

Imitate the Natsarim

For Average Joes From An Average Joe

When the Spirit of our Creator **Yahuah**, pronounced—**Ya-hoo-ah**, first begins to work in the hearts and lives of people thirsting for truth and the knowledge of Our Mighty One (Elohim), many times sooner or later in their quest they will be posed a few questions...Questions by someone or other who may sincerely feel out of genuine concern that they are carrying things a bit too far and slipping away into error. Driven by that concern and not being able to contain themselves any longer, they may simply blurt out, **“Are you trying to be a Jew? Do you intend to convert to Judaism?”**

These concerns are born out of a true lack of knowledge of what Judaism is. Judaism—as it stands today and as it stood in the time of Messiah consists of the Law (Torah), **but also** contains other elements **which were not given by Yahuah Our Mighty One for men to follow or obey...**

Deu 12:32-- “All the words I am commanding you, guard to do it – **do not add to it nor take away from it.**

Deu 4:2-- **“Do not add to the Word which I command you, and do not take away from it.** so as to guard the commands of יהוה (**Yahuah**) your Elohim (**Mighty One**) which I am commanding you.

Rev 22:18-19--For **I witness to everyone** hearing the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to them,** Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book, and **if anyone takes away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) shall take away his part from the Book of Life, and out of the set-apart city, which are written in this Book.

An Average Joe Observation...If you have been taught as many have that “jesus ended the Law”, then bells and whistles should be going off in your head about now...Messiah, speaking through John, **is reiterating** His Father’s Commands...His Father’s Law...His Father’s Torah. **If** He did away with it, **then why** did this portion survive **“the ending”?**

In addition to the Torah (Law), Judaism consists of things such as the Talmud—“Oral Traditions”—which are in reality **placed above** the Torah of **Yahuah** in authority and importance—in which the religious leaders were

interpreting the Torah for the common folk...Becoming obsessed and overwhelmed with insuring that the Average Joe did not sin, the result in the end was that they created their own legal system which replaced the Torah of **Yahuah** in authority. Without questioning the motives involved in the creation of these “Oral Traditions”, the real life every day effect of these “man-made” traditions served to enslave the people with laws about keeping laws...Totally missing the true intent of the Torah which is to lead us, perfect us, and serve as our targeting device; keeping us accurately trained on our target; enabling us to hit our mark and attain our goal, which is to be perfect as **Yahuah** Himself is Perfect. Let's take a moment and see what Scripture says about seeking perfection.

Abraham was commanded to “be perfect”.

Gen 17:1-- And it came to be when Abram was ninety-nine years old, that הוהי (**Yahuah**) appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Ėl Shaddai – walk before Me and be perfect.”

We are commanded by Messiah **Yahushua**—pronounced--**ya-hoo-shoo-ah** Himself to “be perfect”.

Mat 5:48-- “Therefore, be perfect, as your Father in the heavens is perfect.

We also have the Spirit inspired testimony of a giant slayer, a King of Yisra'el, and a man whom **Yahuah** refers to as “a man after His Own Heart”.

1Sa 13:14-14-- “-- הוהי (**Yahuah**) shall seek for Himself a man after His **own heart**, and הוהי (**Yahuah**) shall command him to be leader over His people--.” And Shemu’el took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of הוהי (**Yahuah**) came upon Dawid from that day and onwards.

What did **Yahuah's** man King David feel inspired to say?

Psa 119:1--Blessed are the perfect in the way, Who walk in the Torah of הוהי (**Yahuah**)!

This man after **Yahuah's** Own Heart seemed to be convinced that those who walk in the Torah (Law) of Yahuah are blessed and in the perfect way. There was to him no better way. Could this perhaps be “the way” of

perfection that we ourselves should seek? Is he perhaps telling us that the Torah (Law) is “the way”?

Act 9:1-2--But Sha’ul, still breathing threats and murder against the taught ones of the Master, having come to the high priest, asked from him letters to the congregations of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, to bring them bound to Yerushalayim.

Before the Apostle Paul's (Shaul's) blinding introduction to Messiah **Yahushua**, in person, Paul hunted down people who were attempting to follow “the way”. Then having been set straight by Messiah, he became a zealous follower of “the way” himself.

What exactly is “the way”? According to Strong's the word way used in the previous verse and in the verses to follow are translated from the Greek word listed below.

G3598

ο_δοις

hodos

hod-os'

Apparently a primary word; a road; by implication a *progress* (the route, act or distance); figuratively a *mode* or *means*: - journey, (high-) way.

An Average Joes Opinion...The word “way” or “the way” is simply: a decision to be carried out; a direction to pursue; a destination to be reached; a goal to be achieved; a prize to be won, a life hoped for.

What does **Yahushua** Messiah have to say about “the way”?

Mat 7:13-14-- “Enter in through the narrow gate! Because the gate is wide – and the way is broad – that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in through it.

“Because the gate is narrow and the way is hard pressed which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Joh 14:6-- עֲשׂוּהוּי (**Yahushua**) said to him, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Could **Yahushua** Messiah be trying to tell us that...He is the decision we should be making...direction we should be taking... destination we should

be pursuing...**goal** we should be achieving...**prize** we should be winning, **life** we should be hoping for?

Did Messiah **Yahushua** give us any clear and concise instructions as to how to follow Him... **“the way?”**

Joh 15:10--“If you **guard My commands**, you shall stay in My love, **even as I have guarded My Father’s commands** and stay in His love.

What is Messiah saying here? He is saying “flat out” that **He Himself has lived His life upon the earth as an example of “the way” in which we should live.**

Let’s have another look at that verse...Please notice some key words...
“I have guarded My Father’s commands.” He is making a very important statement.

Joh 15:10--“If you **guard My commands**, you shall stay in My love, **even as I have guarded My Father’s commands** and stay in His love.

If our Messiah, who gave His Life for us upon the stake was not too good to obey His Father's Torah, then why would we be too good or exempt from keeping **Yahuah's** Torah (Law)? How **should we** therefore walk?

What does the Apostle John (Yahuacanon) have to say about how **we should walk?**

1Jn 2:6-- The one who says he stays in Him **ought himself** also **to walk, even as He walked.**

What do you think? Is this some strange teaching? Has John come up with something fresh; something new; something unheard of...?

1Jn 2:7--Beloved, I write **no fresh command to you, but an old command** which you have had from the beginning. **The old command is the Word which you heard from the beginning.**

John is saying...**This is** what we Apostles have been teaching from the beginning...The Commands...The Torah...The Law...Which was given **from the very beginning.**

So, what caused the Jewish religious leaders to “miss the mark” in their zealous attempts to lead their own people? Adding to and taking away from—by their man made teachings, commands, and traditions—the Word of Yahuah. These are the things which **Yahushua** Messiah scolded them for and taught against... Not the Torah (Law) of His Father.

Joh 1:1--In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim (Our Mighty One), and the Word was Elohim (Our Mighty One).

According to this verse of Scripture, **Yahushua** is “the Word” of **Yahuah**...**Yahushua** is the Living Torah. Why did our Messiah take such a strong stand against the devout and well meant teaching of the religious leaders of His day...? Because they were “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”...Nullifying by their commandments the Torah of **Yahuah**...In effect nullifying **Yahushua** Messiah Himself...The Living Torah...The Word of **Yahuah**.

Our Messiah **Yahushua** was of the tribe of Judah and therefore Jewish, but did not practice Judaism. He practiced obedience to His Father. He did not practice man made traditions and commandments. Rather, He exposed them for what they were. The only laws Messiah did away with were man made laws. We are not to practice them!

An Average Joe Interjection...I must pause for a moment and share something very important. I desire to say it in love and with gentleness, but it must be said...Please think on this in regards to what we are teaching others and how it may affect their eternal lives...The teachings being put forth by the “church” stating that Messiah “ended the Law”, as well as ended the appointed Feasts, and the changing of the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week—“sun-worship-day”—“Sunday”—are Unscriptural and have no Scriptural basis. So, how did we arrive at these conclusions which cannot be proved with sound Scriptural evidence?: By walking in the shoes of the Pharisees...Adding to and Taking away from the Word of **Yahuah** with our own “church” versions of “man-made traditions and commandments”. We have judged and condemned the Jewish people for blindly following the “traditions and commandments of men” put forth to them by their religious leaders while blindly adhering to and embracing the “traditions and commandments of men” put forth to us by our religious

leaders...Our Shepherds...Just as theirs... Have created **their own** legal system—“law-less-ness”—“Torah-less-ness”... Nullifying the legal system of **Yahuah**—His Living Torah—**Yahushua** Messiah. What answer will we give our Master for those whom we have led astray?

Mat 7:22-23-- “Many shall say to Me in that day, ‘Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name, and cast out demons in Your Name, and done many mighty works in Your Name?’ “And then I shall declare to them, **‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who work lawlessness!’**”

Mat 5:19--“**Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens;** but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the reign of the heavens.

Having shared my heart, are there any similarities between our Messianic faith and Judaism? Yes, there are some similarities in that we desire and strive to keep the Sabbaths of **Yahuah**, His Feasts, and His food regulations. We desire and set before us as our goal to keep the Torah of **Yahuah** perfectly, but our weaknesses prevent us from doing so and we must trust in our Messiah’s mercy and forgiveness for our inability to obey Him perfectly in every area of our lives.

Sadly. Judaism, **which is** a perversion of **Yahuah's** Torah Teaching, **denies** that **Yahushua** is Messiah. The Jewish people, **for a time and for our sakes,** have been blinded to the fact that the Messiah which they look for and even now long to see has indeed already come once...Their religious leaders of long ago—clinging to the “doctrines of men” rather than the Torah of **Yahuah**—having handed Him over to be executed...Their hearts will be broken when they see Him coming in the clouds...The very one whom they pierced. To convert to Judaism would be for us to deny Messiah **Yahushua** as well.

In Messiah, we **are not** Jews in the sense of the teachings of Judaism—the “teachings of men”. We are kinsmen, however, with Jewish believers in Messiah **Yahushua** in that **we are Yisra’el.** The Messianic nation of Yisra'el as a whole consists of the House of Yahudah (Judah) and the House of Yisra'el **and those gentiles (nations--peoples) who have chosen to join themselves to Yahuah and are thus grafted into Yisra’el...**

Isa 56:3-7-- “And let not the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to יהוהי (**Yahuah**) speak, saying, ‘יהוהי (**Yahuah**) has certainly separated me from His people,’ nor let the eunuch say, ‘Look I am a dry tree.’ ” For thus said יהוהי (**Yahuah**), “To the eunuchs who guard My Sabbaths, and have chosen what pleases Me, and hold fast to My covenant: to them I shall give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters – I give them an everlasting name that is not cut off.

“Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to יהוהי (Yahuah**), to serve Him, and to love the Name of יהוהי (**Yahuah**), to be His servants, all who guard the Sabbath, and not profane it, and hold fast to My covenant** --them I shall bring to My set-apart mountain, and let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their slaughterings are accepted on My altar, for My house is called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

Rom 11:17-- And if some of the branches were broken off, and **you, being a wild olive tree, have been grafted in among them,** and came to share the root and fatness of the olive tree.

Rom 11:24-- For if **you** were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and **were grafted** contrary to nature **into a good olive tree,** how much more shall these who are the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

An Average Joes Conclusion...The good olive tree is Yisra'el...**If** we have been grafted into the **good olive tree...**We too **are** Yisra'el!

So let us, as of those having thankful hearts, **imitate** the lifestyle of **Yahushua** Messiah...

1Jn 2:3-6--And by this **we know that we know Him, if we guard His commands.** The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not guard His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) has been perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.**

...Who kept the Torah perfectly, and whom also the Apostle Shaul (Paul) himself **imitated** and encouraged and pleaded with those he taught and ministered to, to **imitate him** as he himself **imitated** **Yahushua** Messiah.

Shaul's (Paul's) encouragement to others to imitate his **“way”** of life:

1Co 4:16-17-- Therefore I appeal to you, to **become imitators of me.** For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and trustworthy son in the Master, **who shall remind you of my ways in Messiah, as I teach everywhere in every assembly.**

1Co 11:1-2--Become imitators of me, as I am also of Messiah. And I praise you, brothers, that **you remember** me in every way **and keep the traditions as I delivered them to you.**

Php 3:17--become joint imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

1Th 1:6--And you became imitators of us and of the master, having received the word in much pressure, with joy of the Set-apart Spirit,

Average Joe Food for thought...Messiah **Yahushua** kept the Torah of His Father perfectly without error or sin. That is what qualified Him to be the sacrifice—the unblemished, spotless lamb—for sin. Shaul (Paul) **imitated** the Messiah, attempting to keep the Torah of **Yahuah** to the very best of his ability while trusting in the mercy (grace) of **Yahuah** to make up for his lack of ability to keep the Torah—**his hearts desire**—perfectly.

1Co 9:24-27 GNB--Surely you know that many runners take part in a race, but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize. Every athlete in training submits to strict discipline, in order to be crowned with a wreath that will not last; but we do it for one that will last forever. That is why I run straight for the finish line; that is why I am like a boxer who does not waste his punches. **I harden my body with blows and bring it under complete control, to keep myself from being disqualified after having called others to the contest.**

If **Yahushua** Messiah actually did away with the Torah (Law), then why did He Himself bother to keep it and teach His followers to keep it as well if they desired eternal life?

Matt 19:16-19: And see, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good shall I do to have everlasting life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One – Elohim. But **if you wish to enter into life, guard the commands.**” He said to Him, “Which?” And עשוהי (**Yahushua**) said, “**‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ and ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’**”

Hear any bells or whistles? This **is** the Torah...The Ten Commandments...The Ten Words...The Covenant of Love...All of the Torah commands in their entirety are rooted within these ten basic commands. These ten can be further condensed into what Messiah **Yahushua** called the

Two Great Commandments. The first and Great Commandment contains the meaning and intent of the first four of the Ten Commandments regarding loving and honoring **Yahuah** our Creator. The second contains the meaning and intent of the last six of the Ten Commandments regarding loving and honoring our neighbor. These two commands are highly regarded by the “church” as being the only commands which Messiah Yahushua gave us to keep and obey. Should we not do so?

In Matt. 19:20-22--Messiah is pointing out to the young man who believes he is keeping the commandments that if he loves his possessions—which **Yahuah** Our Creator has given him—so much that he is not willing to let them go, then in reality he is not keeping the commandments but is deceiving himself and does not love **Yahuah** with all his heart as commanded in Duet 6:5 and within the first four of the Ten Commandments. He is guilty of idolatry: Worshipping and serving the creature—things that are made—more than the creator who is blessed forever as expressed by Shaul (Paul) in Romans 1:25. He also obviously did not love his neighbor as himself as commanded in Leviticus 19:18 and within the remaining six Commandments or he would have desired to share his wealth and show compassion towards his neighbor while trusting in **Yahuah** that Our Mighty One was able to give back to him more than he could ever hope to give away.

Mat 19:20-22--The young man said to Him, “All these I have watched over from my youth, what do I still lack?” עשוהי (**Yahushua**) said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me.” And when the young man heard the word, he went away sad, because he had many possessions.

Messiah was not teaching here against riches, but instead was warning of the great responsibility that comes with being blessed with riches and the temptation that having great wealth brings upon men to fall into idolatry, and trust in the riches they possess rather than trusting in **Yahuah** who gives to them the power to gain wealth in the first place:

Deu 8:11-18-- “Be on guard, lest you forget יהוהי (**Yahuah**) your Elohim (**Mighty One**) by not guarding His commands, and His right-rulings, and His laws which I command you today, lest you eat and shall be satisfied, and build lovely houses and shall dwell in them, and your herds and your flocks increase, and your silver and your gold are increased, and all that you have is increased, that your heart then

becomes lifted up, and you forget יהוהי (Yahuah) your Elohim who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, from the house of bondage, who led you through that great and awesome wilderness – fiery serpents and scorpions and thirst – where there was no water, who brought water for you out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, in order to humble you and to try you, to do you good in the end, you then shall say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand have made for me this wealth!’ ‘But you shall remember יהוהי (Yahuah) your Elohim, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, in order to establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is today.

Back to examples of “imitating”:

1Th 2:14-15--For you, brothers, became imitators of the assemblies of Elohim which are in Yehudah in Messiah עשוהי (Yahushua), because you also suffered the same *treatment from your own countrymen as they also from the Yehudim, who killed both the Master עשוהי (Yahushua)* and their own prophets, and have persecuted us, and who displease Elohim and are hostile to all men,

Act 24:5-- “For having found this man a plague, who stirs up dissension among all the Yehudim throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Natsarenes.

Shaul (Paul) was a **Natsarim** or Natsarene—which means "watchman"; a lookout; a guy like Paul Revere, who shouts the warning of eminent danger, or attack. That's what Shaul was...A Natsarim...As was Messiah **Yahushua**...Messiah shouted this warning to the world...

Mat 4:17--From that time **(Yahushua) עשוהי** began to proclaim and to say, “Repent, for the reign of the heavens has drawn near.”

This is our calling...We as followers of Messiah are called to be Natsarim. Lew White, author of the book “Fossilized Customs”, points out the following Scriptural evidence that Shaul did indeed keep the Torah:

Act 24:14-- “And this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohim of my fathers, believing all that has been written in the Torah and in the Prophets,

Act 25:8--while Sha’ul said in his own defence, “Neither against the Torah of the Yehudim, nor against the Set-apart Place, nor against Caesar did I commit any sin.”

Act 18:21-- but took leave of them, saying, “I have to keep this coming festival in Yerushalayim by all means, but I shall come back to you, Elohim desiring so.” And he sailed from Ephesos.

Rom 7:25-- Thanks to Elohim, through עֲשׂוּהָי (Yahushua) Messiah our Master! So then, with the mind I myself truly serve the Torah of Elohim, but with the flesh the law of sin.

So, should we not all consider Shaul's (Paul's) own testimony, who Scripture plainly states was a Natsarim, and who so zealously encouraged us to imitate Messiah as he imitated Messiah himself? Why then would it be wrong for us to serve and worship the Father in the same way the Apostles did, honoring His Torah, and keeping His Feasts? Why would we reject Messiah's call for us to walk as Natsarim?

At this point some folks might ask, "Where's the Grace"? "What about Romans 6:14 that says we are not under the law but under Grace?" Yes, it does say that at first glance, and there are a few other Scriptures that can be taken out of context and interpreted as meaning that the Torah is no longer in effect. On the other hand, the number of Scriptures that clearly state that Torah **is** still **in effect** and will remain so **forever** out number those questionable Scriptures immensely. If we were to take the exact number of Scriptures that most people in the church use as their defense and take them to court as evidence against Torah, we would loose hands down. In a court room, the side with the most evidence and the most credible evidence **wins**. How do you end something that has been established by our Creator, **Yahuah**, Himself forever?

What about the Law and Grace? Good point. Let's take a look at that Scripture:

Rom 6:14-- For sin shall not rule over you, for you are not under the law but under favour.

An Average Joe's Observation...Sins' objective in our lives is to destroy us outright. Shaul (Paul) states plainly within this verse of Scripture that **if** we are true believers in Messiah **Yahushua** that sin **will not** have dominion over us. If it had dominion over us, then it would achieve its goal. Then he goes on to say that we are not under the law—meaning the judgment that should be ours and should come upon us for violating Torah (Law)—but instead we are under the protection of Messiah through **Yahuah's** unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor, or **grace**. Now where within this verse does Shaul (Paul) say that Torah (Law) does not exist? He is

simply saying that we are not under the death sentence that should be ours and which we all justly deserve.

Let's look at another scripture:

Rom 6:23-- **For the wages of sin is death**, but the favourable gift of Elohim (**Our Mighty One**) is everlasting life in Messiah עֵשׂוּרָהי (**Yahushua**), our Master.

Here Shaul (Paul) is sharing a very important point with us. If we **allow** sin to have dominion over us, **there is a consequence**. The result of continued, un-confessed, un-repented, and therefore, un-forgiven sin **is** that sins' objective working in our members will be achieved...**Sin will destroy us...Be assured of this fact!!!**

Since a majority of churches teach and say that Shaul (Paul) teaches that the Law or Torah has been done away with, let's have another closer look:

Rom 7:7--What, then, shall we say? Is the Torah sin? Let it not be! However, **I did not know sin except through the Torah**. For also the covetousness I knew not if the Torah had not said, "You shall not covet."

Here is a good question posed by Shaul (Paul) himself: Is the Torah out to destroy us? **No!** It is the instruction manual given to us by **Yahuah** to lead us to be perfect as He is perfect, just as I shared at the beginning of this article. Whatever perfection we are unable to attain because of the weakness of our flesh, then His unmerited favor will cover us as long as we are earnestly seeking to please Him.

Let's give this Scripture a second look:

Rom 7:7--What, then, shall we say? Is the Torah sin? Let it not be! However, **I did not know sin except through the Torah. For also the covetousness I knew not if the Torah had not said, "You shall not covet."**

Shaul (Paul) is making something painstakingly clear here: **Sin is the violation of Torah**. He points out while making no bones about the fact that if not for Torah, he would have no knowledge of what sin was. He would have no idea that he was being displeasing to **Yahuah**, our Heavenly Father. Torah is the blessed gift of **Yahuah** which allows us to see what **is "sin"** and teaches us to **please** Him.

So, How about some Grace?

Eph 2:8-9--For by favour you have been saved, through belief, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim (Our Mighty One), it is not by works, so that no one should boast.

What is belief? Our old King James Version renders belief as faith! The Hebrew word for faith is emuna. It means trust; grounded; obedience. In an Average Joes words--**because we trust, therefore, we obey**. So, looking at this Scripture again—by favour (Grace) we have been saved, though trust, grounded, obedience—**because we trust, therefore, we obey**. It is the gift of Our Mighty One **Yahuah** and not by our ability at all, so that none of us can brag about it. The bottom line: we are given, or gain access to Grace through faith—emuna—trust; grounded; obedience. If Torah has been done away with and the Law has been ended, then what exactly **are** we to obey? Shaul (Paul) makes it clear that Grace comes by faith—emuna—trust; grounded; obedience. Let's flip that statement over and look at it. Without faith—emuna—trust; grounded; obedience, we **will not** receive **Yahuah's** Grace—unmerited favour.

We also know this: Shaul (Paul) had quite a bit to say about sin.

Rom 6:1-2-- What, then, shall we say? **Shall we continue in sin**, to let favour increase? **Let it not be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

Rom 6:12-- Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, to obey it in its desires,

Rom 6:16--Do you not know that **to whom you present yourselves servants for obedience, you are servants of the one whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?**

Rom 6:23--For the wages of sin is death, but the favourable gift of Elohim is everlasting life in Messiah עֲשׂוּהָי (**Yahushua**) our Master.

Shaul (Paul) was not shy in the least in letting his followers know that he had a serious problem with us as believers continuing to live our lives in sin...Sounds like he was convinced that a life of **sin will destroy us**. Maybe we need to take **another look** at what sin is. I mean, if it has the capability of destroying us, wouldn't it be wise to be able to identify what sin is...Shouldn't that be rather important to us?

Rom 7:7--What, then, shall we say? Is the Torah sin? Let it not be! However, I did not know sin except through the Torah. For also the covetousness I knew not if the Torah had not said, "You shall not covet."

Torah: The only tool known to mankind that identifies what sin really is.

As an Average Joe would put it... Sin is any thought or motive of the heart; any physical act or lack of action; which would cause us to miss the "mark"... The "mark" being eternal life."

It is the Torah which reveals to us what is sinful and what is not; what is pleasing to **Yahuah** our Creator and what is not. Sin is the violation of the Torah. Torah is our roadmap to life...Eternal Life.

So now we see that Shaul (Paul) has made it positively clear that we are not to sin. What is it that we are not to do? We are not to violate the Torah...We are not to deviate from the instructions of our roadmap to life.

Again, in Ephesians Shaul shared with us that Grace comes through belief—faith—emuna—trust; grounded; obedience—because we trust, therefore we obey. What is it that we are to obey so that we may receive **Yahuah's** Grace—unmerited favour? Torah!

The word of **Yahuah** is balanced. He has given us His Torah as a guide; a survival manual; a training manual to help us in our endeavor to be as much like Him as we possibly can. He has poured upon us His Grace through **Yahushua** Messiah because of our emuna—trust; grounded; obedience.

If we were pro-football players, we would focus every ounce of our energies and desires on being the very best football players we could possibly be...Our goal? ,The Superbowl!, Many of us would have a favorite football star whose career we had followed, looked up to, and revered as being the kind of football player that we ourselves would like to be. Having set for ourselves such a lofty goal, we might never achieve it; but we would never stop working and trying to become better, faster, and stronger players. When times of disappointment or disillusionment came our way, we would set our minds back upon that football star that we revered so highly and had purposed in our hearts to be like. **Yahuah** has commanded us to make Him that star whom we honor and so reverently desire to be like.

Deu 6:5--“And you shall love יהוה (Yahuah) your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might.

Gen 17:1-- And it came to be when Abram was ninety-nine years old, that יהוה (Yahuah) appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Ėl Shaddai – walk before Me and be perfect.

Mat 5:48-- “Therefore, be perfect, as your Father in the heavens is perfect.

It is Torah, through **Yahuah's** command for us to be perfect as He is perfect, that points out to each of us our desperate need for His Grace. We simply cannot be that perfect football star; but He expects us to obey the rules and dedicate our lives to being the very best that we can be. He expects us to desire with all of our hearts to be as He is...Perfect.

So, what if we aren't the best player on the team? What if we barely even deserve to be on the team? What if our ability to keep the Torah of **Yahuah** is far from perfect no matter how much we desire to be like Him?

We have a Mediator, **Yahushua** Messiah, representing us as our attorney in the court case—“**Yahuah-versus-us**”. The charges against us: Torah violations. The facts: we are guilty as charged. But fear not... We have the best attorney in the universe handling our case. Even more so...He has already proven to us that He is willing to lay His life on the line to save us! How will He handle our case? He will boldly ask that our case be dismissed on the grounds of lack of evidence...His Blood covers our violations of Torah...They simply cannot be seen. It is as though they never existed. There is no visible, tangible evidence to be presented in the case against us even though we are indisputably guilty. Our Attorney will get us off scott-free because we have given our “all” to be His obedient servants; and we in turn will receive His Grace.

Case Dismissed!
Exactly, how is His Grace obtained?
Through obedience to Torah.
Where do we find Grace?
IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB!

The creator's Name is: **Yahuah** (ya-hoo-ah)
The Messiah's Name contains the Father's Name within it: **Yahushua**
(**Ya-hoo-shoo-ah**) means "**YAH**-will save His people"

IT IS The Name above all Names.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there
is none other name under heaven given among men

whereby we must be saved."

(Acts 4:12 KJV)

For by favour you have been saved, **through belief**, and that **not of yourselves**, it is **the gift of Elohim**,

it is **not by works**, so that **no one should boast**.

(Eph 2:8-9)

Blessed are the **perfect in the way**,
Who walk in the Torah of יהוה (Yahuah)!

(Psalm 119:1)

Open thou mine eyes, **that I may behold**
wondrous things out of thy Torah.

(Psa. 119:18)

"Pray for the peace of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem),

Let those who love You be at rest."

(Psalm 122:6)

In memory of Hannah Szenech, a young poetess, who gave her life
willingly for her dream of a **restored** Yisra'el:

"Blessed, is the match, consumed, in lighting the flame!"...Of Yisra'el!

Hannah was "consumed", but not in vain!

The Two Stick Prophecy of Ezekiel 37:19-22 states that the **"flame"** of
Yisra'el **WILL BE REKINDLED!!!**

The House Of Yisra'el, together with The House Of Yahudah as ONE NATION is the prophesied RESTORATION OF YISRA'EL!

We, as believers in Messiah **Yahushua**, ARE GRAFTED INTO Yisra'el--
WE ARE YISRA'EL!!!!

Yisra'el IS the Bride of Messiah!

If you thirst for knowledge and truth purchase AND READ these books:

Fossilized Customs by Lew White

Study of Two House Restoration of Yisra'el by Brick Parrish

Come Out Of Her My People by C.J. Koster

Walk In the Light Series--Names by Todd Bennett

Walk In the Light Series--Sabbath by Todd Bennett

Walk In the Light Series--Kosher by Todd Bennett

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NOTE: Any underlining or bracketing is mine.

Send questions or comments to Average Joe at AverageJoe93054@att.net

Unless noted otherwise, all scripture quotations are from The Authorized King James Version or from The Institute for Scripture Research translation of:

THE SCRIPTURES