

WHAT WAS REALLY  
NAILED  
TO THE  
CROSS?

Was is really the  
“Law of God”  
or  
Something Else?

 Olive Branch Fellowship<sup>inc.</sup>

BY STEVE GUSTINE

**What was Nailed to the Cross?**  
Was it Really the “Law of God?”

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**ISBN-978-1491276624**

## Acknowledgements

*I would like to give credit to Dr. Daniel Botkin for his research on this subject. His writing, in addition to my own research, has inspired much of what you will read in this booklet. May you be blessed and gain a deeper understanding into our Creator's Word.*



# Introduction

Many Christian believers today will tell you that the “Law of God,” has been “nailed to the cross.” But, is that really what the scriptures teach? I wouldn’t bet your pay check on it; you will end up going home broke.

Contrary to what the majority of Christian denomination believe and teach, Paul was NOT against God’s Law, in any shape or fashion. In fact I could make a long list of all the scriptures where Paul upholds, reinforces and endorses the keeping of God’s Law. Here is just one.

**Rom 3:31** Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

You will only find one scripture in the entire Bible that speaks of something being “nailed to the cross.” Rabbi Shaul, (*the Apostle Paul*) wrote the passage that we will be studying in this book.

One of the first points and main points I would like to drive home is the fact that this word “handwriting,” (Cheirographon) is used in the entire New Testament **ONLY ONE TIME.**

With this understanding we must also consider the fact that the verses we are going to study in Colossians are NOT referring to God’s Law. Also, another compelling fact to be aware of is that the Greek word used for “law” — nomos—***does not appear even one single time*** in the book of Colossians! Additionally, we will find that the entire book of Colossians does not contain one single quote from the Tanakh (Old Testament,) which lends even more evidence that the issue that Paul is speaking about is NOT God’s Law.



# What was “Nailed to the Tree?”

So have you been told all your life what exactly “it” is that has been nailed to the tree? The word “It” in Greek is (G846-autos- *ow-tos*)

The “It” is the Cheirographon, which is what was nailed to the tree. So the “Cheirographon” must be the Law of God, you know the Law of Moses, the Torah, the first five books in our bibles. You know, the thing that Jesus came to put an end to? That thing that Paul keeps telling us is bondage. And Jesus came to deliver us from that, right?

God came down to Mt. Sinai to give us His Torah (instructions, law, commandments) somewhere around 1491 B.C. Did God later decide that He made a mistake with the Law, and send Jesus to fix the whole mess? Was God’s Law weak and flawed? Or, did the problem lie with the PEOPLE who would not follow His commandments? Lets investigate this further and see if we might be able to take just a couple of verses in the New Testament and make some sense out of them. Lets start off with:

Col 2:14 Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances** (*Cheirographon*) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took **it** out of the way, nailing it to his cross; KJV

This Cheirographon is what was metaphorically “nailed to the Cross.”

So have you ever wondered about what was nailed to the

Cross? A lot of churches today teach us that it was the commandments, the Law of God that was “nailed to the cross,” in this New Testament passage. They believe that since the Law was “nailed to the cross,” we no longer have to follow it. They pick and choose some laws to obey, but do not believe they need to follow all of God’s Law, such as those commandments concerning the Sabbath and the Feasts of Yahweh (God’s name, from the Hebrew YHVH or YHWH), which they relegate to only the Jews.

The word “Cheirographon” can be likened to a traffic ticket. Imagine taking a traffic ticket into court and telling the judge that, in your opinion, the traffic ticket is the sum of all the traffic laws and regulations, and that none of them are valid anymore and so you need to be found innocent. What do you think the judge might tell you as he looks at you like you are crazy? Even though you may feel that the ticket is unjust, it sure doesn’t mean that all the rules and traffic laws are worthless. Just the mere fact that you are standing in the judge’s courtroom should indicate to you that the traffic laws must still be in effect; otherwise, you wouldn’t be in court, would you?

Yeshua (Jesus’ name in Hebrew) came to pay our traffic ticket, metaphorically speaking. His payment of our ticket, releasing us from the full penalty of the law, does not mean that the Law no longer exists. No, what Yeshua did was to pay the penalty for you.

Today, in the Church world, pastors and teachers who are “antinomian,” meaning against the Law of God, seem to struggle with trying to find scriptures to support their position and their misconception that God’s Law has been done away with. They will use anything they can and pull one scripture after another out of context, twisting it to say what they want it to say, in order to support their position. Colossians 2:14 is a favorite verse they use to prove that Yeshua



(Jesus) nailed the Torah (Law of God) to His Cross. Advocates of this doctrinal teaching try to tell us that is this “handwriting of ordinances,” referring to the Torah (Law of God) “that was against us.”

If you were to read this verse in the NIV version it actually says: “He wiped out the written Law and its rules.” Even certain popular Lexicons like the Thayer’s Greek Lexicon suggest that Paul equates the “Cheirographon,” with the written Law of Moses. This is how far we have really strayed from the Truth over the years. Generations of Christians have been taught that the Law was nailed to the cross when Jesus died. They have been taught that in the New Testament, the Law has been replaced with grace, and that the Christian today has no obligation to even think about God’s Law. How would most know any different, when some of the most popular translations change the entire meaning of the pertinent verses?

It is time for us to take a stand and straighten out this lie that comes from the pit of hell. Yes, grace is all we need for our redemption and deliverance from sin, but it is completely insufficient for our instructions on how to live a holy life before our King. We need Yah’s instruction manual, we need His Torah, because without it, we have no idea what sin is.

But we really need to learn what this was that was “nailed to the cross,” from a biblical perspective, by studying the original Greek word used here.. I think all believers will be overjoyed and thrilled to find out really what it was that a spike was driven through.

But let’s first go back a few verses so we can try to determine the context of whether it is really is the Law of God that is being discussed here, or something else.

Col 2:12 Buried with him in **baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

<sup>14</sup> Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances** (*Cheirographon*) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

So we see by going back a few verses what is really being discussed here is baptism and not the Law of God. We see in verse 12 that Paul is talking about being buried with Him, Yeshua, in baptism and tells us that we are risen with Him through faith by God. Then Paul goes in the next verse to speak about us being dead in our sins and that we are forgiven for all of our trespasses—this is where it starts to get exciting. In verse 14 Paul tells us that this baptism is what blots out this handwriting of ordinances (*Cheirographon*) that was against us, thus nailing IT to the cross.

You might be saying that sounds like Greek to you...well it is, Greek that is. But it is one of those Greek words you should be studying to find out its meaning if you really want to know what Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew) actually nailed to the cross, as we read in Colossians 2:14.

Most Christians mistakenly believe that **"the handwriting of ordinances"** (*Cheirographon*) in Colossians 2:14 refers to the Old Testament Law of God, the Torah, as was given to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

Now from most of mainstream Christianity's misinterpretation of Yahweh's Law being "against us" or "contrary to us" we are taught that it, the Law, is bondage and a heavy yoke that no one can possibly bear. We are taught that the Law gets in the way of mankind being reconciled back to Yahweh. So to fix this supposed problem, God had to "take it out of the way" and nail it to the cross to get rid of it. In other words, we supposedly are reconciled and redeemed back to God by Jesus destroying His Fa-

thers Laws and commandments and getting them out of the way. This is the most popular misinterpretation of Colossians 2:24!

This interpretation is definitely flawed for many reasons. First off, the premise contradicts the Scriptural Truth that Yahweh's Torah, His Law—if it is to be understood in a proper context—is neither “against us” nor is it “contrary to us.” We find that if we really look in the New Testament that Yah's Law is not a burden; in fact, we are told that obeying His commandments brings blessing into our lives. Pastors are quick to point out their belief that Paul is teaching us that the Law is bondage and not something we should desire in our lives. Lets see what Paul has to say in some of his letters.

**1Ti 1:8** We know that the Torah is good, provided one uses it in the way the Torah itself intends. CJB

**Rom 7:12** So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good. CJB

**Rom 7:16** Now if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Torah is good CJB

**Rom 7:22** For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: KJV

The next reason that this premise is flawed is that it paints a picture of our Messiah Yeshua as a crafty lawyer who came to find some type of legal loophole for us to jump through to spoil and prevent Yah's justice system from operating in His own Kingdom. Yeshua supposedly got us off the hook for breaking the commandments by destroying and abolishing the commandments. If you are being accused of breaking the Sabbath by the Torah itself, then, no problem! We will just get rid of that commandment. But we must remember something that is vitally important. Remember in Matthew 5:17-19, Jesus tells to “not even THINK” that He came to abolish the Torah, the Law of God, let

alone to live our lives as if He actually did abolish the Law. Are you following me?

The next reason this position is flawed is the actual meaning of that long Greek word “Cheirographon.” When we do a comprehensive study of that word, we will find out what really got nailed to that Tree. Your spirit will soar as you become free in Messiah, truly understanding that it was something different than our Heavenly Father’s own commandments, His Torah, His instruction manual for life, if you will. Doesn’t your car come with an instruction manual instructing you how to take care of that car? Don’t you think that our Father in heaven loves us enough to make sure we come with a user manual?

We will find out that if we deconstruct this word “Cheirographon” into its root words, we will find that this is a compound word made up of two different words. The first word being “cheir” which means (“hand”) and the next being “grapho” which means (“to write or engrave”). If we look back to it’s most basic meaning, it simply means a hand-written document.

The most amazing thing that I find to be so different is that this word “Cheirographon” does not appear anywhere else in the Renewed Covenant writings, in other word the New Testament. You will not even find it in the Greek version of the Old Testament (the LXX or the Septuagint).

The Septuagint, from the Latin word septuaginta (meaning seventy), is a pre-Christian translation of the Hebrew Bible and some related texts into Koine Greek. The title and its Roman numeral acronym "LXX" refer to the seventy finest Jewish scholars that completed the translation as early as the late 2nd century B.C.

Getting back to the subject at hand: Curiously we find the word “Cheirographon” does appear though in some of the extra biblical Greek writings. In these Greek writings, we find that the term

is not a biblical term, but rather a **legal term**. With research you will discover that this word refers to a written document of evidence of a person's guilt, as in a legal court of law, a courtroom. It is the record, the written document of a person's crimes that they have committed, the law that he or she has broken and the penalty that he or she owes for breaking that law.

In the Ancient Near East in the first century and before, we find that the accuser would present this **“written document of the law breaking act”** from the center of the courtroom. This center of the courtroom was called the “*tou mesou*,” which means **“the middle.”** Amazingly we find this is the exact same term that the apostle Paul, Rav Shaul the Jewish Rabbi used when describing this thing, this “Cheirographon,” this written document that accuses us before our Heavenly Father, to be taken “out of the way”, or (*tou mesou*).

Now we must consider something first, because we find “cheirographon” and “*tou mesou*” as legal terms, we must picture in our minds this “handwriting of ordinances that was against us” in a legal context by picturing ourselves in the Heavenly Courtroom of our Father YHVH, as He sits in the judge's seat. We have been brought forward and accused of breaking Yahweh's Laws, His commandments, His statutes and judgments. We stand guilty, because we are guilty. There is no way out.

We know that in the Heavenly Courtroom there stands HaSatan (Hebrew for The Adversary, or Accuser) as the prosecuting attorney, the Accuser of the brethren, us. Satan holds this “Cheirographon” in his hands as a legal written document with a record of all the sins that you and I have ever committed. This book has written in it all each transgression against God's Law, every broken commandment. In ancient times, the “Cheirographon,” would list the location, the time and the date, as well as any testimony of any witness, plus any and all the other details of our committing the crime, of breaking that particular law. The accusations contained within this written docu-

ment were not based on merely the word of one witness. It couldn't be based solely on suspicion, gossip or rumors. It was a legal and legitimate manuscript, and recognized by the Court as such. HaSatan, the Accuser, holds this undisputable proof of our breaking God's Law, as well as all the consequences that would be associated and charged to our account for this law breaking. He then holds this document over our heads as he presents it to the ultimate Judge, the Creator of the Universe.

As we read in 1 John, he tells us that we have an Advocate with the Father.

**1Jn 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Yeshua (Jesus) doesn't try to whitewash it, He doesn't say that we didn't commit those sins; He doesn't deny any of the charges contained within that legal document, the "Cheirographon." He whole-heartedly admits that yes, we have committed all of these sins that are on the list. He admits that yes, we do deserve the whole penalty that is contained within this accusing document and even contained in His National Constitution of the Kingdom of Israel, His Torah. We are guilty as charged.

Thankfully, we have an Advocate with the Father; we have someone in the Heavenly Courtroom there for our defense. Our Advocate, Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Christ) will tell the Judge that He paid the penalty for ALL of our crimes against Yahweh's Torah; the penalty has already been paid in full! Yeshua paid this penalty Himself when he went to the execution stake, the Tree upon which he bore the sins of the world and paid for the punishment for your sins and for mine.

Since Yeshua has paid this penalty in full on our behalf, Yahweh the Judge tells HaSatan that this handwriting of ordinances, this "Cheirographon," is no good; it is no longer deemed as admissi-

ble evidence in the Judge's Heavenly Courtroom. Consequently, this document that once incriminated us, the one that was against us, the one that we are told was contrary to us, is now taken out of the way. It now has to be removed from the "middle of the courtroom," the "tou mesou," by none other than the one who brought it into the courtroom in the first place—the Accuser, HaSatan. It is then taken out to the Cross, the execution stake, and "nailed to the cross," like a giant sign, announcing the Messiah's triumph over sin and death. He does all this on our behalf, to spoil the Devil's plans to take us down with him into the pit, Sheol, where HaSatan and his demons will reside for all eternity. We don't have to look very far for this proof as we read the next verse.

**Col 2:15** *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

I submit that we have been taught in error all these years, that it was God's Law that was nailed to the tree. How in the world did those in the pulpit ever come up with another interpretation, especially in the light of the fact that in the Greek, the word *nomos* (law) is not found ANYWHERE in the entire book of Colossians? It is not found in the English in the King James translation, nor is it found in the Greek. Don't believe me; do a word search of Colossians and see what you DON'T find.

One of the easiest ways to do a word search is to download a free version of a bible software program called E-sword. You can find it at: <http://www.e-sword.net/> It is a great program, and I highly recommend it to any serious student of the Word of God. You can type in any word you want to search on and it will give you all the references to where it is located at throughout the entire bible.

We know that the Law of God is connected to the passage, via the use of the Greek word "dog'-mah" in verse 14. *Dogma* can be defined as a law, decree, or ordinance. This is the Greek word

translated in verse 14 as “of ordinances.” Strong’s number G1378

**Col 2:14** Blotting out<sup>G1813</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> handwriting<sup>G5498</sup> of ordinances<sup>G1378</sup>

## G1378

δόγμα

dogma

*dog'-mah*

From the base of G1380; a *law* (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical): - decree, ordinance.

From a common sense viewpoint, we know that HaSatan has to be able to list which commandments, or “ordinances,” we have actually transgressed and broken. But it is most emphatically NOT the Laws of God that are removed and taken out of the way. If it were so, then ALL the Law would have to be removed, which by common sense would tell us that it would not be a sin to steal, commit adultery, swear false witness against our neighbor, or even murder, because the Law has been done away with. NO LAW = NO SIN. It is that simple. Paul tells us this right in the New Testament:

**Rom 4:15** Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression (*sin*).

In the Colossians passage we are discussing, Paul is really telling us that by Yeshua’s death, He has justified us, thus bringing us into alignment with Yahweh’s Torah, and has wiped out the bill of debt that we owe on account of our sin, our transgressing of God’s Law. Before we repented and gave our lives over to our Messiah, we were governed strictly by the laws, decrees and ordinances of this world and the society in which we live. But after we give our lives over to the Messiah, we raise ourselves to a



new, higher standard.

We embark on a journey, to live by God's standards and values, as outlined in what our society calls the Old Testament. This book is neither old or outdated, and is more than the Sunday School felt-board stories of Noah and the Ark or David and Goliath.

The writings we know today as the Old Testament have been traditionally called the "Tanakh," which is an acronym formed from the initial Hebrew letters of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions: The Torah ("Teaching", or Five Books of Moses), Nevi'im ("Prophets") and Ketuvim ("Writings")—hence TaNaKh.

The writings we know today as the New Testament is simply a continuation of the Tanakh. That page in our bibles between the two "Testaments" was added by translators who either misunderstood, or who had an agenda. It is a man-made division of God's Word, a division that has led Christianity, in general, down the wrong path. The resulting belief is that the Old Testament is not for us non-Jewish followers of Yeshua, and that it is applicable only for the Jews. Paul has some words that help dispel this misconception.

Gal 3:28 There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus**.

Paul tells us that there is only one body; in Messiah's eyes there is no Jew or gentile, as we are all considered one in His eyes. So how can anyone say that one part of the bible is for "them," and the other part is for "us?" There are not supposed to be 41,000 different Christian denominations...there is supposed to only be ONE.

Eph 4:4 There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

<sup>5</sup> One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all,  
and in you all.

Now, we also notice something is we look at the two verses below.

Col 2:13 ...having forgiven you all trespasses;

<sup>14</sup> Blotting out the **handwriting of ordinances** (*Cheirographon*)  
that was against us...

We find Rav Shaul (Rabbi Paul) drawing a parallel between having the “handwriting of ordinance,” wiped away, and having our “sins or trespasses” being forgiven or wiped out of the way at the same time. Paul is not referring to the Law of God being taken out of the way, but instead the record of our transgression of that very Law, the Torah, the Law of God.

We also find in verse 14 that was Paul states: That “IT was taken out of the way.” Now we know that the word “It” is a pronoun found in its singular form and we know it points back to the word “Cheirographon” handwriting, which again is a singular noun. Thus, “it” being singular in form, could not be pointing to something that would be plural in nature, like the word “ordinances” or as in some translations, “requirements,” which is a word in the plural state. So it HAD to be referring to the singular “handwriting” which is a record, note or citation like a parking ticket, which was fixed and nailed to the cross.

When we look back in Roman history we will find that normally only two things were nailed to the execution stake of crucifixion.

1. The inscription written on a sign that was nailed to that cross for the crimes that the person had committed and thus was being punished for by hanging on the tree.

2. Secondly and mainly the person himself, he was nailed right

under that inscription or sign.

That sign over Yeshua's head had the letters "INRI" written on it. We know that Pontius Pilate ordered his soldiers to inscribe the sign about Yeshua's head in three different languages, Latin, Greek and in Hebrew. Pilate found not one bit of guilt in Yeshua as Pilate could care less about any of the Jewish Laws. But when he heard the High Priest say that Yeshua claimed to be the Messiah, the anointed one, the King of Israel then he had to reconsider what he was going to do about this problem he was facing.

### **Something Profound**

After Yeshua's trial before Pilate, Pilate ordered the sign that was going to be placed on the cross above Yeshua's head, it read: "Yeshua the Nazarene, King of the Jews." The High Priest and his crew complained and objected but Pilate basically said, "too bad, what I have written stays written." Pilate called Yeshua King three different times and asked Caiaphas what crime did Yeshua commit. Pilate's washing his hands of the matter was a symbolic sign that Yeshua's blood would not be on his hands. Pilate only condemned Yeshua because the High Priest threatened him by saying they would tell Caesar. And Caesar would not suffer anyone who would dare threaten his throne as King. Caiaphas and his cohorts asked Pilate to change the sign to read: "He said he was the King" but Pilate could have only condemned Yeshua by claiming Yeshua was the "King of the Jews" thus contesting Caesar as King of Rome.

### **The sign above Yeshua's head read:**

John 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>20</sup> This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in

Hebrew, *and* Greek, *and* Latin.

By Pilate refusing to change the Epitaph that he had composed for Yeshua, something profound happened that the average person would never discover by reading it in the English translations that we have today.

If you look at the inscription in Hebrew something amazing happens:

Yeshua HaNotsri U'MelechHa Yehudim

Yeshua the Nazarene, The King of the Jews

ישוע הנצרי ומלך היהודים

ה                      ו                      ה                      י

H                      W                      H                      Y

=

Y H W H = Yahweh

What we see in the Hebrew is an acrostic, with the first letter of each Hebrew word combining to form its own word, YHWH, the Name of God. Our English translations don't give evidence of the acrostic.

Take a few moments to read the preface pages of your bible. You will probably find an explanation that the name YHWH (or YHVH, the Tetragrammaton) has been replaced by the word LORD, displayed in in "small caps" (not to be confused with Lord, which in the Hebrew reads "Adonai"). This practice is in keeping with what the Jewish people would do as well, as they, in general, neither pronounce nor write the name. Keep a look out for "LORD" in your bible, and see for yourself how many times God's Covenant Name is used.

If Pilate had given in to the High Priest and changed the inscription to read as Caiaphas had wanted it, it would have never spelled out the name of God. I wonder—was Pilate aware of this? Did he maybe do it on purpose? Did he do it just to rile up the Jewish religious hierarchy?

Did Pilate really start to believe Yeshua was who He said He was? When they asked for a special guard to be posted at the tomb Yeshua would occupy, Pilate responded and said:

**Mat 27:65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, **make it as sure as ye can.**

*Which in other versions say: "Make the grave as secure as you know how."*

Was Pilate giving his wife's dream a second thought?

**Mat 27:19:** *While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.*

Was his wife's dream from God, or from the enemy? It was most likely from the enemy, an attempt by HaSatan to stop this execution from happening on this day. He would have been hap-

py for it to happen any other day, but not this one. HaSatan did not want Yeshua to die on Passover as the Passover Lamb.

The Torah is full of acrostics. For instance, in the book of Leviticus, we find the very first Yod (י), count seven letters, and then you will find a Hey (ה), count seven more letters and you will find a Vav (ו), then count seven more letters and you will find another Hey (ה), spelling out the name of God, YHVH, or YHWH, as the Vav can also be a Waw).

### *Historical Evidence*

All one has to do is to go back and do some research into some of the ancient Greek writings of the Gentiles as well as a lot of writings of the Jewish sages that were written in Greek, to find their understanding of the word “cheirographon;” it was well understood to be a person's **legal record** of one's sins.

Avinu Malkeinu ("Our Father, Our King") is a Jewish prayer recited during Jewish services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as on the Ten Days of Repentance from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur. Within this prayer is a section where they pray that YHWH will “erase all the documents that incriminate us and accuse us,” just like it is used in the Colossians scripture that we are discussing. So there are multiple evidences to prove this one; you just have to do a bit of research to see it for yourself.

Hopefully, by now, you can see that YHWH doesn't just erase the “written record of our transgression, or sins;” He completely **removes them** from the center of the courtroom. YHWH doesn't just erase the written accusations against us, in the same way that we would use a pencil eraser, because this could be used by HaSatan to say that the evidence that was against us was smudged and tampered with. The enemy could claim tampered evidence, but there is NO way he can do this if the record is completely moved out of the courtroom, which leaves our enemy empty handed with no evidence with which to accuse or condemn us. Yah takes this “Cheirographon” and nails IT, to the Cross, to declare our victory; thus HaSatan loses the battle

against us.

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

<sup>15</sup> And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

In verse 15, we see that God strips the rulers and authorities of their powers, making a public spectacle of them, and also triumphing over them by the Cross. But what about the following verse?

**Col 2:16** Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:

Now, let me ask you a common sense question here. In verse 16, is Paul telling us that because Messiah Yeshua took our “Cheirographon” and nailed it to the Cross, thus releasing us from the penalty that was due us, we can do anything we want to do now? Does it mean we are “Free in Christ” to go on continuing in sin?

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> **God forbid!**

Does this verse mean that we can now eat anything we want now and not worry about God’s dietary laws as outlined in Leviticus? Does this mean we don’t have to worry about observing the Feasts of Yahweh, and that we can just substitute them with those beloved ancient pagan feast days of Christmas and Easter?

Let me tell you one thing, Jesus didn't die on that cross so that you can eat a big fat pork roast on Easter Sunday, or so you can have bacon with your eggs in the morning. Pigs didn't go from being unclean and detestable as food in Yah's eyes—an abomination, as He call it—the day before Yeshua dies, and then become clean and usable as food the day after Yeshua died on the cross (tree, execution stake). For more information, please watch our video on “Are All Things Really Clean?”

Colossians 2:16 speaks to something vastly different than most believers understand, because they do not really study the Old Testament from the perspective of it really applying to their lives. And most do not study Judaism to gain some perspective on the belief system in place when Yeshua and His Apostles walked the earth. Most of us have no clue, so we have no foundation of where our Christian faith comes from.

Haven't you heard the term “Judeo-Christian?” Why is it called that? Well, because the roots of the Christian faith come from Judaism. Are you really surprised when you learn that Jesus really was a Jew? Are you surprised that all his disciples were Jews? Even the Apostle Paul was, by his own admission, a Pharisee of Pharisees.

Act 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, **I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee...**

So might it behoove us to study what they believed? Might it not give us more insight into those hard to understand topics, such as the whether or not Gentiles are supposed to keep the Law? There is overwhelming evidence from one end of the book to the other that Yes! (To paraphrase our Lord and Savior Yeshua) Until heaven and earth pass away not one iota of the Law of Moses will be done away with. Read Mathew 5:18.

In Colossians 2:16, when Paul tells his his audience to let no man



judge them, he was talking about something very specific. We find that he uses the terms “no man,” and “any man” at least 4 different times, and the term “doctrines of men” once.

Col 2:4 And this I say, lest **any man** should beguile you with enticing words.

Col 2:8 Beware lest **any man** spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men...

Col 2:16 Let **no man** therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*:

Col 2:18 Let **no man** beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

Col 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and **doctrines of men**?

First off, does the “man” spoken of in these verses sound like someone who is in right standing with God? I think not; this guy is up to no good from what Paul is saying. The “man” trying to deceive them, beguile them with enticing words, spoil them through vain philosophy and deceit, and so on. The evidence of who these people are is in verse 8, where Paul tells his audience that the “man” is trying to spoil them by way of the “traditions of men.”

If you do a search through the New Testament you will find every time that something is mentioned about “doctrines of men,” or the “commandments of men,” you will find that it is always talking about a group of Pharisees that are trying to come against Yeshua and His disciples with their “Oral Torah.” It is also called the “Oral Tradition.” Yeshua NEVER came against the

“Law of God,” but often times came against the Oral Law that the Rabbis came up with, especially when they put the Oral Law, or “Traditions of Men,” above the written Law of God, thus making the Law of God null and of no effect.

Mar 7:13 Making the **word of God of none effect** through **your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* **doctrines the commandments of men**.

So these “men” spoken of by Paul in Corinthians we will call the “Influencers.” The Influencers were a group of Jewish religious leaders who WERE believers in Yeshua, but they were teaching a different gospel. They were not teaching a gospel where one is saved strictly by grace through faith in Yeshua. They were teaching that not only did you need to believe in Yeshua, but you ALSO had to make a formal conversion to Judaism, with all its Oral Tradition. Paul uses the Jewish idiom “Circumcision,” whenever he speaks about this group, because they taught that to be saved, one had to believe in Yeshua, then they had to be circumcised, then they had to Mikvah, (*get Baptized*), then go through a lengthy course in the Judaism of the day—which could take up to a year—to become a full legal convert. Paul was saying all of that was foolishness, that one doesn’t need to learn and follow all the additional laws and commandments of the Rabbis, that believers ONLY need to follow the “Law of YHWH.”

Let me bring out another important thing for you to consider. Paul and any of the Jewish followers of Yeshua would never have a discussion of IF one should keep Sabbath or a Holy Day; the argument would have been on HOW to keep the Sabbath or the Holy Day, or HOW we are to eat biblically clean. Thus Paul reminds them how the Rabbis tell them to “touch not, handle not,” which were extra commandments they came up with on how to prepare certain foods, meats and drinks. You had to salt the meat and cut it up a certain way. If you did not do this

THEIR way, THEY would classify the meat as not Kosher, or fit to eat. Paul says, HOGWASH! Well, not really, because any way you wash a hog, they are still not clean for food. Anyway, even today, in Rabbinic Judaism, an observant Jew cannot even buy or drink a bottle of wine if a gentile has even touched it? I think they get way too carried away, thus making null and void the commandments of God.

Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

<sup>22</sup> Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Also one more important note: When it comes to YHWH's Feast days, His Sabbath, His dietary laws, and any other written commandments, these are "THE COMMANDMENTS OF YAHWEH our ELOHIM!" These are not commandments of men; we have to be very careful to distinguish between the two. Paul is telling his audience that they DO NOT have to listen to the commandments of men, because these "Influencers" would lay a heavy burden on them, which in turn would make Sabbath keeping into a heavy yoke to bear, and not the blessing it was designed to be from the beginning. Some of these Judaizers were doing this just as some of the Pharisees that Yeshua came against were doing to anyone who would follow them.

Mat 23:4 For **they** bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

Orthodox Judaism confesses that they descended directly from the Pharisaic line of Rabbis. The Karaite Jews are what the Sadducees were in the days of Yeshua. There was a major difference between these two groups. The Sadducees did not believe in the spirit world, they did not believe in miracles, they did not believe in the resurrection, they did not believe in the after life. Can you imagine the problem they had with Yeshua, when He started casting out demons, performing miracles by healing the

sick and cleansing lepers? Can you imagine the issue they had with Him claiming to be from Heaven and then being raised from the dead? The Sadducees actually had more issues with Yeshua, most of the time, than did the Pharisees.

Today, Judaism still has all the man made laws and traditions that have their origins before the time Yeshua walked the earth. They have taken the 6 commandments concerning Sabbath, given by Yahweh Himself, and have added hundreds of their laws to the original 6. They even have them broken up into 39 different Categories. They detail exactly how they think one should keep the Sabbath, without ever having to be led by the Ruach, the Spirit of God. In fact, they tell you not to pray about it, because Heaven has nothing to say about it; if you want to know about such and such, you are told to go and ask your Rabbi. I say this is creating an Idol; they make the Rabbi their god, instead of listening to what our Heavenly Father has to say on the subject.

Believe it or not, they have commandments prohibiting the turning on of light switches on Shabbat, and which kinds of bugs can be killed on Shabbat. These are but a few of the Rabbis' man made commandments that put YHWH's children in bondage. Keep in mind that not all Rabbinical laws and traditions are bad, nor are they all bondage; in fact, many of them are useful and beautiful ways to keep the commandments and worship YHWH. But if any of them contradict the written Law of YHWH, or if any of these traditions is held up as more important or binding than God's law, it is bondage and a lie.

God's Law will never put someone in bondage. In fact, it will free them!

Psa 119:44 *So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.*

**Question: Has “for ever and ever” ended yet??**

Psa 119:45 *And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.*

Some of these Jewish “Influencers” spoken of by Paul were perverting God’s Law and turning it into a heavy yoke that believers couldn’t bear.

Act 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Contrast this with what Yeshua tells us about HIS Law, the Law of YHWH:

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

<sup>30</sup> For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Yeshua is telling us that His teaching, His Torah is light in comparison to the Pharisees’ “Oral Torah,” which was added to the written Torah, weighing it down with many extreme and unnecessary man-made commandments and laws. We see Yeshua demonstrate this contrast between what the Pharisees had to say vs. His interpretation of what the Torah would allow on Sabbath.

The Pharisees condemned Yeshua’s disciples for picking and eating a bit of grain, because it was on Sabbath. Yeshua’s yoke and interpretation would allow the disciples to pick the grain and eat it, just as He gave the example of how King David and his hungry men went in and ate the priests’ showbread and were permitted to do so, because of the extreme unusual conditions.

### ***In Conclusion***

Through this study, we have learned that the “Cheirographon” spoken of by Paul in Corinthians 2, the “handwriting of ordinances that was against us,” was and is NOT the Law of God. It IS the book that records all the sin and law breaking we have done in our lives. Because Yeshua paid our penalty, the record of

our transgressions has been taken out of the room. It is this record of our sins that has been “Nailed to the Cross,” thus setting us free from the bondage of sin and death.

This freedom DOES NOT give us a free ticket to go out and continue in sin. There is NO Eternal Security doctrine taught in the bible by God. It is my belief that Eternal Security is a man-made tradition. Not all “traditions of men” come from the Jews! We have plenty of them in our own Christian denominations. This is why we have 41,000 different Christian denominations. It is these man-made traditions and rules that separate us and keep us from being one. We are not supposed to be divided; we are supposed to be one in Messiah:

Gal 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all **one in Christ Jesus.***

Paul tells us that just because we are saved and are by Yeshua’s grace, God forbid that we continue on sinning. Even the author of Hebrews has some pretty heavy words for those who think they can go on sinning.

Heb 10:26 *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

<sup>27</sup> *But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

<sup>28</sup> *He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*

<sup>29</sup> *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*



