

**Boatrockers Ministries**  
**Ministries of Great Compassion and Commission**  
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Boatrockers Ministries  
 Position Paper: BR - 0012  
 How To Walk In His Torah

## **613 in Tenach...Perhaps 1,000 in Brit HaDasha – How Do We Approach Them?**

By David Miller © May 2002

### **Three Pillars<sup>1</sup>**

In each *Position Paper* there are certain things taken for granted: from the audience. In some papers it is taken for granted that the readership believes in XYZ. In others it is taken in stride that they don't believe in XYZ at all. So it will be in this *Position Paper*. In this paper we will take it for granted that the audience truly believes in these simple three pillars of faith:

#### **Pillar #1:**

Man is born as a sinful creature with a sin nature inherited from Adam: *The Adamic Curse*. This nature is what separates us from God. There is only one way for man to have fellowship with God. This occurs when people approach God with the humility of a created being who wants fellowship with his Creator, yet can't have it because of sin. So that person must ask God in faith to forgive him or her of all their sins. God then accepts us and makes us Righteous (**Psalm 51**). (He is no longer our enemy, He now becomes our Abba).

#### **Pillar #2:**

When a person does this – God responds by declaring that person to be Judicially Righteous (no longer guilty). God now becomes Abba (Father or PaPa) to us, His forgiveness is made complete when the shed blood of His only Son is applied to our sins and sin nature, in this act we are washed clean and we are made (Constitutionally Righteous). People who asked God for forgiveness prior to Messiah's death – were forgiven and made righteous by the promise of Messiah's Atonement. People born since are forgiven and made righteous by the fact of His death and resurrection. (**Genesis 15:6**) (**I Timothy 1:9**).

If you have not asked G-d for forgiveness and have not been delivered from death and declared to be righteous. Please do so before you read any further. Before another second passes. For none of us knows when death will come for us. Torah is for His redeemed people. Not for those still striving to do good works and earn their own righteousness, which will never meet His standard of Holiness.

#### **Pillar #3:**

You are now a True Believer (Saint) and you have a new heart with Torah written on it and the Spirit of God dwelling within you. In this "mode" being a New Creature in Him – you now *want* to obey Abba and serve Messiah and behave the way a child of God – should behave. This is called Behavioral Righteousness. But because people are telling you that the commandments (the 613) are nailed to the Cross – you are confused.

## **Welcome To The Confusion Club**

It doesn't matter if you are a new Christian from a non-Jewish background or a Jewish Believer in Jesus who has been taught to think like an evangelical – confusion reigns everywhere and is an equal opportunity fogger of the logic of the Redeemed. But there is good news! More and more people are shaking off the clouds of fogginess and are beginning to clearly see the

### <sup>1</sup> **Definitions:**

**God the Father:** In Hebrew He is called YHWH (The Tetragramaton) pronounced Yahweh. Also known as Abba (something like PaPa); HaShem (The Name); El Shaddai; Adonai; Echad (used in the She'ma, Deut 6:4, also used to describe a married couple); and many other Names that describe parts of His Righteous Nature and Character. But His personal Name is YHWH.

**The Son:** Yahshua HaMashiach (Yahshua, Yeshua, Y'shua – these are His given Hebrew Name). HaMashiach simply means The Messiah. (Jesus is Greek: and Christ is Greek for 'Anointed One'). I use Yahshua because that is the Name I grew accustomed to and was first introduced to when our family realized in 1984 that we could be Christian and Jewish at the same time (Messianic).

**The Holy Spirit:** Ruach HaKodesh (Ruach means Spirit: and "Ha" means "The"; and Kodesh means Holy).

**Mo'ed** means Appointed Day. **Moa'dim** means Appointed Days and usually refers to all of God's Holidays (7 total). Passover/Pesach; Days of Unleavened Bread; First of First Fruits; Shavuot/Pentecost; Yom Tourah/Feast of Trumpets; Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement; and Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles. All are feasts except for Yom Kippur which is a 24-hour fast.

**The Tenach** is what evangelicals call the "Old" Testament.

**Brit HaDasha** is what evangelicals call the "New" Testament.

simple truths of the Apostolic and Messianic<sup>2</sup> message that has been hidden from the Saints (by the theologically gifted) for over 1800 years! First let's form a foundation so we'll all know which direction truth comes from ↑ ...and from which direction comes deception ↓. Then we'll ask a few simple questions similar to some which you may be asking ☹️...then we'll try to provide some sound Scriptural based answers 😊...that you can use to guide your Torah walk. Finally we'll provide examples and illustrations that will help shed some light on how we can all "walk in the same manner as He walked."<sup>3</sup>

## Foundation Stone Number One

This is non-negotiable. Lighten up! Get out of you chair, wiggle your toes, wave your arms, put on a pair of Scooby-Do slippers if you have them, break out a pint of Ben & Jerry's and relax. Simply relax. We're going to study Torah which is not LAW – it is merely: *The Operations Manual For The Children Of God – While On Extended Assignment on Earth*. Sub-titled: *How To Fulfill Deuteronomy 4:1-8<sup>4</sup> – So The Nations Will See My Children Living – And Then They Will Want To Know ME*.

*Boatrockers* is not trying to be flippant or sac-religious or disrespectful to the Holy Scriptures or God. On the contrary we are mindful that the Almighty allows us to call Him – Abba. Which some scholars have even suggested this is something akin to our American – *Daddy*. Why even in each of the Moed, His Appointed Days; all are Feasts, Festivals, and Celebrations – save one (Yom Kippur which is a 24 hour fast). Examine Passover, a family was to consume a year old lamb (approximately 60 to 70 pounds of meat) in one night! YHWH is not always a God of judgement, wrath, and harsh disciple. On the contrary Messianic Believers find the God of mercy, grace, love, lovingkindness, and patience - that is supposedly only in the "New" Testament - to be equally present in the "Old" Testament. And why not? The Father and Son are Echad...One (**Malachai 3:6** and **Hebrews 13:8**). Look again at **Malachi 3:6**, "so we are not consumed." Beloved – He is a God of love and grace, always!


## Foundation Stone Number Two

Whenever you see the world Law in the "New" Testament (especially if the "L" is capitalized) it is not LAW – it is Torah and this is exactly what the Messiah and the Apostles were thinking when they spoke and when they penned the Gospels and the Epistles. Torah means INSTRUCTION or TEACHING. Yes it does contain laws – but their purpose is to instruct and to teach us – so we stay away from the edges of the envelope, they are to keep us safe. Just as 25 mph speed laws around schools are meant to protect us from harming a child, they are to protect the children from being harmed. In a Torah family/community, state, or nation: the Torah was designed to

(A). Lead people to Messiah because they will find that they cannot keep it in the flesh (**Romans 7:14-25**, "who will set me free from this body of death? **V-24**).

(B). Protect unsaved people living within the Torah community until such time that the Ruach HaKodesh draws them to Messiah (**Romans 6:15-23**. "but now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God...but the free gift of God is eternal life through Yahshua HaMashiach our Lord." **V-22a, 23b**)

(C). Once Saved The Torah allows us to live in His promises (based upon the Covenants, **Genesis 15:8-18: Hebrews 6:13-20**). But they also allow us to live in His blessing's - *if we will allow ourselves to walk in them* (**Deuteronomy 30:11-20**).

So when you see this:  Don't be frightened and run for the Worship Center and call for a Prayer Facilitator.

Rather see this instead:  Abba's *Teaching and Instruction* in righteousness for our own good – His Grace to us.

*Grace? Hmmm? Yes Grace! He didn't have to give us instructions...He could have simply let us touch the hot stove's and approach every event with a Situational Ethic. So YES, YES, YES! Torah is part of Abba's Grace to us – so we may be blessed!*

<sup>2</sup> **Torah** is what has been mistranslated by Bible Scholars as "The Law." It doesn't mean Law at all. Sure it contains laws, statutes, ordinances, etc. But in Hebrew it actually means "Instruction" or "Teaching." Its main root word is YARA, which means to "hit the mark." Its opposite root word is HATA which means to "miss the mark" and is the root word for "sin." Torah was given to the Children of God at Mt. Sinai who were already saved by faith and regenerated – as a book of instructions by Abba to His children so they would know how to live out a righteous life on Earth – so they could be Salt and Light. Torah never had anything to do with granting or obtaining Salvation. - that has always been accomplished solely by an individuals personal faith (Genesis 15:6).

**Mitsvot:** A mitsvot is a single commandment or instruction. Mitsvot also have an alternate primary meaning – "Good Works." As in this usage: "Bob put a fence around his new pool and thus followed one of the Mitsvot, and he did a good deed."

**The Devil:** HaSatan.

<sup>3</sup> I John 2:6

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 4:1-8

## It's Not Merely Semantics<sup>5</sup>

Some people will read this and say “*instruction?*” “*No. It's law.*” Beloved, there really is a difference, let's see if we can break it down so it makes some sense.

2 Great Commandments:

- ❶ “You shall love the Lord your G-d with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”  
- **Matthew 22:37**
- ❷ “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”  
- **Matthew 22:39**<sup>6</sup>

These are *Instructions* and/or *Teachings* for training in righteousness. What kind of righteousness? Mortal, ethical, and moral righteousness: i.e., Behavioral Righteousness. Made possible only when we first ask God to forgive us and He then does:

### Stepping Back A Bit

**First:** He Judicially declared us Righteous, i.e., acquitted in His court of law.

*“He delivered us, it was not on the ground of any righteous deeds we had done, but on the ground of His own mercy. He did it by means of the mikveh of rebirth and the renewal brought about by the Ruach HaKodesh.” - Titus 3:5*

**Second:** He constitutionally made us righteous, i.e., He took away our old nature that wants to sin and gave us a new nature that wants to serve God and do *good works*<sup>7</sup> (albeit still in a body of flesh that still wants to sin).

*“For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.” -Romans 5:19*  
*“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” -2 Corinthians 5:21*

**Third:** He has given us a new heart, He has written His Torah on it, He has given us His Spirit to in-dwell us: so that we are finally able to walk in His Way – and “to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

*“...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed<sup>8</sup> and purify for Himself a people for His own possession,<sup>9</sup> zealous<sup>10</sup> for good deeds.” - Titus 2:14*

### Back Again

It is clear from Scripture: Salvation, Redemption, Deliverance, are from FAITH and FAITH ALONE. But after our deliverance *how shall we then live?* “*Do we nullify the Torah through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Torah.*”<sup>11</sup> If we will not live by God's instructions for living righteous then we *must* live by man's. Situational Ethics is how the “church” has been living for the past 100 years – and with a 53% divorce rate within the “church” we can see what the results are - of living by our own wisdom. It hasn't worked and it won't work – because we are New Creatures in Messiah.

<sup>5</sup> Christian: First used in Antioch according to Acts 11:26. It is used only 3 times in the Brit HaDasha (Acts 26:28, I Peter 4:16). However in all of the early original manuscripts it doesn't appear – rather the word is Messianic's. Christian means “little Christ's” and was meant as a derogatory term; today it means that one is simply a follower of Christ. Since He was the Messiah and Messiah is our English equivalent of the Hebrew: HaMashiach; we can surmise that the Greeks may have called our fore fathers “Christian” but the Hebrews of the day called us Messianic's. At the very least they also called us “followers of *The Way*” or also “Nazarenes.”

The Brit HaDasha almost exclusively uses the word SAINT, which means TRUE BELIEVER. It is significant to note that the last inspired book to be written and included in our modern canon of Scripture is – Revelation. The Ruach HaKodesh therein inspires the Apostle John to use the word SAINT. If Christian had indeed become the normal usage by 90 CE – why did the Spirit of God – still insist upon using the word...SAINT?

<sup>6</sup> Verse 40: “On these two commandments depend the whole Torah and the Prophets.” QUESTION: Why did He say that” Because they are simply the two great pillars of the entire Torah! If you were in perfect “tune” with God (Echad) this would be all you'd need: you'd honor thy father and mother; you wouldn't worship idols; you would not covet; you'd put a fence around your roof, etc. But none of us are that in “Tune” with God. But if we focus on these two great commandments as we walk through life – we will see the wisdom in the other Torah instructions and begin to act them out in our lives. So if you obliterate these two commandments: (A). You'll never know why you're trying to become familiar with 10; let alone 613 or a 1,000, and (B). “and the Prophets,” loving God and hearing Him has more to it than simply the mitsvot...He had other words of wisdom for us that He transmitted through His prophets: if you can't listen to Him when he advises you to put a fence around your roof – you're not going to listen to Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> Good Works, i.e., follow His Commandments, *FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND TEACHINGS.*

<sup>8</sup> Quote from Psalm 130:8 (Lawless deed= Anti-Torah deed)

<sup>9</sup> Quote from Ezekiel 37:23

<sup>10</sup> Word # 2207. To be a Zealot. *Davism:* A partisan fighter, a Guerrilla fighter, someone willing to give it all up for a cause greater than himself – a zealot for Good Deeds – FOR THE TORAH! See, Acts 20:20 (this was a good thing), see also Revelation 12:17 and 14:12. Where are these people today?

<sup>11</sup> Romans 3:31

## A Stark Reality (somewhat hyperbole...and somewhat very true)

### My Muslim Doctor

1. Trained in a Pakistani University to be a Physician – also trained to be moral, and taught there is right and wrong.
2. Very deep and imbedded sense that God is very real, and he is working hard to be a “good” person – so he will hopefully get to Paradise.
3. Lives in a \$400,000 home.
4. Drives a Mercedes 600SL.
5. Married 25 years to same woman.
6. Six children: 3 in college doing very well, 3 in high school doing very well.
7. No debt, gives 2.5% (+) to Muslim charities.
8. Has bought and provided 2 houses for his and his wives elderly parents.
9. All of his children are thriving.
10. Dr. Said is a very happy man.

*Question: What possible reason does he have to envy his neighbor's life – and why would he want to know his next door neighbor's God?*

*Deuteronomy 4:1-8.*

Living Next  
Door To Each  
Other in...  
*Anytown, USA.*

### Typical American Evangelical

1. Trained in an American University to be a Physician – also trained in moral relativism, everything is gray.
2. No real imbedded sense that God is as serious as a heart attack, that we are to be 100% committed to Him and Him alone.
3. Lives in a \$400,000 home.
4. Drives a Mercedes 600SL.
5. Married to 2<sup>nd</sup> wife (her 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage).
6. Five children, 3 live with his 1<sup>st</sup> wife, 1 lives with him, other child living with him is from his wife's 1<sup>st</sup> union.
7. Typical American debt load, gives 1.25% to local mega-church.
8. His and her parents live in *Assisted Living Facilities*.
9. His 16 year daughter is pregnant, his 19 year old son has numerous body piercing's. His 23 year old is in college and doing well, but his 24 year old is living at home and is bouncing from job to job. The 12 year old is still on track.
10. His attitude? ...“Life stinks.”

## Some Cold Facts

Prior to September 11, 2001: 45% of Americans had a favorable impression of Islam, in December of 2001, that favorable impression had grown to 59%.<sup>12</sup> We'll let you ponder that and try to figure it out. But after pondering that...ponder this:

America <sup>13</sup>	1990	2001
No Religion	14.3 million people/8.0 %	29.4 million people/29.4%
Major Denominations	60%	52%
Define self as Christian	86%	77%
Muslims	1.1 million people	2.2 million people
% who say they identify with a particular faith	90%	81%
% in a religious home who actually practice the faith	N/A	54%

Here's another interesting fact of which Messianic's need to be aware. The groups with the largest number of converts during the 10 years are: Mormon's, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Buddhist's. But they also had the greatest number of people leaving their faiths – so they had no significant loss or gain. And 16% of all respondents said they had switched faiths during the 10-year period.

**Boatrockers** see two things in these surveys worth commenting on. **(1)**. A great number of people are seeking. They are actively looking for something that works. **(2)**. People are being drawn to faith's that have *black and white views* on moral, ethical, and day-to-day living issues. But without a changed heart and soul (that only Yahweh and Yahshua can provide), they become discouraged – because they can't be perfect – because they haven't been *constitutionally made perfect* by the Creator! (See Leviticus 19:2 and Matthew 5:48. See also Deuteronomy 30:11-20) God wasn't kidding us, we can, but only if we are changed first! Beloved, don't even attempt to think you can keep the Torah – UNLESS you are SAVED FIRST! Slavish adherence to a moral code *might* produce a nice earthly life – but so what – if you lose your soul! (Matthew 16:26, Luke 9:25)

<sup>12</sup> January 2002, Prison Fellowship Ministries: “Mushy ecumenism: Incoherent civil religion.”

<sup>13</sup> 50,000 American adults in both surveys. Conducted by: *The Graduate Center on Religion in America*

## Semantics II

Let's us continue to reason together about *Instruction and Teaching*. "Love thy neighbor as thy self" (**Leviticus 19:18**), is not a "non-consequential suggestion" - but it is also not *LAW*. It is how ever *Teaching and Instruction*. God is telling us that if we want to live in a community where people get along with one another – then treat them as you want to be treated. It is Instruction. So what's the difference between *Instruction* versus a *Suggestion* versus *Law*?

### Operations Manual for a Table Saw

#### *Instruction/Teaching:*

"Do not operate saw without proper eye protection, serious eye damage may result."

This isn't a law because there is no judicial penalty to be paid if not followed.

This isn't a suggestion – because there could be a life threatening consequence to not following it.

This is an Instruction/Teaching because it is telling the operator that if they follow the Instruction there will be a blessing for following it. If they do not follow it there may be a serious curse for not following it.

#### *Suggestion:*

"It is recommended that you oil the rubber feet every 4 years."

This is not a law because it has no judicial penalty to be paid if not followed.

This has elements of an Instruction/Teaching – because it's trying to teach that rubber becomes brittle over the years.

This is a suggestion though – because it doesn't matter one way or the other whether you do it or not.

#### *Law:*

"Federal Law prohibits the removal of the fence guard except by the owner, serious injury may result."

This is not a suggestion – because there are serious consequences for disregarding it.

This has elements of an Instruction/Teaching – because it is trying to warn us that something bad can happen if we remove the guard, and a blessing if we follow proper safety precautions (written by the creator of the saw).

This is a law – because it has a judicial penalty if someone other than the owner removes the guard.

"Love thy neighbor as thy self" is an Instruction/Teaching. "Do not steal" is an Instruction/Teaching. "If you steal something, you shall repay the owner, "X" times" this is an Instruction in that it is warning people that there is a consequence to stealing: it is also a Law in that there is a judicial penalty. If we keep all of these Mitsvot – we are performing good deeds. How does that work? When those living within a community do the right thing, it simply reinforces the stability of goodness and righteousness that a civilization requires to survive. Doing a good thing – is a good deed.

Conversely, what do we say about someone who robs a bank? They have done a bad deed. They have broken the Law. What do we say about someone who smarts off to an elderly person? We say that they have done a bad deed. What do we say about someone who throws trash out their car window? We tell our children that it is a bad deed. Doing a bad thing – is a bad deed.

**Doing a good thing – is a good deed.**

**Doing a bad thing – is a bad deed.**

**Keeping one of God's Commandments/Mitsvot – is a good thing...a good deed.**

**Breaking one of God's Commandments/Mitsvot - is a bad thing...a bad deed.**

## Torah Contains Everything ("to hit the mark" – Torah is then *Instruction* in how to "hit the mark")

Abba's Torah is by definition the *Instructions* of good living and righteous living: given by a loving Father to His children. Perhaps the Bible should have a warning label on its cover that says the following:<sup>14</sup>

Caution: This book contains instructions and teaching for a good life and how to obtain eternal life. Ignoring these instructions may result in the following: physical injury or death, spiritual death and eternal separation from God. It may also result in emotional turmoil and strife and a general overall view of the human condition that 'life stinks.' Following these instructions though will result in Eternal Life. Adherence to these instructions and teachings will also result in a guaranteed great life – when everyone in the community lives by them. (see footnote #14)

Torah contains Law, and Statutes, and Ordinances: But they are ALL INSTRUCTIONS and TEACHING for righteous living.

<sup>14</sup> We say in the last sentence that everyone in the community must live by them because that is the truth. You can be living a *Wonderful Life* but if someone decides that they want your wallet and they murder you to get it. Then you have suffered from someone else's disobedience. If you are a Saint living in Ethiopia, but the despot in charge of the country will not allow the proper allocation of resources so everyone can have food – then you may starve to death as a result of someone else's sin.

Take a brief look at the *Driver's Instruction Handbook* from whatever state you live in. Does it say: *Licensed Driver Law Book*? No. It does not. Open it up and look at the Instructions within that book. When it says to slow down to 25 mph in a school zone. Is it a law? Of course it is. But **primarily** it is INSTRUCTION for righteous driving. It is trying to teach us several things:

- 1 – Look out for children when near a school,
- 2 – Things can happen very fast with children, the faster you drive – the less time you have to react,
- 3 – *You* wouldn't have wanted to have been run over when you were a child – so be concerned about other people's children. *"Treat others as you would want others to treat you."*

What about driving 35 mph on a twisting mountain road: instruction or law? Both. Primarily though it is an Instruction! The wisdom contained within it is that a twisting mountain road can have rocks on it (big rocks), it can be washed out, cars can be stalled, deer can jump out, and others may be turning wide into your lane from the other direction. It is a Law if there is a Law Enforcement officer around to catch you or there is an incident.

And here is the catch with ALL LAWS. Law Enforcement is not and cannot be everywhere all of the time. So all laws are primarily INSTRUCTION AND TEACHING for righteous behavior.

#### **Positive Mitzvot**

"Do love God with all your heart, mind, and soul."

DO THIS and you will be blessed.

DON'T DO THIS and you will be cursed..

#### **Negative Mitzvot**

"Don't steal."

DO THIS ( don't steal) and you will be blessed.

DON'T DO THIS (steal) and you will be cursed.

#### **Positive Traffic Intructions**

"25 MPH WHEN ICY."

DO THIS and you will be blessed.

DON'T DO THIS and you will be cursed..

#### **Negative Traffic Instructions**

"Maximum Speed Limit 70 MPH."

DO THIS (drive below 70 mph) and you will be blessed.

DON'T DO THIS (drive above 71 mph) and you will be cursed.

By obeying the *Instructions* and *Teachings* (**John 3:16**) of our Creator and Savior we can have the free unmerited gift of Eternal Life. By obeying the *Instructions* and *Teachings* (**Deuteronomy 30:10-20**) of our Creator and Savior we can have the free unmerited gift of a good life.

*"I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise, nor wealth to the discerning, nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all." - Ecclesiastes 9:11*

By obeying the Instructions and Teachings of our just governments<sup>15</sup> we can have the security of a peaceful and stable life. However, we are reminded by Solomon (see verse above) that life has an element of chance to it that sometimes defies human reasoning and insight. Why does a three time drunk smash into a minivan and kill a young mother and her 5 children – and they were all behaviorally righteous people? A good example of this is to look at American society in the 1890's.

In the 1890's good people obeyed the laws of the land, and although the majority of Americans did not acknowledge it – they kept large portions of the Torah. By and large most Americans lived good productive lives. Those who lived on the eastern seaboard where law and order was established could expect to live a life in peace and security. By obeying Torah principles, they had a low divorce rate (10-17%), their children grew up to be hard-working moral people, and by and large people did what was good for society and each other. But occasionally a good person was run over by a runaway horse. Then there were those who lived in the frontier where there was little or no law and order. In the relative safety of a small God-fearing community there was some assurance of living a life in peace and security. There was still the vagaries of chance that someone might die by snakebite, but unless the cowboys got inebriated and shot up the town – most people, even in the west lived well.

Even in ancient Israel, when the people were guided by wise leaders and they all walked in the Torah – the entire nation prospered, thrived and did very, very well. Millions of Redeemed (Saved) Israelites and God-Fearing Gentiles living in peace and security, **willingly** living according to the Torah (see **Joshua 24:31, 2 Kings 24:25, 2 Chronicles 34:33, Judges**).

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<sup>15</sup> By saying "just government" I am not implying rebellion or revolt against authority. I am saying that unjust governments sometimes have unjust tenets of living. Such as the Nazi government requiring its citizens to turn in Jewish people and others who were not approved by the government. In these instances Proverbs 24:11-12 is a good teaching.

## It's All About - ATTITUDE

Few people like the concept of LAW! But while the difference between Law and Instruction may be too subtle for most people. The true difference is more a matter of attitude, and in regards to rote obedience versus loving obedience the differences are ALL about attitude.

- ✠ An Evangelical by and large thinks that he or she has to subjugate their will – much like a captured slave has to learn to push down his will and finally subjugate his dignity. This negative attitude of Rote Obedience is particularly an affectation of the Western mind. Personal freedom over the good of the whole has become an epidemic in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The Western European/American evangelical comes from a society that is anti-Law and transfers his or her secular beliefs to a faith - constructed to be the same.
- ✠✠ A Messianic usually comes from that same evangelical construct and in their birth they are little different than their evangelical cousins. But the Messianic's have very different outlooks in regards to servitude. One genesis may be that Messianic's gradually come to believe in the Bible as one unified book from Genesis to Revelation: which is a different thought construct than believing "in" the "Old" and "New" Testaments. Messianic's more often have a view that they are slaves also – but bond-slaves. They take on the thought process that God has ransomed them from death, at an extreme cost that no human can ever repay. And so they willingly give their lives to God as a bond-slave and they willingly give up their will to the will of their Master. For the Master is wiser and smarter than the bond-slave – and in addition to the unmerited grace of His mercy and ransom – they see the Master as also being benevolent in His grace in providing *Instruction* and *Teaching* so that the servants can live a happy and blessed life. For Messianic's see that they are truly children of a kind Father. This idea and mental/spiritual understanding is more akin to the Middle-Eastern and Asian mindset that existed in Biblical times and is always seen re-emerging in the Remnant, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> centuries...right up until today. (I John 4:16)

## Going Gently or Going Kicking

Let's use the traffic *Instructions* analogy again. There are people (we all know them) who have problems in obeying the traffic *Instructions*, some may even have an accordion file in the glove box to properly file tickets! Unfortunately, they all don't drive Ferrari's or Porsche's – most of the people you know who have "the lead foot" drive normal cars. They simply just can't seem to bend their will to the will of the traffic sign (and ultimately to the state). These people view the traffic *Instructions* as infringements to their personal "rights" – they do not see that driving 95 mph on the freeway is against their own good and protection – as well as others in the community. By failing to heed the traffic *Instructions*...the *Instructions* become Law.

Then there are people who have no problems with traffic *Instructions*...most of the time. They can see the wisdom of driving within the posted speed limits, maintaining their vehicles in proper working order, wearing their seatbelts and urging others in their vehicles to use the safety belts. These people willingly and gently subdue their wills to the will of the traffic sign. Occasionally they may be caught day-dreaming and suddenly find themselves in a school zone going 40 mph...but as soon as they see the sign they immediately slow to 20 or 25 mph until they are out of the zone.<sup>16</sup> These people see that the *Instructions* for good driving are there for everybody's well-being, safety, and protection. The *Instructions* rarely if ever become Law.

## Teaching

In the latter example above, the people who accept *Instruction* and *Teaching* do one other important task for society. They teach others, especially their own children, that an important part of living in a community is to willingly follow the *Instruction* and *Teaching* of society (and ultimately the Creator of the *Instruction* and the Enforcer of the Law). Next time when you hear about a 100 car pileup on a foggy stretch of road. Invariably *someone* was exceeding the safe speed for driving with visibility of less than 25 feet! Because they thought they had a "right" to drive as they wanted, they caused untold injury, death, and unnecessary property damage.

Isn't this the crucible in which all trespass' are fired and molded? The bank robber views his personal right as greater than the community's right to honesty. The pedophile views his right to gratification as greater than the right of a child to grow up unscarred. The adulterer views their right to happiness as a greater right than that of their spouse and children to have a normal life (and the community's right to have stable families).

When Abba says in **Malachi 2:6**, "I hate divorce," and we bend to His will – our personal life goes well and the family/community is strengthened. But when an evangelical church says that the "New" Testament God is now accepting of divorce. When it then says that Christians are now allowed to disregard God's gracious *Instruction* in this area and then one person in the community gets a divorce. We have just taught others who are *thinking* about divorce that it is OK. Not only then is our own personal life affected by our divorce (if it is us) but then other people will also begin to suffer from the judgement of divorce – eventually everybody in the community begins to suffer from the effects of rampant divorce.

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<sup>16</sup> Their counterparts though would be impatiently nudging the upper limits of 25 mph and would be accelerating to 40 mph in anticipation of the increased speed limit sign.

## The Days Of Unleavened Bread

In **Exodus 12**, we are instructed to clean our homes of all leaven on the day of Passover. Some people see this as legalistic, they see it as a burden, that if they miss one crumb of leaven they will be judged by God. So they opt for living under “grace” (they begin to “spiritualize” all the commands of Scripture) and they choose to not perform this Mitzvot, that goes with the Moed of *The Days of Unleavened Bread*. Leaven symbolizes sin. Unleavened bread symbolizes a life without sin (**Leviticus 19:2, Matthew 5:48**). The entire process is to teach us that it is important to keep our lives as free from sin as we possibly can.

Do we really believe that most people can *really* find and remove every microscopic piece of leaven in an entire home?<sup>17</sup> This is what grace is for! And this is one very important aspect of Torah: it teaches us that we cannot keep it by purely human effort. Just as we cannot possibly clean out every microscopic amount of sin from our hearts and soul! We must then ask God for His forgiveness and rely upon Him to forgive us (Judicial Righteousness) and to make our hearts clean (Constitutional Righteousness). Only then can we even attempt to practice Behavioral Righteousness and begin the process of continually keeping the leaven out of our lives. Only when we have been Redeemed (Saved by faith) can we begin to use the Torah the way it was meant to be used by God – to live righteously on Earth and to be Salt and Light to the nations by our lives! This empowers’ us to become Behaviorally Righteous through Messiah who now lives within us (**Ephesians 3:17, I Peter 1:13-21**).

The way we are supposed to approach this Mitsvot of removing the leaven is with joy and happiness. This is an instruction that we can use to teach our children the importance of maintaining a clear conscience (**I Timothy 1:18-19**). An when the nosey neighbor across the street peeks out her window and sees everybody cleaning the house on the day of Passover and asks why you are doing this (**Deuteronomy 4:1-8**)? You can witness to her about your Father, how He has a wonderful gift of Eternal Life, and how by living by His Torah – we can order our lives! By keeping His Mitsvot: we have performed a good deed!

## So What About The 613...Or Even 1,000?<sup>18</sup>

Should we memorize the entire listing of 613? You can if you want. Should we not memorize the entire listing of 613? You can if you want. Huh? It isn’t necessary to memorize them – BUT you should be familiar with all of them! (And you should at least know 10 by heart). How can one grow as a disciple of Messiah if one doesn’t study Scripture? After all He is the one who gave the Torah to Moses upon Mount Sinai (in pre-incarnate form, **Exodus 24:9-11, 24:12 – 31:18**).

Does keeping the Torah save us? (Even perfectly if it were humanly possible without God’s redemption?) NO! NO! NO! That is by faith only! The thief who died with Messiah on the tree taught us this. The ONLY thing required by Abba for our redemption is our faith! Baptism is NOT required. Torah observance is NOT required. Public profession of faith is NOT required. *But if we don’t die immediately after our redemption – HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE?* We publicly profess Him. We follow Him in baptism. And THEN we walk as He walked! (**I John 2:3-6**).

**I John 5:1-3**. Is putting a fence around your roof (or pool) a burden and a yoke? Is keeping faithful to your marriage covenant a burden? Is obeying the laws of the country you live in a burden? Is obeying and honoring your parents a burden? Is not sentencing a person to death based solely upon circumstantial evidence a burden? Do we have to fully understand all the implications and theological breadth of each Mitsvot in order to perform it? NO! Did any of us fully understand the reality of Baptism if we immediately followed our Savior in this rite? Probably not. But we gently and willingly bent our will to His and we followed the Mitsvot – *Instruction* – to be Baptized. Yet if someone wants to follow the *Instruction* to keep the Sabbath – they are talked out of it by their pastor! (The pastor should read and heed **Matthew 5:19**).

## So How Should We Walk?

We should be fully familiar (as we grow in discipleship) with all of the *Instructions* and *Teachings* of the entire Torah – from **Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21**. You and I have an individual responsibility to follow Torah – even if no one else in our community does (**Joshua 24:15**). As we become familiar with Torah and we encounter situations in life – we apply the *Instructions* and *Teachings* of Scripture to each situation. So when our boss asks us to falsify a report – we can respond in accordance to Torah: not in rebellion or disobedience: but in humility and love. In this way we surely walk in the Promise of God, but we walk in His blessings also! In this way we become *Salt* in our family and community, and we become *Light* for our family and community: we become the *city set upon a hill that cannot be hid*. To “walk in the same manner as He walked,” is to humble ourselves to His will – and His will is revealed to us in His Torah, such as is written in **I John 3:13-24**.

By our loving obedience then, we may win our family and communities to Messiah and teach them to be Torah observant. Then we, our children, and everybody: else can live in peace, safety, and security! Promises and Blessings!

<sup>17</sup> In the traditional Seder there is a ceremony called *bedikat chametz* “search for the leaven.” The male head of the household searches the house for leaven and finds a symbolic piece left by the female head of the household. He then burns it and declares to God and to those assembled for the Seder, “I have now completed the *Instruction* to rid my house of all manner of leaven.” The truly Redeemed of Israel knew that they were “*circumcising their hearts*” in following this Mitsvot (see Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4, 9:23-25, Romans 2:29, Habakkuk 2:4, I Corinthians 5:6-8) (I Corinthians 5:7 – even tells us that we are Constitutionally made by God *Righteous* when He Redeems us), (See also Romans 4:9-12), (What is sin? I John 3:4).

<sup>18</sup> The 613 are the listing of Commandments in the Tenach (O.T.) by Rabbi Rashi in the middle-ages: there may be a few more there may be a few less. Some commentators have said that in the Brit HaDasha there are 389 to 1,000 Commandments. It’s just that most modern Christians read Matthew 5:16, and see merely a suggestion...but in reality Jesus is giving us a Mitsvot (see also, I Peter 2:12).