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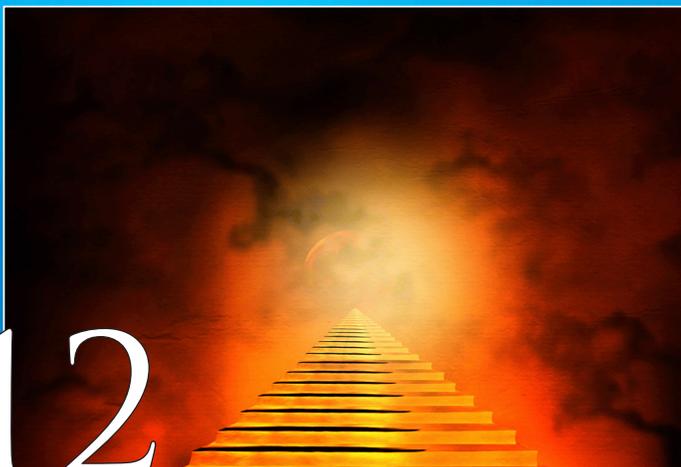


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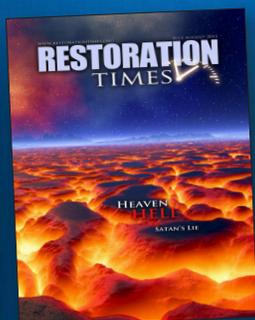
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Restoration Times expounds the close ties between the Old and New Testaments. We teach the continuity and harmony that extend down through His present activity in Yahshua the Messiah. This was also the conviction of the early New Testament Assembly.

This publication is sent free of charge, made possible through the tithes and offerings of those who desire to see the truth of Scripture restored in our day.

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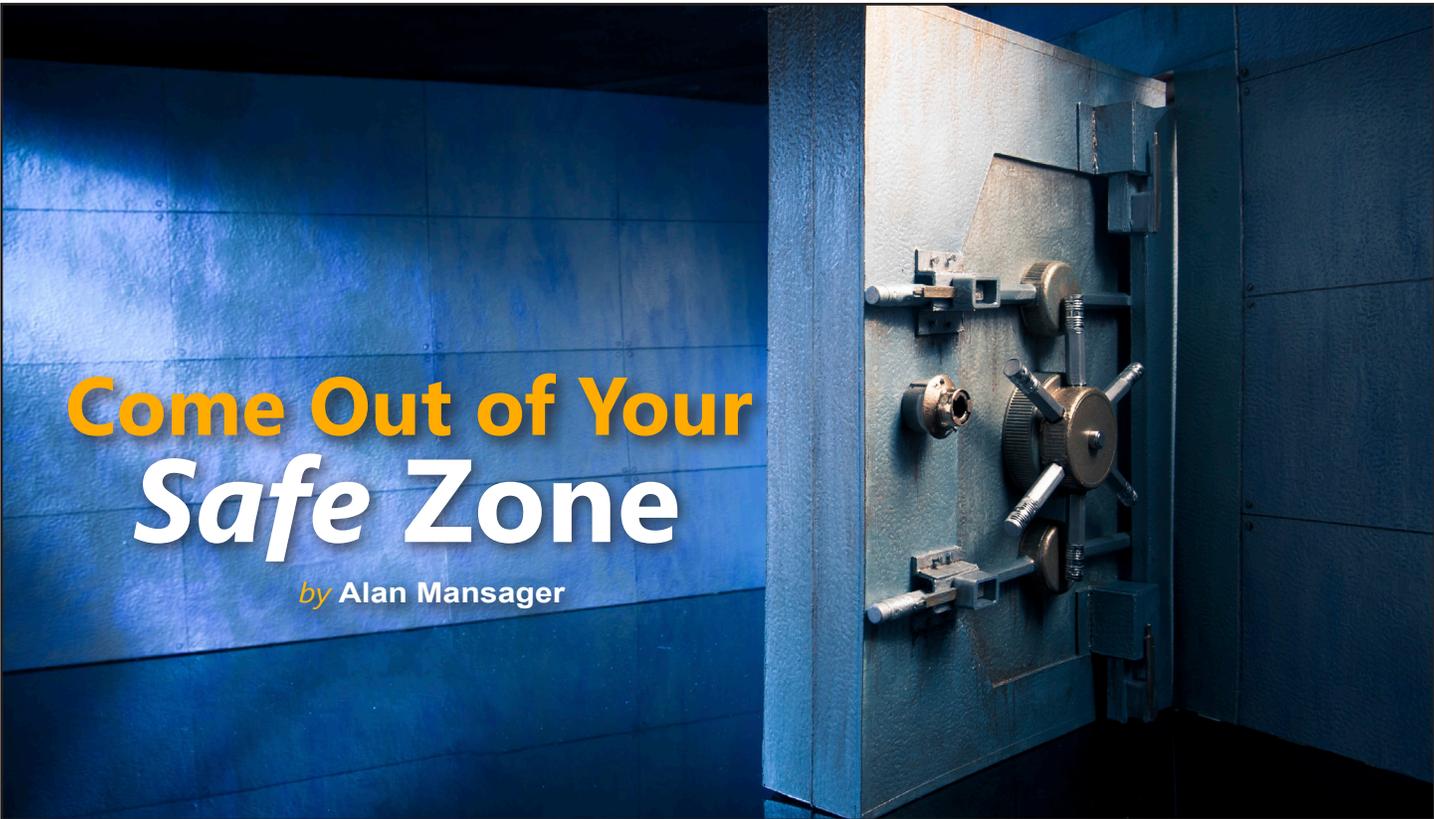


COVER:
Depiction of the lake of fire. Tradition confuses it with an ever-burning hellfire of eternal punishing, which is a figment of man's imagination.



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Come Out of Your Safe Zone

by Alan Mansager

Most people live for Number One. Then there are the exceptional few who conform their goals and behavior to the Word, making their lives count for more than this present existence. Are you preparing for your eternal destiny?

We are all on a journey in life. Whether we realize it or not, how we conduct ourselves now has consequences that reach to eternity. In our expanding secular culture most individuals today have a low level of interest in spiritual things, if they have any interest at all.

For others who have some desire for Yahweh and His Word, there are seven levels of spirituality that typically characterize where they stand. Which level are you on?

The first level is the **Confident Clueless**, which describes most “religious” people today. They claim a faith but have no interest in learning the Bible. With a participation level at absolute zero, they have little use for organized worship. They use as a safety net what little faith they have, just in case it might come in handy one day.

At the second level is the **Surface Skimmer**. This individual has a superficial understanding of the milk of the Word and no desire for anything more. He warms a pew a few times a year while looking forward to celebrating the next pseudo-

religious holiday. Despite such anemic performance he truly believes he is pleasing the one he worships. Those on levels 1 and 2 assume they are destined for heaven regardless of their walk because that’s what they hear at funerals and in milquetoast sermons.

We find the **Passive Pushover** on the next level. This person was raised in his denomination and automatically accepts everything his church teaches, just as his parents did who inherited the same beliefs from their parents, and so forth.

Unless a dramatic change occurs in Yahweh’s calling, this individual who was born into his church will die going there, fully believing a heavenly reward awaits him as well.

Occupying the fourth level is the **Defending Champion**. More than those in the first three levels, this individual takes ownership of his faith. He lives by the teachings of his denomination and is convinced that he is saved solely through his church membership. He supports his church with passion without ever checking its traditions against Scripture. Whenever challenged about his beliefs he defers to his minister to pinch hit for him.

At level five we see the **Wavering Wanderer**. This nonstop nomad lives in a continual state of spiritual flux. Also known as a dabbler or religious hobbyist, his lack

of resolve and his uncertainty takes him and his family aimlessly from group to group. His instability proves no value to any group he visits. His group-hopping habits are bred into his children so that one day he will be wondering why they never got serious about their own faith.

At level six we find the **Compelled Compromiser** who accepts Yahweh and His covenant truth. But rather than submitting to the Scriptures as he knows them, he is rendered spiritually impotent out of pressure from an unbelieving spouse and relatives.

For example, he defers to the wishes of unconverted family when it comes to Sabbath activities and observing Yahweh’s Feast days with the rest of the Body of Yahshua.

This is that man with two masters that Yahshua warned about in Matthew 6:24. One day he will wish he had put Yahweh first, above everything else in life, including his unbelieving relatives.

At level 7 is the **True Believer** who zealously studies the Word, follows it, and is able to defend with Scripture the truth he has learned. He never blindly accepts what he is told without checking it against Scripture. He is keenly aware of Ephesians 4:5, knowing that there is only one master, one faith and one baptism. His convictions are unshakeable and he follows his faith no matter where it leads and what it costs. His

faith and resolve to live the Word cannot be overthrown. For everlasting life he knows he must follow the teaching and example of Yahshua regardless of opposition or difficulty.

Most people who confess the Scriptures are at one of these levels in their walk. Yahweh expects all of His people to go beyond the first six levels. The truth does not reside in ignorance, apathy, self-satisfaction, half-heartedness or fear of what others may say. Neither is it found in the weak of will. It takes a special person to accept and walk in the truth of Yahweh's Word.

Yahweh is looking for those willing to serve Him as priests in His coming Kingdom and who want to learn His will now. Yahshua said many are called but few chosen. He said "few" because most lack the resolve, dedication and sacrifice it takes to be a child of Yahweh. Yahshua called the truth a narrow way, meaning few would be walking in it.

The Believer Is Special

It takes backbone to be a believer and oppose the status quo. It takes a questioning mind, and a heart focused on Yahweh and not sidetracked by the world's allures or man's traditions. It takes a special kind of person with a heart that loves Yahweh completely, and it shows in all areas of life.

More often than not, the person who succeeds even in secular life is one who stands out from the crowd. This trait applies especially to the Believer. He or she transcends mediocrity.

Yahweh is looking for the person who will step out of his safe zone and meet the challenges, as did the apostles when Yahshua called each of them.

Yahshua was assembling His faithful core of 12, a devout group of decisive and highly motivated men. When He said "follow me" each one immediately dropped what he was doing and joined Him. That took faith and pluck.

None of those high achievers in His inner circle was afraid to be exceptional. They followed Yahshua in faith. They had a spiritual goal and were driven with an intense interest in the Word. They were determined to continue His ministry and were willing to die to follow the Word.

It is this kind of boldness and mettle He is still looking for today in His people.

To illustrate, Yahshua told a parable

about allegiance and enthusiasm in Luke 9:59-62: "And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Master, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Yahshua said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of Yahweh. And another also said, Master, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Yahshua said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Yahweh."

Yahshua shows that family and friendships must never get in the way of our walk in Truth.

When the believer proves the Truth to himself, he acts on it. He doesn't look for approval from family; he doesn't look back to his old beliefs only to be sucked into error again. He moves on to higher ground, walking in all the light he is given. He is spiritually perceptive. He has no desire for the glitter of this world or the superficiality of common beliefs. That is why Yahshua said that only a few would be chosen. If everyone is worthy then there would be millions found acceptable!

Take any devout Old Testament patriarch, righteous king, prophet of Yahweh, chosen apostle or anyone in the Scriptures favored by Yahweh and you will find a person with uncommon courage and tenacity. They are those who will not shrink back from the Word no matter the challenge and regardless of who presents it. If they did they would not be worthy of even a footnote in the Book of Life, just dishonorable mentions befitting the likes of Demas, who left Paul because he loved the world more than Yahweh.

Hebrews 11 is about true faith in action. After a list of Who's Who among the faithful in the Old Testament, Hebrews sums up their moxie this way. We read in verse 32: "And what shall I more say for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong; waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again : and others were tortured not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword : they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: Elohim having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Follow ALL the Word

The knowledge the believer is blessed to be given is the result of many decades of intense, highly focused, in-depth Bible study by learned students of the Scriptures as well as scholars, both today and in the past. We accept the WHOLE Bible. Our understanding harmonizes with the entire Word.

If you don't get the foundation right, the structure will be weak and will collapse in time. It all rests on the proper footing.

Because the initial testament is called "old," many believe it is now useless and surpassed by a "New" Testament with a focus away from Israel and the Jews. In truth, the entire Bible reflects the values and code of ethics of Yahweh and His Son.

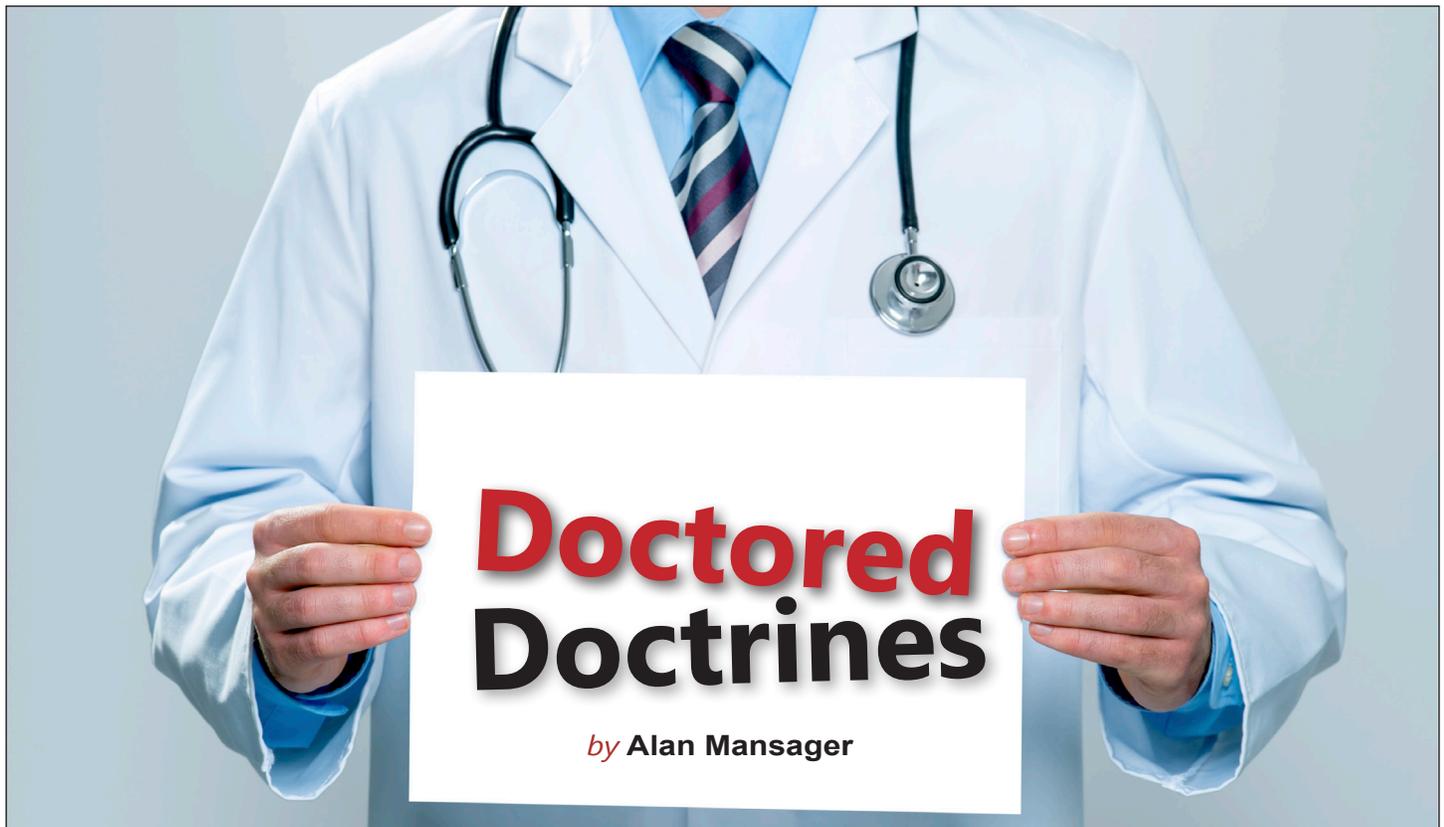
A few changes were made in the priesthood and administration of the law, but the need for obedience remains in both testaments. Yahshua's own obedience to the Word and His teachings prove that.

The common belief is that the Old Testament is outdated and its instructions useless, even though it is quoted and directly referred to 250 times in the New Testament. Our New Testament Savior and all His apostles gleaned their teachings from the Old Testament because it was the only Bible they had.

The entire Bible is valid for our learning. Paul wrote in 2Timothy 3:16-17, "ALL scripture is given by inspiration of Yahweh, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Elohim may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Yahweh's Word will soon judge all men. Now is the time to follow and conform our lives to it.





A rule of thumb for testing any belief or practice is to ask: Did the apostles teach and do that?

The more you dig into history the wider becomes the chasm separating traditional church beliefs and the doctrines of the apostles. If Peter, Paul, James, or John were to walk into the typical worship setting today they would be stunned by the myriad traditions claiming a biblical basis.

Most of today's major creeds are foreign to the teachings of Yahshua and His advocates. Surprisingly, some heresies were already familiar to them as they made their debut in the first century.

John warns of this in 1John 4:1: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of Elohim: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Spirit is *pneuma* in Greek and can mean mind and mental disposition. Already in John's day devious hucksters were going around deceiving people. All kinds of machinations were behind their false teachings.

As J.N.D. Kelly points out in his book, *Early Christian Doctrines*, "One of the most potent forces operating in the Church's environment, particularly in the second and third centuries, was Gnosticism." He explains that this movement was "an

aberration brought about by the adulteration of sound apostolic doctrine with pagan philosophy, or even astrology and Greek mystery religions."

Gnostic and other foreign teachings had a profound effect on the development of early church doctrine, leaving us with the vast disparity we see today between what the Word says and what traditional denominations believe and teach.

Blind Acceptance of False Traditions

Many of today's major beliefs are nowhere found in the Scriptures. Open a concordance and see whether you can find the words rapture, Christmas, Trinity, Lent, or infant baptism in the Bible. Try to locate "Sunday" in Scripture. See whether you can find even one passage showing that Yahshua's death and resurrection created Easter and Sunday worship.

Many of these teachings were concocted in the first few centuries of the New Testament. What is so amazing is that these rogue beliefs are so deeply entrenched in church teaching that they continue to be blindly accepted today even when proved missing and in conflict with the Scriptures.

The seeker will find truth from an open and honest look at the Word. Often a check of the Hebrew or Greek will clear up 90

percent of any misunderstanding.

We were recently asked what makes YRM unique in the religious sphere. One key characteristic is that we harmonize the Old Testament with the New Testament. That's a novel idea for many. You can't have a true and accurate picture of the Bible and Yahweh's plan if you focus only on the last third of the book.

We approach any study by seeking to find agreement in the testaments, not conflict. The Old Testament is the foundation on which Yahshua's ministry and New Testament teachings rest. The Old Testament was the Messiah's teaching text; Yahshua didn't quote Paul's writings, Paul quoted Yahshua.

This sound approach to inquiry, rather than consulting church tradition, is how we arrive at what we believe and teach. Two millennia of misguidance have left millions with a warped view of the Bible, its overriding message, and its purpose.

Many who get stumped over a teaching or passage just dial their minister rather than open their Bible. It's very precarious when you go to indoctrinated clergy for answers because you will likely get the seminary answer and not biblical teaching.

For example, to support Sunday worship most clerics will likely refer you to

1Corinthians 16:2: “Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

By this they say Paul was telling the Corinthians to make preparation to have money ready for the Sunday morning offering plate at church. Now, would that simple task need days of planning and preparation? And why would Paul come to their homes anyway? Were they not supposed to be going to the church for Sunday worship? The passage does not fit the teaching it is applied to.

The next verse begins to provide the clear answer: “And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem,” 16:3.

A little analysis demolishes the Sunday worship theory of 1Corinthians 16:2. The Greek says, “Upon the first of the week.” The word “day” was added in the KJV, which is why the KJV puts it in italics. It could be Sunday, Monday or even Tuesday.

This passage is about a charitable contribution for the brethren in Jerusalem suffering from a famine, not Sunday worship. The context is in Acts 11:27-30:

“And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Paul.”

Any sincere inquiry should spring from diagnostic questions. If we just go along with our minds stuck in neutral we can easily be led astray, as millions have been through the centuries.

Error Developed Gradually

Most of today’s church traditions did not flow directly and seamlessly from apostolic teaching directly into today’s church. Modern doctrines and tenets were the result of hundreds of years of infighting, arguing, flip-flopping, and calling of dozens of church councils to hammer things out.

They are the result of centuries of melding with foreign beliefs like Greek philosophies and pagan Roman belief

systems. It took church prelates hundreds of years to wrap their collective minds around what have become major teachings, creeds, and tenets that seem so natural and right to most churchgoers today.

All of this structuring and posturing tells us one thing: had the church kept strictly to the Word in both Old and New testaments it would have saved itself centuries of trial, heartache, and grief, while right biblical doctrines as taught by Yahshua and the apostles would still be preached universally today.

Most major denominational teachings developed many centuries after the apostles. By cutting out the foundational Old Testament Scriptures, you invite castastrophe when trying to defend true teachings from false practices arising out

“With the change to a centralized government the church took the Scriptures out of the hands of the local elders and began making its own doctrines for everyone.”

of left field. You must have a benchmark, a solid foundation on which to build correctly. The Old Testament is that needed substructure that gives proper direction, stability and truth to the entire Bible.

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16: “All scripture is given by inspiration of Elohim, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of Elohim may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The pagan element effectively contributed to the downfall of both Israel and the Roman church today. In Deuteronomy 12:30 is Yahweh’s warning, “...enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.”

Apostasy Came Through Many Doors

You can find pagan, Roman church doctrine in every modern denomination today. For starters, modern churches everywhere tightly embrace Sunday worship despite a complete lack of scriptural support. The same goes for Easter and the other pseudo-religious holidays the world embraces.

It was mostly in the first four centuries when the major fraud was committed in

creating doctrine foreign to the Scriptures. The template for error was set and would continue to derail worship down through the centuries.

Following are some major ways apostasy took control:

- Man-made doctrines, much of them fabricated from eclectic worship of pagans, superseded biblical teachings.
- Establishment of a single man to make decisions for the entire church was a direct takeoff of the Roman Empire’s imperial structure, ruled by an emperor. Then councils of bishops developed, like the Roman senate. Reflective of the Roman Empire’s hierarchy, the Roman church had archbishops, cardinals, primates, metropolitans, diocesan bishops, priests, and on down in a vast, hierarchical structure.

Nowhere in Scripture do we find this setup. Yahshua is the head. We follow His leading through what He taught and the example He lived.

For certain, Paul lists in Ephesians 4:11 various offices in the body of Messiah: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” But verse 12 tells us why these were established: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah.” These are scriptural offices needed to carry out a full-service ministry, not for political rule in a quasi-governmental system.

With the change to a centralized government the church took the Scriptures out of the hands of the local elders and began making its own doctrines for everyone. The leadership became political as Emperor Constantine united church and state.

In this environment clerics sought personal gain. Later, they would even take money to pray someone out of purgatory, a practice that helped spark the Reformation.

- Doctrinal departure can be traced to the establishment of councils to change and

adopt new church teaching, and the writing of modifiable creeds to perpetuate error.

An example of this is the Apostles' Creed. This creed, recited regularly across the land each Sunday even in Protestant churches, has nothing to do with the apostles or their teachings. The creed has been changed 16 times through the centuries, yet it is still called the "Apostles'" Creed today.

Enter the Trinity Teaching

Of all the key church teachings, the kingpin is the Trinity. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* quotes one scholar when it addresses the Trinity's entry into church creed: "The Trinitarian theology of later ages, he declares, has read into the text a meaning which it did not possess for its framers. And he says, again, with regard to the ninth article, that the writer of the Creed did not conceive the Holy Ghost as a Person, but as a power and gift. No proof can be shown that about the middle of the second century the Holy Ghost was believed in as a Person."

What an amazingly candid statement from the encyclopedia of the very church that developed the Trinity doctrine! The Holy Spirit is in fact the force and power of Yahweh, as the Hebrew and Greek words show (*ruach haKodesh*; *pneuma hagion* – power like the wind).

Nothing in Yahweh's Word gives the right to formulate human creeds by which people are to be guided in their devotional life. Yahshua granted no such authority and neither did any of the apostles.

Rather, Yahshua admonishes us in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh. Do that and you will stay out of trouble and on the proper track.

But by force of decree, scare tactics, threats, persecution, and even death, over time man-made doctrines became calcified church teachings and tradition, both Roman and Protestant.

Tradition Trumps Truth Today

There seems to be no limit to the mental contortions people will go through to justify their beliefs. We once had a discussion with an individual who said that Yahshua, being Jewish, kept the "Jewish" laws just so He could fulfill them, meaning abolish them.

Why the need to keep them at all if

He was just going to eliminate them? Why pay any mind to statutes that were on the verge of obsolescence? If Yahweh's laws were to become history in a couple years, what would be the point of Yahshua's teaching and obeying them in 32 CE if He were about to eliminate them by His death in 33 CE?

And if He were just trying to endear Himself to Jews who obeyed them, then keeping those "Jewish" laws would only serve to confirm the importance of those laws in their eyes. It seems that if He set out to eliminate biblical law, that observing them perfectly would be the last thing He would do.

In truth, Yahshua was law-observant because He was leaving us a guide to follow. "For even here unto were ye called: because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth," 1Peter 2:21-22.

To have no sin He had to live without violating the law. His example for us to stop sinning as well would be to begin keeping the law.

Teaching by example was also Paul's way of showing the naysayers that he lived by the Old Testament's precepts. In Acts 21 when some questioned whether Paul was against Old Testament laws, He took a Nazarite vow, part of the Old Testament law, to prove otherwise.

Participating in something shows your agreement, not your disapproval of it. Advocates today will march, walk or run to raise funds or awareness for a cause. Do they participate because they disagree with the cause? Not unless they're a half bubble off plumb!

Apostle Continues Feast Keeping

When Yahshua went up to the Feast in John 7, and actually taught there, was it only because He would later abolish the Feasts with His death? If so, why didn't He tell that to those gathered there?

The words Feast and Feasts referring to Yahweh's Holy Days appear 34 times in the New Testament in the simple past or present tense, showing that they were being observed at that time. Yahshua observed them throughout His life, and so did the Apostle Paul, who continued the example of keeping them after the resurrection of Yahshua. We are told to follow in Yahshua's

footsteps, 1Peter 2:21.

Before he began his ministry Paul was trained by the resurrected Messiah Himself for a couple of years. Why wasn't he told that the Feasts and other laws were unnecessary, now that Yahshua had died, resurrected, and abolished them? Was such a monumental detail just something that slipped His mind?

You would think communicating an abolishment of the law would be top priority and the first thing Yahshua would tell this sincere, high octane Jew from Tarsus before he went out and wrote or said something wrong in his ministry. Yet we see Paul still keeping and teaching the Feasts, as well as the laws of Yahweh.

Because of negligent church teaching, most don't understand that Yahshua taught much more than love and grace. Mercy, grace, and forgiveness are all necessary because of lawbreaking. With no law, there's no sin—and therefore no need for mercy, grace, and forgiveness. All of which result from our sincere repentance.

Central to Yahshua's teachings was obedience to His Father's commands as well as the coming Kingdom and how to be part of it. You will never hear that at most church services.

Rather, within the first few minutes of the sermon you will likely hear the law and obedience get hammered as being unnecessary now and even wrong because obedience means "earning salvation," which is merely the Reformation gone amok. And besides, obedience is only the Messiah's job, they will say. He did everything—we do nothing.

A case in point: they may refer you to one of the most cited verses used to "prove" this teaching, Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Master Yahshua, and shalt believe in thine heart that Yahweh hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." You see, it's simple and convenient, they'll say. That's all you need for salvation.

But we must not stop there. Read the next verse: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Did you notice that belief leads to "righteousness"?

Many would like to remove the statute so they won't suffer the penalty. Make your faith as easy as humanly possible, just one sentence of confession and you are "in" –



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Then click playlists - "Q&A with Pastor Randy."

“born again.”

All of this flies in the face of New Testament passages like Philippians 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.”

Hebrews 5:8-9 tells us about Yahshua: “Though he were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”

First John 2:7 reads: “Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.”

Man-made teachings become accept-

of the original Israelite faith, but was given the Holy Spirit in a greater, more powerful way so that gentiles and not just Israelites could be better reached with the truth of Yahshua.

The apostles had a big job to do and they didn’t need any opposition from those with their own agendas. But that is just what they got. Heretics were coming out of the woodwork.

Heresy is from the Greek meaning choice. Instead of believing what the Scriptures teach, heretics choose for themselves what to believe. In the period after the apostolic age, heretics were called Gnostics, a word signifying special knowledge. These fellows professed to know more than those who followed Scripture.

Gnostics began to influence the movement in a melding of Jewish and pagan ideas with the faith of the Messiah. Error

also used in the rites of the pagans, being used in the sacrifice to Isis.

How Apostasy Took Hold and Grew

The following are root causes for the move away from truth by the apostate church, according to *History of the Church Through the Ages*, by Robert H. Brumbach:

- Study of Yahweh’s Word was neglected
- Government of the church changed
- Office of elder disappeared (replaced by a hierarchy)
- Plan of redemption was altered
- Simplicity of worship changed to ritualism
- Paganization entered in
- Church membership was made compulsory
- Tradition became equal in authority to Scripture
- Councils established doctrine
- Obedience to Messiah as the means to salvation was forgotten

All of these reflect in some way the takeover of the Bible’s authority by a human institution. These fundamental changes are still with us today, keeping the Word from being observed 2,000 years later. Paul knew the dangers. He warned the young Timothy in 2Timothy 4:1-5,

“I charge thee therefore before Elohim, and the 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 longsuffering 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.”

Sound doctrine is the key to truth. The Bible’s two testaments make one book, a covenant for Yahweh’s people. This covenant was first made with Israel (not just with Jews), and renewed and intensified with the teachings and life-examples of Yahshua in the New Testament. All people with a willing heart can now take hold of the covenant and receive the promises.

Once you accept that truth you will begin to marvel at how the Bible becomes clear and starts to make amazing sense. 

“In the doctrinal turmoil that followed the apostolic era, all kinds of beliefs and practices became absorbed.”

able when the covenant that Yahweh makes with His people is not understood and honored. The basic Old Testament covenant covered in Jeremiah 31 is carried over in Hebrews 8. Jeremiah 31:33 says Yahweh will put His laws in our hearts in the New Covenant, In other words, we internalize them, make them an automatic part of us. Revere them at the deepest, inner level.

Sure, there were a few changes in the priesthood, priestly administration, and animal sacrifices. But the fundamental essentials of obedience remain as taught and followed by Yahshua and His disciples.

A New Church in Acts 2?

The common notion is that the apostles jettisoned their Hebrew foundation and set up totally new apostolic doctrines when the assembly was born at the Acts 2 Pentecost.

But the assembly was not established at Pentecost in Acts. 2. This division is just a pretext to separate the Old Testament away from the New. In fact, the Israelites were called the assembly or church in the wilderness in Acts 7:38. Yahweh’s body of believers was already up and running under the leadership of Moses.

The Acts 2 assembly was a continuation

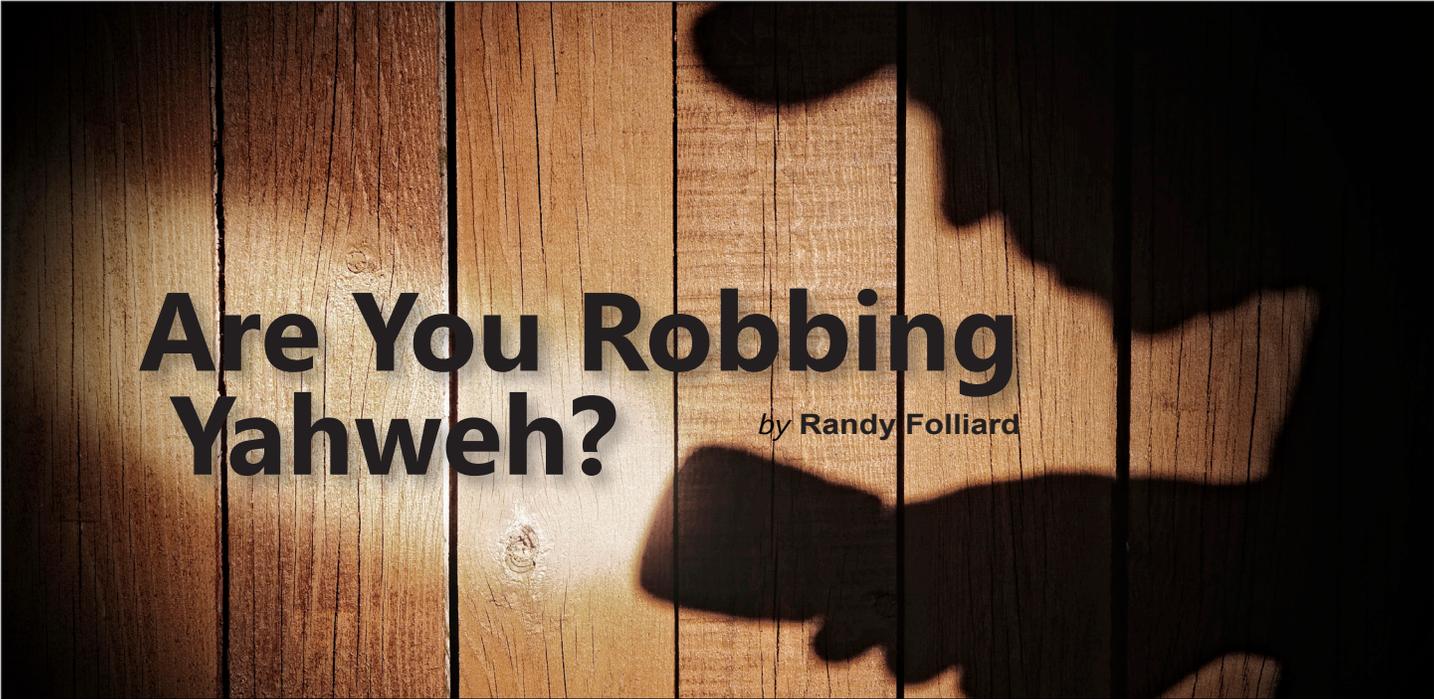
typically has an element of truth to make it more palatable.

Gnostics rejected most of the New Testament. Professing to be Christians, they gathered their doctrines from all available sources. This eclectic approach to religion influenced the church, which also absorbed various tenets from heathen faiths.

In the doctrinal turmoil that followed the apostolic era, all kinds of beliefs and practices became absorbed. One of our aims as a “restoration” ministry is to expose these false tenets to the world and to restore the truth that has been nearly lost.

One example is the name of the superholiday Christmas, a contraction of Christ’s Mass. History shows that in the 5th century church it was the practice to honor the pagan sun god Sol but to call it Christ’s mass. It was a day of festivity as well as much carousing.

So where did the term “mass” originate? Near the end of the 3rd century, at the end of a sermon, those not allowed to remain for the L-rd’s supper were to leave when the deacon said in Latin, “ite missah est,” meaning you are dismissed. It was shortened to “the mass” and became applied to the L-rd’s supper. The term was



Are You Robbing Yahweh?

by Randy Folliard

A common trend across denominations with both Sunday and Sabbath keepers is a shrinking number of those who tithe. While many are willing to benefit from ministry materials and enjoy the many perks offered by a truth-teaching group, they see no reason to support the work of the ministry.

Motives for not tithing vary, and include a claim of not being able to afford to tithe as well as having other priorities like personal expenses and vacations.

Are You Guilty?

Regardless of the reason, the question is, how serious is withholding what belongs to Yahweh? Our Heavenly Father provides a clear answer in the third chapter of Malachi:

“Will a man rob Elohim? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith Yahweh of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith

Yahweh of hosts,” verses 8-12.

There is no getting around or reinterpreting His words. As we’ll see, the tithe is holy and belongs to Yahweh and is exclusively for His Work. Therefore, when we forgo the tithe, we are taking what belongs to Him.

For those who are faithful with the tithe, notice what He says in verse 10. “Prove me now herewith, saith Yahweh of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” He promises great blessings for those who make an effort to tithe.

Now some might say, “I simply can’t afford it.” While we realize that many struggle financially today, our Heavenly Father promises that if we step out in faith and provide that which belongs to Him, He will bless us.

Greater Financial Security

According to a 2013 article from *The Christian Post*, those who tithe experience greater financial security: “The finances of Christians who tithe are generally healthier than the finances of those who do not, according to a new report that takes a close look at the financial, spiritual and giving practices of people who give 10 percent or more of their income away to churches and charities each year.

“Researchers compared tithers to non-tithers using nine financial health

indicators, and found that tithers were better off in every category. Among tithers, for example, 80 percent have no unpaid credit card bills, 74 percent don’t owe anything on their cars, 48 percent own their home and 28 percent are debt free.

“The weird thing is, a tither looks at that and says to himself, ‘Well I’m better off because I give.’ A non-tither looks at that and says, ‘Oh, they give because they’re better off,’ said Brian Kluth, founder of the study and Maximum Generosity, who called the findings ‘unprecedented’” (study: “Christians Who Tithe Have Healthier Finances Than Those Who Don’t”).

Here is evidence validating that when we tithe we are blessed. We often forget that everything in this grand universe is within Yahweh’s control. When we are faithful to Him, He promises to be faithful to us. This includes tithing.

When we step out in faith and return 10 percent of our earnings to Him, He is faithful to open the windows of heaven and bless us for our obedience. In addition to being a command, tithing is also an act of faith and worship. According to Hebrews 11:7, it is impossible to please Yahweh without faith.

When we decline to give the tithe out of financial fear, we are telling our Heavenly Father that we don’t trust Him to provide for our needs.

The command to tithe is found in Leviticus 27:30-32. There Yahweh states,

“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.”

The word “holy” is from the Hebrew *qodesh* and refers to something sacred or set apart. It occurs 464 times in the Old Testament Hebrew. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* defines *qodesh* as, “holiness; holy thing; sanctuary.” *The Brown Driver and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* states, “...apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness.”

Since the tithe is holy, i.e., sacred or set apart, to our Heavenly Father, it belongs to Him and not to us. For this reason we don’t have discretion over its use. We cannot ignore or neglect that which belongs to Him. If we do, we are not only breaking His command, but also robbing Him of what is rightfully His!

While many recognize that tithing is a command, they see it as less important than other commandments. Is tithing different from other laws? Are we justified if we rob Yahweh of the tithe, but obey the Sabbath and Feast days? No. The tithe is no less important than any other law within the Torah. Robbing Yahweh of the tithe is like eating a ham sandwich, as both are sin! The tithe carries the same weight and obligation as any other law in the Word.

Tithe Observed by Abraham

The first occurrence of tithing was back about 2,000 years before the Messiah and 500 years before Moses. In the 18th chapter of Genesis, Abraham tithed to Melchizedek: “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high El. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high El, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high El, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all,” verses 18-20.

Here are several points we must consider. First, the priesthood was established long before Moses and the Levites. The book of Hebrews shows that this was the Melchizedek priesthood; the same priesthood that Yahshua, our Savior,

is part of today.

Scripture is vague as to who this Melchizedek figure was. We know that he was king of Salem and a priest of Yahweh who existed during the time of Abraham. We see here that Abraham gave a tithe of all. He just returned from being victorious in battle and had with him the spoils of war. It was the spoils of war that he tithed to Melchizedek.

This is important for two reasons. It confirms that tithing was practiced long before the Levitical priesthood and also that tithing encompassed more than produce or livestock. It’s been said that this passage isn’t referring to a tithe, but to an offering. The difference is that the tithe is a command and is always ten percent, while an offering is what is freely given without a specific amount.

Do we have a way of knowing which one Abraham gave to Melchizedek? We do and the answer’s found in the seventh chapter of Hebrews:

“Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him,” verses 4-10.

The writer of Hebrews shows a continuity with the tithe that Abraham gave to Melchizedek and the tithe the Levites received from Israel. This confirms that what Abraham gave to Melchizedek was considered a tithe equivalent to the tithe the Levites received from Israel. Therefore, the belief that Genesis 14 is not speaking about the 10 percent tithe is not scripturally supported. This is proof that what Abraham gave to Melchizedek was the tithe and not a random offering.

We find a second example in Genesis 28:20-22: “And Jacob vowed a vow, saying,

If Elohim will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall Yahweh be my Elohim: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be Elohim’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

Right before this account, the Bible records that Jacob saw in a dream angels descending from and ascending to heaven. Prior to his dream Scripture indicates that Jacob was not fully converted to his Heavenly Father.

It wasn’t until this divine encounter that Jacob fully committed himself to serving the Elohim of his fathers. This can be seen from the nature of the vow he made as well as verse 22, which states, “...then shall Yahweh be my Elohim.” If he were already committed there would have been no purpose for what he said.

This was clearly a turning point in Jacob’s life. As part of his vow he promised to give a tenth or tithe of all. This shows that the tithe was a command prior to Moses and it shows that the tithe was also a sign of conversion. As an expression of his newfound faith, Jacob promised he would give that which was holy to Yahweh.

Purpose of Tithing

Every command in Yahweh’s Word has meaning and purpose. In Numbers 18:24 we find the purpose of the tithe, “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.”

The tithe belonged to the Levites because they had no inheritance and were responsible to minister His worship. In addition to overseeing the sacrifices, they would also read and preach from Yahweh’s Word. An example of this is found in Nehemiah 8:3 where Ezra read and expounded from the law to the people of Judah.

Yahweh established the tithe to support His work. Without it, there would have been no Levitical priesthood and more importantly, no formal worship of Yahweh. The purpose of the tithe was to provide for this need. For those who would argue that the tithe is no longer valid in the



Tithing Statistics of Americans

Only 3-5% of Americans who give to their local church do so by regular tithing.

For Christian families making less than \$20k per year, 8% gave at least 10% in tithing. For families making a minimum of \$75k, the figure drops to just 1%.

The average donation by U.S. churchgoing Protestants is about \$17 a week.

37% of people who attend church every week and identify themselves as Evangelical don't give any money to their church.

77% of those who tithe give 11%–20% or more of their income.

97% of Christians who tithe make it a top priority to give to their local church.

People are more likely to practice tithing when they begin in their teens or 20s.

People who tithe regularly typically have less debt than other demographics – 8 out of 10 have zero credit card debt and 28% of those are totally debt free.

35% of those who tithe have a net worth or a will bequest of more than \$500k.

If Christians followed the Old Testament standard of giving, then \$139 billion would become available every year for additional ministry work.

Source: *HealthResearchFunding.org+*

New Testament, they should answer the following: Is there still a need to preach the Word and have a place for formal worship? If yes, then the tithe command is still valid for the preaching of the evangel.

The Impact of Neglect

Nehemiah 13:10-11 shows what happens when the tithe is neglected: “And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of Elohim forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.”

Nehemiah was displeased with the people. Why? Because they were not providing for the Levites and priests. For this reason the priests were forced to return to the fields to make a living. As a result, they had no choice but to forsake Yahweh's house to provide for their own needs. In response to this neglect, Nehemiah commanded that the tithe be restored so that they could come again to minister in Yahweh's house.

The lesson here is that when the tithe is withheld, Yahweh's work is forsaken and goes undone. Sadly, this is still often the case. For this reason, Nehemiah's call is as relevant today as it was then.

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul

warns: “For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth Elohim take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?” (1Cor. 9:9-11).

Paul explains that the command of not muzzling the ox has a greater meaning. It points to those who minister today in the Word. When he speaks about sowing spiritual things, he's referring to those who benefit from the preaching and ministering of Yahweh's Word. When he speaks about reaping carnal things, he's referring to the physical needs of those who minister.

The apostle is simply confirming that those who minister in the Word should be supported through the tithe.

With decades of experience in the ministry we know firsthand that a relatively few tithers provide for the majority. While the Word may be freely given, it is not without expense. For example, YRM spends annually about \$225,000 in postage. And this is just one of the many expenses we incur to provide the Word to others.

Self-Sacrifice

There are certain commands in our Father's Word that require sacrifice, but perhaps none greater than the tithe. Yahshua in the

21st chapter of Luke speaks of a woman who serves as an example of dedication and faith: “And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of Elohim: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had,” verses 1-4.

This poor widow gave everything she had to Yahweh. Even though she gave only two mites, Yahshua said that her contribution was more than all those who gave of their wealth. If this widow was able to give of her entire substance in her extreme poverty, we too must give that which belongs to Him.

Bible scholar Matthew Henry once stated, “He [Yahshua] observes whether we give largely and liberally, in proportion to what we have, or whether we be sneaking and paltry in it; nay, his eye goes further, he observes whether we give charitably and with a willing mind, or grudgingly and with reluctance. This should make us afraid of coming short of our duty in this matter; men may be deceived with excuses which [Messiah] knows to be frivolous. And this should encourage us to be abundant in it, without desiring that men should know it; it is enough that [Messiah] does; he sees in secret, and will reward openly” (*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, note on Luke 21:1-4).

Tithing is much more than a command. It's a test of devotion and sacrifice. How far are we willing to go to please the One we worship? There are those who verbally confess their faith and there are those who demonstrate their faith through their outpouring of sacrifice and generosity. Which one of these will receive the blessing?

Tithing is not only an obligation we find in the Torah or law, but a reflection of the heart and a sign of conversion. When we purposely withhold our tithe and rob that which belongs to Yahweh, not only are we guilty of sin (1John 3:4), but perhaps more importantly, we're revealing to Almighty Yahweh a stony heart that is only partially devoted.

May we show ourselves to be fully committed by being faithful in all the commands of our Heavenly Father!

YOUR SOUL AND SATAN'S BIG

LIE

by the late Donald R. Mansager

When you hear the word “soul,” what pops into your mind? Do you envision a misty cloud with wings rising from a body and fluttering off into the sky? Because of a lifetime of preconditioning, most think of the soul as a part of the individual that separates and lives forever. Tradition aside, let’s discover what the Scriptures teach about the soul.

Most churches teach that our fleshly body is like a container of sorts that houses the physical individual. But the “real person,” the real you, is invisible and wafts off to heaven at death. Or maybe to an ever-burning hell-fire. This ethereal something is referred to as the soul.

“The soul has departed from the body and is now in heaven with the L-rd” is a common assertion about death heard at funerals. Although the body is dead and in the coffin, the real person is said to be living large up in heaven while looking down on the funeral mourners and listening to the oration. The person’s body is about to be put in the ground to await the resurrection when it will reunite with the soul come down from heaven.

Immortal Soul in Scripture?

Why is it that everyone presumably wafts off to heaven when they die? Judging by this

traditional belief, all who die are righteous, even before they are judged. But Paul wrote in 2Corinthians 5:10 that ALL must appear before the judgment seat.

Here is a challenge: try to find the expression “immortal soul” anywhere in the Bible. It is not there! Nowhere can you find the words “immortal” and “soul” together in Scripture. In fact, just the opposite is true. Souls can be destroyed. Yahshua Himself said that Yahweh is able to destroy both body AND soul, Matthew 10:28.

Nephesh, Psuche = Soul

To comprehend the teachings of the Bible concerning human life, death, soul, and spirit, it is necessary to set aside many preconceived ideas and concepts. In our goal to arrive at the truth of the Scriptures, we must eschew beliefs that are not in accord with the Bible. This is especially true with the English word “soul.” The Bible teaches that the soul is not a PART of man, but is the WHOLE man.

Adam was created first, and then given life: “And Yahweh Elohim formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7). Man does not possess a detachable soul as a separate entity, rather he IS a soul, a living, sentient being that can also die.

The Hebrew *nephesh* is translated soul in our English and *nephesh* is a breathing creature, i.e. animal or (abstr.) vitality; used very widely in a literal, accommodated or figurative sense. The equivalent word in the Greek is *psuche*, translated heart, mind, life, soul. *Psuche* is the direct counterpart to the Hebrew *nephesh*.

Nephesh (soul) occurs 752 times in the Old Testament and is translated 44 different ways. Our English words translated from *nephesh* carry the primary meaning of creature, man, life, person.

The Greek *psuche* is found 105 times in the New Testament. It is translated “soul” 58 times; “life” and “lives” 40 times; “mind” 3 times, and once each “you,” “us,” “heart,” and “heartily.”

That *psuche* is the direct parallel to *nephesh* can be found by comparing Matthew 20:28 and Isaiah 53:10, where Matthew reads “life,” and Isaiah has “soul.” Other parallel verses are Acts 2:27 and Psalm 16:10; Romans 11:3 and 1Kings 19:10.

Both Men and Animals Die

In contrast with the erroneous Greek teaching of the soul (*psuche*) as being immaterial, intangible, invisible and immortal, the Scriptures show that both *psuche* and *nephesh* in reference to physical creatures refer to

that which is material, tangible, visible, and mortal. It is life itself.

In the flood account, Noah took air-breathing animals into the ark: “And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein [is] the breath of life” (Gen. 7:15). Notice verse 22: “All in whose nostrils [was] the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died” (Gen. 7:22).

This is in full accord with King Solomon’s statement that man and beast all breathe the same air. They have “one breath” [Hebrew *ruach*, spirit of life] and as one dies, so dies the other, Ecclesiastes 3:19. Neither man nor beast live on in an immortal state, according to this and other verses.

Ecclesiastes also tells us that man and beast are composed of the earth, and when we die, we go back to the earth: “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows the spirit of man that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?” (Ecclesiastes 3:20-21).

Driven by instinct, animals can also see, hear, smell, taste, and learn. Although on a lower plane than humans, they come from the same fountain of life and sustain themselves in the same way through food, water, and air. Animals, like man, have blood, muscles, and bones.

But like man, beasts are also living souls. What separates man from beast is that human beings are created in the image of our Creator. Yahweh has made provision for man to rise above our present carnal state. Man can envision a higher morality, and has deeper emotions of love and compassion as well as hatred and anger.

Yahweh communicates to His human creation through Scripture. Each page of the Bible can be thought of as “love letters to the bride”! The Bible contains our invitation to the Savior’s wedding and the promise of glory to all those who attend the wedding supper.

Satan’s Lie: You Don’t Die

King Solomon refutes the pagan idea that mankind has some inherent, eternal quality that allows him to continue living even after death. Going strong today is the first lie, told by Satan to Eve, that we don’t really die, but have an immortal soul, Genesis 3:4.

Yahshua Himself said the devil “... was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he

speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

If we think of the *nepshesh* or *psuche* as words meaning “life,” we are more in harmony with the Bible. Both Old and New testaments teach that souls can die:

“And whatsoever soul it be that does any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people” (Lev. 23:30).

“And they took it on that day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish” (Josh. 10:35).

“He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence” (Ps. 78:50).

“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:4).

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea” (Rev. 16:3).

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28).

This verse from Matthew 10 needs clarification. The word hell is from the Greek *hades*, meaning the grave. It does not mean a place where fires continue burning, which is *gehenna*, a garbage dump in ancient Jerusalem. The word *hades* that the Savior spoke of means the grave, a pit for dead bodies.

Immortality Only from Yahweh

Destroying both soul (life) and body can be done by simply leaving them in the grave. A body left in the grave and not resurrected is assuredly dead. If Yahweh does not instill life into that body and raise it from the dead, in a short time corruption sets in and we would say that body and soul (*psuche*) do not exist any more and are dead or destroyed.

This is what the Savior referred to. Only through Yahshua do we have the promise of a resurrection and eternal life.

Yahshua said in John 3:13 that no man has ever ascended to heaven, and He should know—He was there. Not even King David, described as “a man after Yahweh’s own heart,” is in heaven, according to the Apostle Peter in Acts 2.

Speaking to the Jews in John 8:21-24, Yahshua said, “I go my way, and ye shall seek

me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come? And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall DIE in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

So they can’t go to heaven, but neither will these sinners be alive in hell. In fact, they will be dead.

Man was not created with a built-in immortal soul. Man’s eternal future lies not in himself but in the provision that Yahweh has made to become His sons and daughters through redemption in Yahshua. There is only one Source of life beyond the grave, and that is the great Sustainer and Giver of life:

“Yahweh Who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto: whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting” (1Tim. 6:16).

In his deep-seated desire to be “as mighty ones” (Gen. 3:5), man wants to ignore the part Yahweh plays in salvation. Deep down inside he wants to bypass Yahshua and be immortal on his own merits. The same lie Satan told Eve continues to be believed. This lies at the root of the immortal soul dogma.

The fact is, we do not have immortality now, according to Ecclesiastes 9:5-6. When we die, we are like the beasts that perish. However, if during our sojourn on this earth we have kept our hearts and minds attuned to the high calling we have from Yahweh and patiently seek Him through obedience, we will be rewarded with the immortality we now lack.

“But after your hardness and impenitent heart treasure up unto yourself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of Yahweh, Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life” (Rom. 2:5-7).

We are promised that if we seek Yahweh’s Kingdom on earth, He will reveal this promise to us. He will help us overcome our sinful lives and be worthy to stand before the Son of man Who will reward the faithful.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be



brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory” (1Cor. 15:53-54).

You are Yahshua’s potential bride. Although you lack a natural immortal soul, you still can have immortal life if you are faithful in following in the footsteps of the coming Bridegroom, Yahshua the Messiah.

Salvation does not occur automatically. If it did and everyone had immortal souls that waft off at death, there would be no need for Yahweh’s plan of salvation that requires conformity to His will through His

for a life of sin is spending eternity being tortured forever in a burning world inhabited by the devil, with no chance of parole.

Did Yahshua Pay with Eternal Suffering?

Let’s combine these two thoughts. Yahshua paid the penalty for our sin. But if the penalty for sin is endless torture with no escape, as tradition and churches everywhere teach, then why isn’t He still down there suffering forever in white-hot flames? Why isn’t haSatan torturing Him with a pitchfork?

Scripture tells us that He paid the penalty

means the cessation of life. Everything about us and our lives stops at death. Ezekiel 18:20 says, “The soul who sins shall die.”

Once dead we cannot think or act. We are totally unconscious. The Bible compares death to sleep. We cannot play harps in heaven or hop from fiery brick to brick in hell. We remain completely unconscious in the grave or the pit, as Scripture calls it. The only way we can live again after death is if we are resurrected, which doesn’t happen until Yahshua’s Second Coming.

Yahshua died for our sins, Hebrews 9:26



laws. This is clear in many New Testament passages, including Hebrews 5:9: “And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”

Where does the Bible say the righteous are rewarded heaven? In numerous passages we read that the earth is given to man; the kingdom UNDER heaven is given to the saints and they shall reign on the earth. Satan’s primary goal was to get to heaven, and he convinced mankind since creation to want the same.

Romans 6:23 says the wages, meaning the reward, for sin is death. Yahshua paid that penalty by dying for our sins, according to Matthew 26:28 and Hebrews 9:28. Death is the cessation of all life and life’s processes and functions, including breathing, seeing, hearing, and thinking.

For centuries the common belief has been that death is not really death, and the punishment

for our sins with His death, and then He rose from death three days later and ascended to heaven to be with the Father. Yet the Apostles’ Creed, recited by millions both Catholic and Protestant, says He descended into hell alive and rose three days later. The earliest forms of the creed don’t contain that statement.

Yahshua went to *hades*, which is the term used most for hell in the New Testament. He was entombed for three days and three nights. Ephesians 4:9 says He descended to the lower parts of the earth, which is the grave—*hades*. Nothing is said here about ministering to lost souls in hell, which is pointless anyway because they would have zero hope of escape anyway. Ministering to the damned would just be more torture if common beliefs are true.

The traditional notions of going to heaven or hell do not harmonize with the Scriptures. The Bible tells us that death

tells us. He experienced complete cessation of life, including the inability to think and communicate for three days in the tomb. Isaiah 53:12 tells us Yahshua poured out His soul unto death. His soul died, too! It means He gave up His total existence, body, mind, and spirit.

The error in the teaching that He didn’t actually die has huge ramifications. He had to have died or you and I are doomed to pay for our own sins. When an animal was sacrificed for Israel’s sins, did not that animal totally die?

Total and absolute death is required as the penalty demanded for sin. Paul said in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of Elohim is eternal life through Yahshua Messiah our Master.” Eternal life is a gift awarded to man, not what is already inherent within him.

Three Kinds of 'Hell'



Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and other references typically explain the existence of souls that live on after death by using the Old Testament word *sheol* and New Testament term *hades*.

Here is what *The New Bible Dictionary* says about immortality: “Even in the Old Testament man does not cease to exist at death, but his soul descends to *sheol* (translated ‘grave,’ ‘hell,’ or ‘pit’ in AV).

“*Sheol* is pictured as a place beneath, a region of darkness, the land of silence. Here the dead, who are gathered in tribes, receive the dying. ...*Sheol* is the Old Testament manner of asserting that death does not terminate existence... ‘Hades,’ translated ‘hell’ and ‘grave,’ is the New Testament equivalent of *Sheol*.”

This is a prime example of how preconditioned thinking can twist meanings. The writer assumes the meaning of hell as a place where immortal souls of wicked people go, then uses that assumption in reverse to redefine *sheol*, the word from which hell has been translated. In reading the above, one gets confused as to whether dead and dying in fact mean cessation of life.

The word “hell” is an English word chosen by the translators of our English Bible to express the sense of four diverse Hebrew and Greek words: Hebrew *sheol* and the Greek *hades*, *gehenna*, and *tartaroo*. *Sheol* and *hades* mean the same thing, the grave, while *gehenna* and *tartaroo* are places where the wicked, including fallen angels, will be destroyed.

In any case, no human can live in any of these places, and a serious error is perpetuated when all four words are translated by the one word “hell.”

The word hell in Old English usage meant primarily to hide, conceal, to cover. Thus, it is a hidden or covered place. Old English literature reveals the “helling” of potatoes, which was putting potatoes into pits; or the “helling” of a house, meaning to cover or thatch it.

The early translators were already conditioned to the false doctrine of the “immortal soul” and chose certain words to harmonize with their erroneous belief. This is why in their translation they almost always used the word “hell” to translate the Hebrew word *sheol* when the reference was to the wicked, and they used “grave” when the text pertained to the righteous.

In reality, *sheol* is simply the grave. *Sheol* occurs 65 times in the Old Testament, and is translated hell 31 times; grave 31 times; and pit three times.

The word that indicates fire or burning is the Greek *gehenna*,

which was the garbage dump for the city of Jerusalem. *Gehenna* (valley of Hinnom) is erroneously taught as an “ever-burning hell.” Yahshua referred to *gehenna* as a place of destruction.

Several hundred years ago the belief in hell as a place of fire and torment was almost universal throughout all Christendom. Today’s notions about hell come from two writers: Italian poet Dante Alighieri in his 14th century work, *The Divine Comedy*, and 17th century English poet John Milton in *Paradise Lost*.

In His book, *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*, Simcha Raphael wrote, “In the thirteenth century, Dante’s *Divine Comedy* mapped out very exceptionally picturesque and graphic images of heaven and hell, which became canonical Christian dogma, promulgated throughout the Byzantine world and Europe.”

Confusion regarding the grave and the fate that Satan will ultimately face in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10) undoubtedly led to the notion that Satan lives underground in a hell of fire and brimstone. This teaching is not found in Scripture.

Although teachings of “hell-fire and brimstone” have waned, churchianity still maintains that upon death, instead of going to heaven with the saved, the souls of the unsaved go immediately to hell to be tortured in fire forever.

The idea of hell and immortal soul was propagated by pagan Greek philosophers like Socrates and Plato, and embraced by the Roman church. The Bible teaches total destruction of the wicked.

When it comes to hell, the Scriptures are clear that hell means death, either the grave or everlasting termination. Endless, excruciating torment in a place of white-hot flames is not a biblical teaching.

The first lie of Satan was that human beings are really immortal with souls that consciously live on after death in an unseen world.

Nowhere does the Bible teach that those in *sheol* or *hades* (hell) are alive. Nowhere do we find any fire in *sheol* or *hades*. Neither is Satan found to abide in either *hades* or *sheol*.

Yahshua said in John 5:28-29: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.”

The common notion of instantaneous reward in heaven at death violates Yahshua’s statement at two pivotal points: all the dead will remain in the graves until the resurrection; judgment follows the resurrection, which is when the eternal future of all people will be determined, and not before.



Join Us for a Taste of the Kingdom!

Yahweh's Restoration Ministry invites you to this year's Feast of Tabernacles at Camp Allen near Greenville, MO, from the evening of September 28 – Oct. 6. This beautiful park is located in the southeast corner of Missouri. It is approximately two hours from St. Louis, three hours from Memphis, four hours from Little Rock, and six hours from Louisville. Camp Allen offers all the needed facilities, including a large meeting hall, multiple kitchens, ample lodging with private bathrooms, tent and RV spaces, indoor gym, and much more.

Above all, the feast is a time to worship Almighty Yahweh (Lev. 23:1). There is no greater activity in life. To follow His command we have scheduled daily worship services along with several workshops throughout the Feast. We will also have the traditional Night of Special Music. All are invited to participate in the musical activities. Because this fall also begins the Sabbatical year, we will be reading the entire Book of Deuteronomy as a congregation.

In addition to the worship services, we have several activities planned, including: volleyball, family Bingo, puppet show, and several other games and activities for children and the entire family. We will also be bringing back the Ultimate Feast Challenge, a team activity requiring both physical and biblical strength.

We pray that you will make plans NOW to join us for the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles. The many instructional and inspirational messages along with a plethora of family activities promise to make the upcoming Feast one for the ages! For more information, including a downloadable registration form, visit us online at yrm.org/fot2015. You can also call us at (573) 896-1000.



Successful Marriages, Pt. 2

by Randy Folliard

In this day of disregard for all that is holy, the sanctity of marriage is quickly eroding. As believers we have an obligation to protect that which Yahweh, our Heavenly Father, defines as holy. For this reason it's important that we set an example of what a successful marriage should be.

Before we delve into the Word, let's first review the major points presented in this important series. In Part 1 we reviewed: respecting divine order, righteous communication, and mutual love and respect. We now continue with the key part of marriage, mutual love and respect, along with forgiveness and a spirit of peace.

The Apostle Paul in the fifth chapter of Ephesians gives a command to all husbands. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Messiah also loved the assembly, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious assembly, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth

himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Master the assembly," verses 25-29.

As husbands we're to emulate Yahshua the Messiah. As Yahshua sacrificed and gave all for the assembly, husbands must be willing to do the same for their wives. Yahshua gave His life as a ransom for our sins.

He also gave up the opportunity of a normal life; He was never married; instead He chose a life of singleness. He lived a life of simplicity; some might even say poverty. In Matthew 8 Yahshua said that He had no place to even lay His head.

Paul in Philippians 2 said about the Messiah, "Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself." Paul was explaining what Yahshua gave up as the Son of Yahweh when He came and died for the sins of mankind. As John 17:5 further elucidates, Yahshua humbled Himself by forsaking the glory He had with His Father prior to being born as a man.

Follow Yahshua's Lead

When Paul says that husbands are to love their wives as Yahshua loved the

assembly, this is the love he was talking about. Everything Yahshua did was for the betterment of the assembly. It wasn't just giving up His life, it was also everything in between.

Yahshua's entire life is an example of what it means to sacrifice for another. As husbands, do we make decisions that are best for the family? Are we providing financially? The Bible says that if a man doesn't work and provide for his family, he's worse than an infidel or unbeliever. Are we providing emotionally? And most importantly, are we providing spiritually?

Husbands, Be Supportive

Most men understand and embrace the concept of physically protecting their families. The vast majority of husbands and fathers would die for their wives and children without a second thought. Just as we're to be physically courageous for our families, we're also to be emotionally courageous.

For a lot of men being emotionally strong and supportive is not easy, but Yahshua was emotionally strong and is our model of behavior. Consider the following:

if our wife is going through some emotional trauma with a friend or family member, as her husband we're to be there, listening and ready to give sound advice. The reality is, in many of these cases men are more of a detriment than a support, and often make the situation worse.

Husbands are also to be spiritually strong for their spouses and families. This does not mean controlling or domineering. Being spiritually strong is living the morals and principles we find in Scripture and being that spiritual compass in the storms of life. There are situations in life where it's easy to compromise. Husbands must have

Resolving a conflict can be one of the hardest things to do because it most often requires putting down self and pride.

the spiritual strength and courage to do the right thing, even when it's the hard thing to do.

Avoid Bitterness

In Colossians 3:19 Paul speaks about bitterness. He says, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Bitter is from the Greek *pikraino* and according to *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* means "to embitter, to exasperate, to render angry or indignant, or to be irritated." What Paul is saying is that we're not to purposely anger our spouse. Husbands should promote love and not anger and resentment.

The *Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary* notes, "Many polite abroad are rude at home, because they are not afraid there." Sadly, this describes many people, including believers. There are many men who display different behavior based on circumstance.

The reason for this in large part is fear. People fear how others in the world may respond. However, this same fear or concern is not always shown in the home. In the privacy of the home many men feel justified and empowered to behave or act in ways that are belittling or disparaging to the family. In fairness, wives can also be guilty of this infraction.

Spouses are not to take advantage of the relationship they have with each other. Even though many struggle with this tendency, we should treat our spouse better

than those in the world. One way we do this is by not using them as an emotional punching bag, but instead show them the respect they deserve.

Knowledge, Honor, Respect

Consideration and respect are key in a marriage, as we find in 1Peter 3:7: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

Peter states here that we should use "knowledge" in our relationships. This

word is from the Greek *gnosis* and means the "act of knowing." Here, it refers to the knowledge of Yahweh's Word. We should be using the *gnosis* or knowledge of our Father's Word to guide our marriages.

Peter also uses the word "honour" in relation to marriage. This word is from the Greek *time* (pronounced tee-may). Thayer's defines *time* as "...honor which belongs or is shown to one." It adds, "...deference and reverence." Peter conveys that we're to show respect and reverence to our wives. Elsewhere, we find that wives must also show this same respect and reverence to their husbands.

What does it really mean to "respect" your spouse? Here's how the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines respect: "A feeling of admiring someone or something that is good, valuable, important; A feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, and should be treated in an appropriate way; A particular way of thinking about or looking at something."

How do we view our spouse? Do we admire his or her qualities and character? Do we see our spouse as a person of integrity? Do we see him or her as supportive? Do we see our spouse as a person willing to sacrifice for the good of others? Do we see him or her exhibiting the attributes of our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah?

Or, do we see our mate lacking in kindness toward others and uncaring? Do

we see him or her as unwilling to sacrifice for the welfare of others? Do we see our marital partner falling short of the love Yahshua the Messiah showed for others?

While nobody's perfect, hopefully we see our spouses in more of a positive light. What about those who may see their spouses more negatively? As believers we should still try to show our spouses a level of honor and respect. Hopefully by setting an example they will see our good works and be willing to change.

Peter says here that husbands are to honor their wives, as unto the weaker vessel. Weaker here does not mean inferior. Marriage is all about using our strengths to help and support each other. A successful marriage will show mutual love and respect in every situation.

Release the Anger

Another key to marriage is forgiveness and a spirit of peace. To begin with, we must realize that no marriage is perfect. Every marriage, both young and old, will at times experience some strife and conflict. But it should be the goal of every spouse to strive for peace and love in their marriage. The most important ingredient to achieving peace is forgiveness.

Paul states in Ephesians 4:26, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Even though there's no confusion with this statement and may seem easy enough to follow, those married know this isn't quite the case.

If we're going to forgive we must first let go of our own anger and animosity. This principle is universal and applies to all relationships. Believers and spouses should never allow bitterness to take root. This is why Paul conveys the message to spouses, don't go to bed angry. If we have a grievance with our spouse or fellow man we're to resolve it.

Some people are strongly opposed to conflict; they will do almost anything to avoid contention. In most cases, though, conflict does not resolve itself. Most often when ignored it only becomes worse. For this reason it's important that we develop strategies and ways of dealing with conflict in our relationships.

Resolving a conflict can be one of the hardest things to do because it most often requires putting down self and pride. The answer to expressing forgiveness and finding peace in our relationships is the

antithesis of this deplorable attribute.

Have you noticed how often the Bible speaks about humility? When we think about strong leaders we often think of characteristics like confidence, boldness, assertiveness, and decisiveness. And while all are essential, we also know that meekness is a key attribute of a strong leader. Humility should not be viewed as a weakness, but as strength. The fact is, it takes more strength to show humility than pride.

Hold the Tongue

When speaking about forgiveness, it's also important that we're cognizant of our speech.

Writing to the Assembly in Ephesus, Paul states, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of Yahweh, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as Yahweh for Messiah's sake hath forgiven you," Ephesians 4:29-32.

The word "corrupt" is *sapros* in the Greek and literally means "rotten, i.e., worthless." Thayer's defines it as "of poor quality, bad, unfit for use, or worthless." To be guilty of *sapros* is to use bad language or be constantly negative, especially toward our spouse. This kind of behavior will cast a pall over a marriage.

Paul goes on to say that our speech should be "edifying." This word is from the Greek *oikodome*. While it literally refers to a structure or building, according to Thayer's, it also refers metaphorically "...to the act of one who promotes another's growth in wisdom, piety, happiness, or holiness."

Consider the definition we find here and ask yourself: Does my speech promote wisdom, piety, happiness, and holiness? If the answer is no,

then you are falling short as a spouse. Our speech should not tear down, but build up.

Over time husbands and wives have a tendency to take one another for granted. To help with this, we should find ways and opportunities to compliment and encourage our spouses, using words that edify in a positive way.

Paul goes on to say that we're to let go of all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking. The word "bitterness" comes from the Greek *pikria* and refers to "acridity (especially poison)" (Strong's).



Acridity denotes speech that is sarcastic and hurtful. If we desire a marriage that's a blessing and one that promotes peace, then these are the attributes we're to have.

Let's summarize what we've learned from this passage:

- avoid corrupt speech, meaning words that are worthless, bad, or unfit
- use words that promote wisdom, piety, happiness, and holiness
- compliment, not criticize, your spouse
- avoid words that bring only bitterness, anger, and strife
- show kindness and forgiveness to your spouse

Wisdom in Forgiveness

King Solomon in Proverbs 19:11 speaks to the need of forgiveness. He states, "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression." The NIV renders this passage, "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense."

There's wisdom in being patient and honor in overlooking a transgression or

offense. The sad reality is, many, including believers, struggle with forgiveness. The best example of this attribute is how our Father Yahweh forgave us.

Paul in Romans 5:8 writes, "But Elohim commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us." Consider the depth of this statement.

Yahweh sacrificed His only Son to a people who were sinners, who were unworthy and undeserving. If our Father in heaven can forgive our sins through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, surely we can forgive one another.

Remember, forgiveness is not only an attribute that we must exhibit as believers, it's also an attribute essential in a marriage. If we don't have the compassion to forgive our spouse, then there's no chance of achieving a spirit of peace in our marriage.

Here are the major Bible truths we've reviewed:

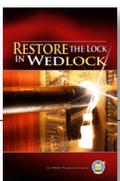
- husbands are commanded to love their wives, as Yahshua loved

the assembly

- husbands are to be supportive financially, emotionally, and most important, spiritually
- spouses must not show bitterness; instead they are to be considerate and show respect and reverence
- never allow anger or strife to continue
- speak that which is edifying and positive
- always show compassion and forgiveness

Marriage was established by Yahweh Himself as a holy union between one man and one woman for life. Besides our relationship with our Father in heaven and Savior, there's nothing more important in this life than our marriage and the righteous families that are produced when husbands and wives follow the scriptural standards. If society would follow the biblical family pattern, we would have far fewer problems today in our culture.

Part 3 looks at respecting differences, intimacy, the Seventh Commandment, and "till death do us part." ✓



Answers in Scripture



Q If your whole family is not on board with the faith do you have to leave home for the whole period of 8 days for the Feast? Can you go elsewhere for the two sabbath days only?

A Yahweh rarely calls everyone in a family or at the same time, according to Jeremiah 3:14. And there will be some relatives who will not come to the same knowledge of the truth we enjoy. If Yahweh allows our families to dictate our obedience to Him regarding Sabbaths and Feasts, then He is no longer in charge of our faith and what is expected of us. His Feasts don't constitute just the High Days. They span all the days for which they are given. We must come before Him every day of the Feast to comply with the command, just as Israel did at the temple.

Q How do I reply when Christians say that when Yahshua died the law of the Old Testament ended? And what does it mean when He said the law was fulfilled, what is the difference between fulfilled and ended?

A Yahshua said the law would not end until heaven and earth pass away, Matthew 5:18. Paul wrote that the law is in effect so long as we live, Romans 7:1. In the RSB's extensive note on Matthew 5:17 we find that fulfill is from the Greek *pleroo*, and means to make full, cause to abound, to render perfect and to carry out. Yahshua specifically said He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. If fulfill means to end it, then He made the world's biggest contradiction. Yahweh's covenants are based on His laws. Without law there is no covenant and no salvation for you and me. Yahshua and His apostles kept and taught Yahweh's laws throughout the New Testament. And we will be judged by His laws according to our works. See James 1:25, 2:12; Romans 2:12 and Revelation 20:12.

Q I'm new to Yahshua. I was watching your DVD and the speaker said don't eat pork, but doesn't Romans 14 say that I can? Please explain Romans 14, and also why Scripture says I can't wear mixed fabrics? Am I reading this right?

A Romans 14 is not referring to eating pork or other unclean meats, but deals with vegetarianism and fasting, as evident in the first few verses. It's clear from both the Old and New testaments that our Father's view on pork hasn't changed. For instance in Acts 10:14, Peter asserts that he had never eaten anything common or unclean. This was 10 years after Yahshua's ascension. If His death removed the laws pertaining to unclean meats, why was Peter not aware of this change? Those who eat pork and unclean foods in the millennial Kingdom will be judged for their defiance (see Isaiah 65:4 and 66:17).

Regarding the Leviticus 19:19 command of not mixing fabrics, most biblical scholars connect this to the priestly garments, which were made only of linen. Linen was used to reduce perspiration.

Q I've read the RSB footnotes on John 1:1, but I'm still unsure as to how I should answer someone when they bring up this item to me. I understand that "elohim" can mean

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“divine” or “mighty”; and I understand how it can apply to false deities or men, but how can I show others, especially when the NT is translated from Greek? Also, how do I address the issue of when Yahshua told the Pharisees and Sadducees, “Before Abraham was, I AM?” I’m sure you can tell where that is heading. If I try to use the RSB and its footnotes, I’m concerned someone will regard it like the Jehovah’s Witness bible (the New World Translation).

A The challenge with John 1:1 and similar passages is how people interpret the word “god.” They view it as a proper noun—a name—when in fact it’s a title referring to a supreme being (even though originally the ancient Teutons used it as a proper noun for their supreme deity). For example, here’s how the online *Merriam Webster Dictionary* defines the word “god”:

- The perfect and all-powerful spirit or being that is worshiped especially by Christians, Jews, and Muslims as the one who created and rules the universe;
- a spirit or being that has great power, strength, knowledge, etc., and that can affect nature and the lives of people: one of various spirits or beings worshiped;
- a person and especially a man who is greatly loved or admired;

From these definitions, “god” can be viewed as an all-powerful spirit in many religions. The same is true of the Greek *theos*. Understanding John 1:1 now becomes easier, but we’re still facing 2,000 years of church tradition. Regardless of the facts, many cannot get beyond tradition in thinking this title is the name of Yahweh.

As for Yahshua’s statement in John 8:58, this only confirms that Yahshua existed prior to Moses. It does not reveal that He was eternal or was without a beginning. Revelation 3:14 clearly shows that Yahshua had a beginning. Paul also verifies this in Colossians 1:15.

Explaining a troublesome passage by its context is often the best method to employ for new inquirers. Once they realize there is legitimacy in what you’re saying, perhaps then the RSB Bible would be good to share. The RSB teaches by footnotes and not by altering the text itself, and that was how it was designed, to prevent criticism like, “You changed the Bible to suit your own teachings.”

Q Can you please help us understand why Yahweh is the correct Name for our Father? Because many people are telling us that W is only 700 years old so it’s impossible for the Name to be Yahweh, rather they tell us it’s Yahuah. Please tell us why you call Father Yahweh and not Yahuah?

A The “waw” can be rendered as a ‘u’ or ‘w’ with an insignificant difference in pronunciation either way when enunciated properly. The English letter represents only the sound of the Hebrew, not what was actually written in Hebrew. Hebrew scholarship, archaeology, and linguistics say the waw in His Name is represented with a W. This is also confirmed in Greek manuscripts. In the Nag Hammadi writings Yahweh’s Name is rendered “Yawe.” In his book, *How the Hebrew Language Grew*, Edward Horowitz writes, “The Yemenite Jews of Arabia, who retain an ancient, correct and pure pronunciation of Hebrew, still pronounce the (letter) waw as ‘w,’ as does Arabic, the close sister language of Hebrew” (p. 30).

Q Over the past two years I have been thinking about re-baptism due to the fact that I was baptized using the format of Matt.28:19 which states: “Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

This to me does not obey the instructions given. To say the above and not use the actual names, is failing to follow the instructions properly. He should have said ‘In the name of Yahweh and Yahshua, and into the Holy Spirit.’ Am I right? Should I be re-baptized? I did have hands laid upon me for the receipt of the Holy Spirit, but now I wonder about that as well. I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

A Based on New Testament baptisms in Acts 2:38; 8:15; 10:48; 19:5; and 22:16, we believe that Scripture shows and commands that baptism should be in the singular name of Yahshua. We also know from Peter and Paul that there’s only one right name and one right baptism, Acts 4:12 and Eph. 4:5. Matthew 28:19 is dubious, according to several Bible translations. In Acts 5:32 Yahweh gives His Spirit only to those who obey Him, which should also raise serious concerns about the spiritual qualifications of the one(s) who laid hands on you. We encourage proper baptism in the right Name and the laying on of hands by Yahweh’s ministers.

Baptism is serious in the believer’s walk in truth. It is preceded by repentance and followed by the giving of the Holy Spirit. A lifetime commitment to obedience follows the burial of the old self in the immersion waters. All of this takes a spiritually mature person and is not for children or youths who have little concept of the gravity of immersion and the permanent commitment to Yahweh and all that He expects from the allegiance given Him at baptism. ✓

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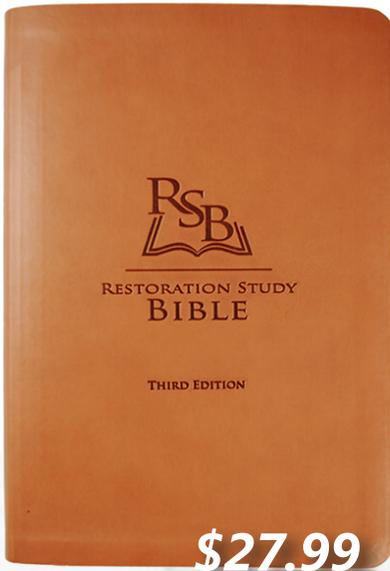
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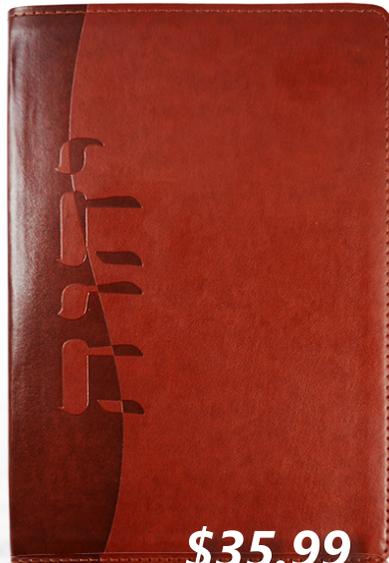
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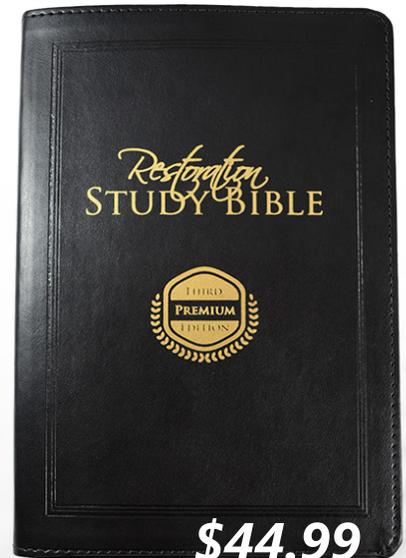
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From our Readers Worldwide

"My husband and I have been reading your material, watching the online sermons and have also ordered and received our Restoration Study Bible. We didn't know so much of this information! What an eye-opener. This last weekend we kept our first Saturday Sabbath. However, it was by ourselves. We read on the YRM website about becoming Sabbath partners and were wondering if we could find out more about that. In addition, we both would like to be baptized. I was baptized (water immersion) when I was a teenager. However, I don't believe I did it for the right reasons. I want to be baptized into Yahshua's Name! My husband has only been sprinkle-baptized, which we have discovered is not considered baptism. Is there someone who could baptize us? Thank you for your ministry. So much of the Bible FINALLY makes sense."

We rejoice to know that this Ministry has been a blessing to you! We would love to offer baptism into Yahshua's Name and talk more about becoming a Sabbath partner. However, we will be unable to visit your area in the foreseeable future. You should seek to join us for the Feast of Tabernacles at Camp Allen in Greenville, Mo, September 28 - October 6. We require that our Sabbath partners be immersed into Yahshua's Name and prefer to see them at the Feast of Tabernacles. This allows us to know those representing the Ministry better prior to serving in this capacity. Not only do we honor Yahweh when we observe the Feast, but we also experience blessings found nowhere else. Besides the baptismal service there, we set aside time at the Feast to discuss our regional Sabbath meetings with our Sabbath partners and those interested in becoming Sabbath partners. We pray that you will make plans this year to join us at the Feast in September. -ED

"Thanks for the extremely fast processing and delivery of my Bible order, it arrived today. My expectations were more than met. If Elohim wills, I will find this Bible in my hand for some time to come. It is quite obvious there have been many hours of work, prayer, thought, and polish invested in this revision. (Col 3:23-24). Recently my eyes were opened to how wrong my other Bible revisions are. I had been seeking a suitable KJV replacement, and believe I've found an answer in my RSB. I'm fairly confident, with my RSB, a Companion Bible, a good dictionary and a Strongs - I'm good to go! Unfortunately, I now have literally a steamer trunk of Bibles of various revisions (niv/nasv/asv) and associated related research books to keep out of the hands of unsuspecting children. I wish to thank all involved for providing such an excellent resource in the RSB, as well as the excellent online site Yahweh's Restoration Ministry (yrm.org). What a spark of hope!" - M.C.

"About 3 or 4 months ago, I ordered a Restoration Study Bible, which by the way, I have been thoroughly enjoying, especially the 'Did You Know,' and the 'Archaeology in Scripture' sections, along with the footnotes at the bottom of most pages. EXCELLENT job at putting together a Study Bible with a Hebraic perspective." - S.B.

"I want to attend the Feast of Tabernacles there with you all. I have been studying your literature along with the Restoration Study Bible about a year and am really excited about spending the weekly Sabbath with you live streaming on my computer. I first heard you on Sky Angel/Angel One and was pleasantly surprised and pleased. I found you all after fervently praying to Father Yahweh, to show me where to go. I keep hoping and praying that I will find someone close to here that I can fellowship with as I continue each Sabbath with you. I would like to be baptized by your ministry in the name of Yahshua and have hands laid on me to receive the Holy Spirit. I am 82 last Feb. and need to get it done as soon as possible. I understand that the Feast this fall is about two hours from Memphis TN. Is that right? I am sending you a donation, I know the building project is expensive. I plan on sending my tithes in monthly. Don't get too much but Yahweh blesses what I do get and we get along just fine. I spend a couple hours a day or more each day in the Word since 1966." - H.B.

You will find Feast of Tabernacles information on p. 16 of this issue. You will need to return a reservation form from YRM as well. We look forward to seeing you this fall, where you can make connections with like-minded believers. The Feast is like nothing else you have experienced, as you make permanent memories and find answers about Yahweh and salvation. - ED

What is a Sabbath Partner?

A Sabbath partner is a believer baptized into Yahshua's Name hosting Sabbath services in his or her local area using YRM's live webcast or Sabbath DVDs. The mission of this program is to help facilitate and bring Sabbath fellowship to those seeking worship locally. YRM is committed to supporting our Sabbath partners through our many outlets, including our extensive webpage and social media outreach. If you are interested in becoming a Sabbath partner, contact the ministry by email at mail@yrm.org or by phone at (573) 896-1000.

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Angel One Channel "Nationwide" (Dish Network channel 262) Sundays 11:00 am CT (12:00 pm ET, and 9:00 am PT).
Angel Two Channel "Nationwide" (Dish Network channel 266) Mon., Wed., Fri., 9 am CT,
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Mid-Missouri KRCG, CBS (Digital 13.1) Sundays 6:30 am CT
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