

Are you a lover of Truth? I am always amazed at the number of professing Christians I meet who are not. The majority, in fact, hold the traditions of man ABOVE the Word of YaHuWaH (commonly called, "God") by valuing and honoring pagan practices over the instruction of YaHuWaH. Christians would agree that the scriptures contain many laws and a significant number of these Christians also hold that "the law is done away with" since the crucifixion and resurrection of our Master Yahushua (commonly called, "Christ Jesus"), even referencing Colossians 2:16-17. (We'll get to that in a moment.)

However, this line of thought is a direct result of believers sucking from the "milk" of the word and refusing to mature to the "meat" of it. Spoon fed believers are content to sit week after week for their obligatory hour of "worship" then move on to "real life" the rest of the time.

The truth of the matter is, we are all called to search out matters for ourselves, and to study to show ourselves approved of YaHuWaH. Study what? The Words of YaHuWaH. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is YaHuWaH, He changes not!

So again, I ask you, are you a lover of Truth? For Yahushua Himself said, "I am The Way, The Truth and The Life. No man comes to the Father except through Me." So when you seek truth diligently, you will always find Yahushua! Become a lover of Truth, always seeking always searching and you will find it.

IF YOU ARE NOT A LOVER OF TRUTH, YOU WILL BE OFFENDED BY IT.

The Word of YaHuWaH is sharper than any two edged sword, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. So let's take a journey into the Word to see what YaHuWaH thinks about those who love truth and those who prefer deceptions found with man and man's traditions.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 "The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of (pretended) miracles and signs and delusive marvels (all of them) lying wonders - And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are

perishing because they did not welcome the Truth, but refused to love it that they might be saved. Therefore, YaHuWaH sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, in order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in the Truth, but (instead) took pleasure in unrighteousness."

There is a great danger to believers who hold fast to traditions ABOVE the truth of the scriptures. Before reading on, search your own heart for a love of Truth above all else. For our Master IS Truth. If you have placed deceptive traditions above His Word, you must repent and turn from your error while you are able.

Please note I do not disregard all traditions, but those which deceive and replace truth. Many traditions are worthy of adhering to. But ALL must be measured against the Word of Truth and eagerly discarded if found to be removed from the path of righteousness. And NONE held higher than the Word of YaHuWaH.

Now, let's take a look at the Word of Truth regarding the traditions of man.

Colossians 2:18 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain (empty) deceit, after the tradition of men, after the elements of the world, and not after Yahushua."

Matthew 5:17-19 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or of the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to complete. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."

So, what commandments? The Bible is full of commands, we agree. But specifically the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments, given to Moses at Mount Sinai on two tablets of stone, written by the finger of YaHuWaH Himself are the eternal laws of YaHuWaH. They were written in stone for the governance of man, to define sin. The

first four define the basis of religious law and how we are to love YaHuWaH. The last six define ethical or social law and how we should love our fellow man. This is the eternal law of YaHuWaH.

What would you consider the "least" of the Ten Commandments as spoken of in Matthew chapter 5? By all appearances in the church, the fourth commandment "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" would surely fit that description. With little exception (SDA and the Jewish) churches across the board have adopted the Sunday day of rest. Many using the words of Paul to justify their apostasy from that command.

Paul in his letter to the Colossians 2:16-17 states, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are (not "were!") a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Yahushua." This scripture is often used to discard the fourth commandment. BUT, the Bible student not satisfied with pew warming must dig deeper to see that the previous verse (14) defines the entire topic as the ceremonial laws written by Moses, NOT the eternal law of YaHuWaH written by His own finger in the tables of stone! These ceremonial laws of Moses were written in order to deal with sin. The eternal laws of YaHuWaH (the Ten Commandments) DEFINE sin and are eternal!

Since Yahushua forever settled the "dealing with sin" portion of the law (i.e. no longer do we offer blood sacrifices, right?), then there IS NO MORE NEED for the ceremonial laws, which were written for that purpose. The ceremonial ordinances which were indeed "nailed to the cross" (vs. 14) included the many sabbaths added by man. These are even referred to by YaHuWaH as the sabbaths of "her" (Israel) and not "My" sabbath, the day YaHuWaH has set aside to sanctify His people. (Are YOU "His" people? If you are a believer you have been grafted into His vine and have become one of His. This is NOT about "Jewish" people exclusively or all-inclusively. This is about HIS people, Jew and Gentile alike if you are part of the body of Yahushua, having faith in Him alone!)

So having defined HIS sabbath as being the only remaining sabbath under His eternal law, what does the Word of Truth tell us about His sabbath?

Exodus 31:13 "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am YaHuWaH that doth sanctify you."

Exodus 31:16 "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant."

Exodus 31:17a "It is a sign between me and the children of israel for ever."

Ezekiel 20:12 "Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am YaHuWaH that sanctify them."

Ezekiel 20:19-20 "I am YaHuWaH your Elohim; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am YaHuWaH your Elohim."

Hebrews 4:9-10 "But now, there is therefore a sabbath rest for the people of YaHuWaH for anyone who has entered into the sabbath rest has himself also rested from his own works, as YaHuWaH did from His."

Matthew 24:20 "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day."

Clearly, in this last verse spoken by Yahushua Himself regarding the time of His return, He expected His followers to continue this observance forever!

Further, look what YaHuWaH's measuring "stick" is for His people in the end times of which we are now in:

Revelation 12:17 "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of YaHuWaH, and have the testimony of Yahushua."

Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of YaHuWaH, and the faith of Yahushua."

Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

What about Master Yahushua? Didn't HE break the sabbath? Have you ever heard it preached that Yahushua broke the sabbath?

Remember the scriptures that tell us He healed a man who had been blind from birth? Yahushua spat in the dirt, made mud then stuck the mud on the mans eyes, then told him to go wash. The Rabbi's and priests were furious, claiming Yahushua had broken the sabbath. Many preachers today echo that sentiment, yet excuse it saying, "Jesus is Lord of the sabbath." As if that dismisses it as unquestionable. NOT SO!

Yahushua would NEVER break His own law! He is righteous, holy and just. As such it is impossible for Him to contradict His own law by violating it!

So what was going on?

When Israel had gone into Babylonian captivity, the Rabbis and priests feared they would lose their culture, being assimilated into the heathen nation. They created the oral traditions commonly called the Talmud, adding multitudes of rules and regulations for the Israelites. Two of these "laws" were 1) it is a sin to make mud on the sabbath, and 2) it is a sin to put spit in the eye on the sabbath! This is the perfect example of "Traditions of men" which YaHuWaH denounced! Yahushua, by healing this blind man in such a manner (of which there were many witnesses no doubt including Rabbi's) He openly discredited the traditions and rules of man, while in every way honoring the sabbath in keeping it holy! THIS is why the "authorities" were offended and angered. They had lorded their priestly office over the people and had become the ruling elite of their day, creating

burdensome rules for the people they themselves were often unlikely to follow.

So now that we see clearly the position of YaHuWaH on which day to honor His rest, how did we get to where we are today, so far off the path of righteousness?

At the time of Messiah, Sun worship had taken over most nations as the popular religion, having assimilated to all the known deities. When Christianity came to Rome, a struggle between Sunday worship and Sabbath keeping ensued. Much persecution of Christians was due to their "odd" sabbath keeping in contrast to the pagan traditions of the nations. However, Constantine wished to fuse Christianity with the Sun-god worship of his family. In 313 he held a conference in Milan where they adopted a policy of universal religious freedom (Edict of Milan). This ended much of the persecution of Christians and endeared Constantine to them. In this, now friendly, environment Constantine extended further concessions gaining even more favor with the Christians.

Then in 321 Constantine, who called the sun-god "The Unconquered Sun, my companion" legislated the "venerable day of the Sun" to be a day of rest, honoring his Sun-god, and not the Messiah. The Roman Empire already referred to their Sun-god as their "Lord" (Kurios). Helios, the Sun Diety, was called "The Lord of the heaven and the earth." Some say this is how Sunday came to be called "the Lord's Day" and doesn't refer to Yahushua. (See my note on the name of our Messiah as you will learn "Lord" is actually another name for Ba'al! This would support the syncretization of all the known deities into the one sun-god as Ba-al was also the Sun god of Babylon.)

In this atmosphere of befriending by Constantine, Christians soon compromised by claiming "Christ the True Sun." (Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Cyprian, Bishop Zeno of Verona to name a few.) By 336, the church also adopted this day of rest at the Council of Laodicea, Canon 29: "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day honoring rather the Lord's Day by resting, if possible, as Christians. However, if any shall be found Judaizing, let them be shut out from Christ."

During the Reformation, the supreme authority of the Scriptures was contested. After many years of debate, in 1562 at the Council of Trent, Archbishop of Reggio openly declared tradition stood above Scripture! "The authority of the Church could therefore not be bound to the authority of the Scriptures, because the Church had changed ...the Sabbath into Sunday, not by the command of Christ, but by its own authority." (Cannon and Tradition p. 263)

Even while supporting the church's usurpation of Yahushua's authority (Matthew 28:18 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth,") Cardinal Gibbons openly states, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observation of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." (Faith of Our Fathers- Cardinal James Gibbons)

This fusing of pagan Sun worship to Christianity has been going strong ever since. It is an abomination and blasphemy to our YaHuWaH. Does this offend you? Search your heart. For those who are not lovers of Truth are indeed offended by it.

I realize this may be outside your comfort zone, but search the Word for Truth. Seek the Father in prayer for He WILL lead you and guide you into ALL Truth if you sincerely seek to know it and obey. Don't take my word, but cling to HIS Word.

Shalom. Peace to you and grace from Him who is able to set you free. For you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free!