in his head Paul then counters with the thought, 'but my dark sin is actually magnifying the radiance of Elohim's light, which surely is a good thing for Him right?' 'So why punish me for making you look better' is the question. It is seemingly logical, but how can we have the audacity to ridicule Elohim. It would be like wilfully murdering people the same way as we cull animals for population control, as a basis for one's desire to do so without judicial recompense.

V8 Apparently false reports of this nature were being made of Paul.

V9-10 Returning to the notion of the circumcised Jews' self-aggrandizement over Gentiles based on a circumcised foreskin alone, irrespective of their wanton breaking of the rest of Torah, Paul reminds them that they are no better than the so-called accursed heathen as ALL are under sin and are deserving of eternal destruction

11-18 Paul then quotes Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3; 5:9; 140:3; 10:7; Pro 1:16; Isa 59:7 and Ps 36:1 which are all relating to behaviour of the Jews and Israel in general, rendering them as wicked and possibly more so than the Gentile nations.

V19-20 v19 clearly states that the purpose of the law is to expose us for what we are i.e. hopelessly sinful. There is no other way of identifying our sins but by the yardstick of the law. It baffles me how most of society, churches included, is happy to observe literally millions of man-made laws, some of which are immoral and anti-Elohim e.g. tolerance of homosexuality and abortion and gender reassignment, yet despise the concept of observing 613 Laws, which in our current day are limited to some 200 Laws, as the temple is not present!

V21-24 Our deeds of trying to justify ourselves, outside of Holy Spirit power of Yeshua, even following Torah (as the Jews felt they did especially the Pharisees) are futile as ALL have sinned. Only the righteousness of Elohim (v21) is outside the confines of Torah as He is incapable of sinning and hence does not need Torah to expose Him of it. The righteousness of Elohim is further defined by Paul in v21 and 22 as the very personage of Yeshua, who is witnessed/proclaimed by Torah and the prophets i.e. the whole Tanakh/OT. Those who believe in Yeshua irrespective of their ethnic background are justified outside the confines of the Torah.

But Paul is not abolishing Torah. He is only elucidating one of many steps in the walk of faith, which starts at belief in Yeshua in order for the justifying power that He gives to wipe out your sins, which were paid for by His blood. This redemption is totally free to anyone who believes. Belief is the first step. Observance of Torah in spirit follows once the new man is educated in Torah and its need to be observed. The cart of Torah is unfortunately being forced upon new Gentile converts, before the horse of belief in Yeshua as our justifier first. This is unfortunately tarnishing the image of Messianic, Hebraic roots movements, resulting in them being described as Judaizers or legalistic.

Satan has them sussed out and as with any new revelation of truth brought to light in Christendom, be it healing ministries, deliverance ministries, gifts of the Spirit, etc, Satan immediately presents a counterfeit version with varying degrees of tainting inversely proportional to the level of truth one has. So, for instance a novice is subjected to outright heresy as he is too blind to know the difference, whereas a spiritually mature Christian is subjected to less detectable heresy i.e. presented with a doctrine that is say 95% truth but 5% lie.

V25-28 Very important to note that Elohim the Father set Yeshua with the task of being the propitiation of our sins. Hence why Yeshua repeatedly stated that it was not His will but that of the Father that He came here to do. We must never forget to pray to the Father, and not only to Yeshua the Son (as most of Christendom do, except when they recite the Lord's prayer) and thank Him for that marvellous work which He set forth His Son to accomplish for us. Also note that remission of sins that are PAST is by the Holy Spirit reiterated in Paul's passage.

Once you are converted and living in covenant fellowship with Elohim, I very much doubt that premeditated or predetermined future sins will be forgiven cf Heb 6:5-6. The cleansing of past sins only comes through faith in the BLOOD of Yeshua the Justifier. This free act of mercy and grace is due to the forbearance of Elohim the Father, meaning that He was never obliged to create a means for our sins to be forgiven.

V26 Elohim declared and continues to declare His Son (referred to as righteousness), in order that He may justify those who believe in His Son.

V27 Hence why our deeds no matter how good can never erase our sins for salvation to be accomplished. How can we possibly boast then when such great mercy is bestowed upon us-it is pure arrogance and foolishness to boast instead of crying with tears of relief and joy. Despite a law of works being ever present, it is not what redeems us from sin but rather the law of faith. This law of faith unfortunately is being misconstrued in Christendom as the agent for the abolition of law of works. Paul never ever mentioned such. Why be redeemed by faith then decide to ignore good works thereafter?! Again, the horse of faith needs to be placed before the cart of deeds in order for there to be a truth-based continuum in your Christian journey.

v28-DOES not justify abolition of Torah and certainly is not the context of the narrative. It is great twisting of scripture or lack of understanding that leads to such conclusions. Paul simply stated that justification is brought about by faith in Yeshua, not our self-intended desire to be justified by following Torah. Once we are justified however, Paul shall clearly illustrate that Torah-keeping is then necessary to remain in this state of justification, but done so in spirit and in truth. Torah-keeping attempted by our own means will always fail. It requires Yeshua's Spirit in our hearts and minds in the department of our souls to be of any profit to us.

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