

# **To Gain Eternal Life**

**The Requirements for Salvation  
According to the New Testament Scriptures**

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- YLT** Young's Literal Translation
- NLT** New Living Translation
- LIT** A Literal Translation of the Bible by Jay P. Green, Sr.,  
Hendrickson Publishers, 1985
- LXX** Septuagint Greek translation of OT c. 250 B.C.E.

OT = Old Testament  
NT = New Testament

Original names have been restored in the text of all versions.  
Use of a particular passage from a Bible version does not imply approval of the entire version.  
When other versions have been used each text has been checked against the NKJV for accuracy.

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## Preface

A need was felt for a book about salvation repeating all the NT Bible verses about salvation. This book avoids the wonderful distraction of the Bible itself. So many other scriptures are fascinating to the Bible reader. With only the verses pertinent to this subject before us we may better concentrate on our topic.

We also present some discussion of the scriptures along with them.

The reader may read through the book in the usual manner or may use it as a reference to explain scriptures that may be hard to understand or are sometimes mis-applied. See the scripture index.

In the text of the various bible versions the translators have chosen to replace the correct name of the Creator, "Yahweh", with substitutes such as "the LORD" or "GOD." The correct name has been restored in this book. The false name rendered as "Jesus Christ" has been corrected to "Yahshua the Messiah." "God" has generally been restored to "Yahweh" or to the Hebrew term "Elohim."

For more information about the correct names of the Creator and our Savior please contact Yahweh's Assembly In Messiah at 401 N. Roby Farm Rd Rocheport, MO 65279 or see yaim.org on the Internet

Each scripture has it's reference at it's beginning and a blank line after it to separate it from commentary. Some little bits of commentary are included with the text [in brackets]. Words in the NKJV text which were added by the translators are in *italics*. NIV and NLT do not follow that convention.

Help! It is my intention to present every NT scripture that discusses any requirement for salvation to eternal life. If you know of a scripture I have left out, please do me the favor of sending it to me so I may include it in the next edition. If you have a comment or an explanation of the text please send that too. If you believe a particular scripture quotation should be quoted from a different translation please send me your preference along with the reason why that particular scripture would be better in the other translation. Your comments on the discussions within are also solicited.

If someone gave you a valuable free gift would you be surprised if there were some strings attached?

Let's say you have a child you love very much who also happens to be creative and very smart. If your rich uncle wanted to pay for her to go to the very best schools and then give her a great, highly-paid job in his company, would you expect him to make certain conditions?

He may want to visit with her once a month, make sure she was well-mannered, kind, obedient, happy, healthy, and knew certain subjects at certain ages.

He might explain that he was planning to have your daughter run the company some day and wanted to be absolutely certain he could trust her to fulfill his long-range goals after he died and develop more similar goals of her own.

Yahweh is a lot like that rich uncle.

He wants to provide you with a fantastic future as His own child, but there are some definite conditions. He will not put up with rebellion in His family. He wants children he can trust to do things His way. He wants those who can take orders from above and work really well in large closely-knit groups.

Along with the stringent requirements, Yahweh wants to provide His help in every way you will need it. Yahweh has sent His own son to provide the tools and the example for you. He will guide you, help you along, and has even given His life to pay your way.

This book is intended to show you the way to gain and keep that eternal position in Yahweh's family. It is an enormous free gift but there are definite conditions. You may be surprised by some of the requirements. This book is intended to guide the reader through everything necessary

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# Requirements for Salvation

**What things must a person do to gain eternal life  
and spend the rest of time with Yahweh and Yahshua?**

Do you want to be in Yahweh's kingdom?

Do you want to teach people Yahweh's ways and watch them being blessed by keeping those ways?

Do you want to watch that New Jerusalem come down to the earth?

Do you want to have an eternal relationship with Yahshua and with our Father?

Do you want to work on an exciting project with them and with a few hundred thousand close friends?

This book is about how to make those things happen for you.

Scripture reveals definite rules that determine who will be given eternal life.

In order to follow those rules we need to know what they are.

Our question is the same as the young man asked Yahshua in **Matthew 19:16**, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

While there are probably thousands of scriptures that tell us things Yahweh wants us to do or not to do, we will mostly discuss those scriptures which include a specific reference to salvation.

# Part 1

## The Good News

Yahshua's Words about How to Have Eternal Life

Yahshua's relationship to salvation began before He was born.

The angel told Joseph:

**Matthew 1:21** "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Yahshua, for He will save His people from their sins."

Joseph and Miriam were instructed to give Yahshua a name that had meaning. It is the same name Moses gave to his successor whom we know as Joshua, the conqueror of the promised land.

The Hebrew name 'Yahushua' means 'Yahw(eh) Saves'.

He was sent by Yahweh to be our Savior.

What did Yahshua Himself have to say about salvation?

As Peter said in **John 6:68**,

Yahshua did indeed have the words of eternal life.

This chapter will look at those words.

In the sermon on the mount

Yahshua said several things which pertain to salvation:

**Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

It is hard to get into Yahweh's Kingdom!

Like a camel trying to go through the eye of a needle.

Most people don't even know where the gate is, nor the road to get to the gate,

much less have the will to get up that steep, rocky, narrow and difficult-to-follow road.

If you see a broad, well-paved road leading to a nice wide gate, don't fall for it.

Easy street does not lead to Yahweh's Kingdom.

Satan has been using that one for many centuries, and it still works.

In the book of John, Yahshua teaches us about salvation

**John 6:37-40** "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

38 For I have come down from heaven,

not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me,

that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me,

that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life;

and I will raise him up at the last day."

Yahshua had instructions from the Father.

Yahweh did not send His son into the world to die a painful death just so the son could reject those He intended for the Kingdom.

Those He sends to Yahshua are intended to be saved.

Every one of us. You.

Consider what else Yahshua meant by this:

**John 6:12** And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather together the broken pieces that are over, that nothing may be lost;'

We are the broken pieces.

However this does not mean that you cannot fail to be saved.

Yahweh wants your salvation but He will not force it on you.  
In fact, He may not even bend the rules to let you in.  
(However we cannot put any limits on Yahweh's mercy.)  
The requirements we have been seeing  
are in place for very good reasons.  
Before Yahweh grants someone  
eternal life as a powerful spirit being  
He needs to be sure they will use it correctly.

In an early conversation with Nicodemus,  
a member of the Sanhedrin (the 'Senate' of the Jews),  
Yahshua told him some things he had trouble understanding.

**John 3:5-6** Yahshua answered,  
"Most assuredly, I say to you,  
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,  
he cannot enter the kingdom of Elohim.  
6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh,  
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Being born of water refers to the new birth of baptism when one  
makes a covenant with Yahweh. (**Romans 6:4, Hebrews 8:10**)  
Being born of the spirit refers to the first resurrection  
where Yahweh's children are resurrected to spirit beings  
and enter Yahweh's kingdom as described in I Corinthians 15  
This is the actual POINT IN TIME when the gift of salvation is  
granted to most of us.

Yahshua also told Nicodemus about  
the Father's part in our salvation.

**John 3:16-18** "For Elohim so loved the world  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish  
but have everlasting life.  
17 For Elohim did not send His Son into the world  
to condemn the world,

but that the world through Him might be saved.  
18 He who believes in Him is not condemned;  
but he who does not believe is condemned already,  
because he has not believed in the NAME  
of the only begotten Son of Elohim."

Notice that Yahshua says His name, Yahweh-saves,  
is important in our salvation.

### **WORDS OF LIFE**

Many of the words of life are in the Sermon on the Mount  
which is His first recorded teaching after calling His disciples.

There are actions and attitudes linked to salvation in the Beatitudes:  
**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom  
of heaven."

Not the Kingdom IN Heaven but OF Heaven.  
Heaven's Kingdom will be on the Earth,  
as we see in verse 5:

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

It would be hard to separate the meek from the poor in spirit.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see Elohim."

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of Elohim."

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and  
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,

for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

These may not all be requirements for salvation, but they are surely good indicators.

The meek WILL be saved but the proud probably will not.

The pure in heart WILL be saved but those whose hearts are filled with impure thoughts probably will not.

The peacemakers WILL be saved but the troublemakers probably will not.

Those who suffer for their faith in Yahshua WILL be saved but those who deny Him in order to avoid embarrassment or inconvenience probably will not.

This scripture was difficult for Yahshua's Jewish hearers.

**John 6:47-58** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

48 I am the bread of life.

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven.

If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this *Man* give us *His* flesh to eat?"

53 Then Yahshua said to them,

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood,

you have no life in you.

54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

58 "This is the bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

This "blew the Jews out of the water."

It is an important principle given by Yahweh that a person should never drink blood.<sup>1</sup>

But this "righteous man"

was telling them they had to do exactly that!

He was also saying they had to eat His flesh, which would have been abominable.

It was too much for some of the disciples too.

Many left Yahshua after that (v. 60 & 66).

But He explained to His remaining disciples:

**John 6:63** "It is the Spirit which gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life."

These things are a **figure** of a spiritual truth.

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<sup>1</sup>**Leviticus 3:17** *This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood. see also Deut. 12:16.*

Yahshua put the spiritual picture in terms we can understand. In this passage Yahshua is talking about Passover where the bread and the fruit of the vine are symbolically His body and blood.

We do not physically eat Yahshua's body and drink His blood.

But, in a spiritual sense we must take Yahshua into our being even more certainly than if we did eat His physical body.

**Matthew 10:38** "And he who does not take his execution-stake and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Yahshua indicates that each of us has a stake to bear and we have a decision to make whether to take it up or not. It may be a shameful and painful trek to a dreaded end but Yahshua's followers must be willing to follow Him even that far.

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Yahshua said:

**Matthew 5:19-20** "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments [In Yahweh's Law, the Torah] and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,

[He does not say they will BE in the Kingdom Only that they will be called least by those who *are* there.]

"but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

That is a clear requirement!  
And a warning.

The Pharisees were very careful requirement-keepers.

Go and do a lot better!!

Yahshua did mention that they had missed some important things:  
**Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: **justice and mercy and faith.**

These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Yahshua's words about anger:

**Matthew 5:21-22** "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago,

'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'

22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.

Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin.

But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of Gehenna."

Of course anyone who is put into the Lake of Fire is not one of those saved ones.

Holding onto our anger is a way of rejecting Yahweh's gift.

Verses 27-30 give similar instruction regarding adultery.

Yahshua tells us that

having adulterous thoughts puts us in danger of Gehenna Fire.

**Matthew 5:44-45** "I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 **that you may be sons** of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Only sons of Yahweh will be saved.

Another scripture that tells us to obey Yahweh's law:

**Matthew 7:19-23** "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Master, Master, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evilDOers!'"

This last line is a quotation from **Psalm 6:8**

A similar story in Luke:

**Luke 13:23-27** Then one said to Him, "Master, are there few who are saved?"

And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door,

saying, 'Master, Master, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you,

'I do not know you, where you are from,'

26 then you will begin to say,

'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'

27 But He will say,

'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from.

Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'"

So we can have some association with Yahshua, at least in our own mind,

perhaps even being a solid member of a congregation; but Yahshua can still say HE DIDN'T KNOW US.

What a shock that would be on judgement day!

WHY would He say that?

Because we failed to obey Yahweh's commandments!

John records a similar lesson:

**John 5:24-29** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of Elohim; and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth; those WHO HAVE DONE GOOD, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

How can we reconcile the statement in verse 24 that one only need to HEAR AND BELIEVE to be saved with the statement in verse 29 that only those who have DONE GOOD will be given life?

Actually, we will see this apparent contradiction several times. Not only from Yahshua but also from the apostles.

It is the issue of faith or works.

But the answer is really not too hard to understand.  
The faith that saves is an active faith that PRODUCES WORKS  
James explains this clearly in James 2.

**James 2:14** NIV What good is it, my brothers,  
if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?  
Can such faith save him?

**James 2:26** As the body without the spirit is dead,  
so faith without deeds is dead also.

Back to the words of Yahshua:

**John 8:51** "Most assuredly, I say to you,  
if anyone KEEPS MY WORD he shall never see death."

Once again we see that obedience is required for salvation.

Yahshua made it clear that even His physical family  
were not getting saved without works:

**Matthew 12:47-50** Then one said to Him,  
"Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside,  
seeking to speak with You."

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him,  
"Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said,  
"Here are My mother and My brothers!

50 For whoever DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER in heaven  
is My brother and sister and mother."

Yahshua refers here to those who will be in His eternal family  
after the resurrection.

### THE RICH YOUNG MAN

**Matthew 19:16-17** Now behold, one came and said to Him,  
"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do  
that I may have eternal life?"

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good?

No one *is* good but One, *that is*, Elohim.  
But if you want to enter into life,  
keep the commandments."

Simple but not easy.

The young man claimed he had kept the ten commandments  
and Yahshua did not challenge his claim.

But He did soon show that it was not true.

**Matthew 19:21-22** Yahshua said to him,  
"If you want to be perfect [complete, reach the goal],  
go, sell what you have, and give to the poor,  
and you will have treasure in heaven;  
and come, follow Me."

22 But when the young man heard that saying,  
he went away sorrowful,  
for he had great possessions.

He had claimed to love his fellow man  
but when it came to giving up his great possessions  
he didn't love them THAT MUCH.

Just think of what he gave up to keep his houses and money.  
He could have been one of Yahshua's disciples.  
He would have been an example through the ages  
of a dedicated, wise and generous man.

But he saw how Yahshua and His disciples were dressed  
and he just couldn't bring himself to DO IT.

He said he loved his neighbor as himself  
but to him that didn't mean

buying Joe Neighbor nice clothes like his,

and it certainly didn't mean that  
he should walk everywhere he went  
like the common people had to do.

A similar situation:

**Luke 10:25-28** And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do **to inherit eternal life?**"

26. He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27. So He answered and said, " 'You shall **love Yahweh** your Elohim with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' **and your neighbor** as yourself."

28. And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; **do this and you will live.**"

Notice that Yahshua went immediately to Yahweh's Torah for the requirements for inherit eternal life.

In Matthew 22 He explained that the two laws the lawyer cited are the basis of the entire Torah:

**Matthew 22:40** "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

### **THE REBELLIOUS WEDDING GUESTS**

**Matthew 22:1-14** And Yahshua answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "Look, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding."

5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

6 And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*.

7 But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious.

And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

9 'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests.

11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

This wedding is a parable of the Wedding Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19.

We see a picture of the bride there:

**Revelation 19:7-8** "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

The wedding garment which has been provided for the bride is their righteous acts.

When their sins are forgiven through Yahshua's sacrifice they are left clean and pure.

The one guest who refused to accept Yahshua's sacrifice was found unacceptable by the Father and was thrown out. He was freely offered the white garment of Yahshua's blood and refused to take it.

### THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

**Matthew 12:31-33** "And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

A primary work of Yahweh's Spirit is to draw people to Yahweh. When the spirit is working to convict someone's heart, if another person speaks contrary to that purpose and draws the person away from Yahweh then he will not be forgiven. Yahweh takes very seriously the eternal life of one whom He has called to be His child.

### CAUSING TO STUMBLE

Yahshua used some of His strongest words in this passage. That is because it is the same as the unforgivable sin. Yahshua said, **Matthew 18:6-14** "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin (lit. stumble), it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of offenses!

For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! 8 If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into Gehenna fire. 10 Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Mark 9:42 is similar.)

Yahshua is not only talking about young people – children and teens, He is also talking about those who are new in the faith. Anyone who causes Yahweh's children to stray from the path of truth and righteousness is in extremely serious trouble.

How could it be that I would be better off maimed or even DEAD? We must understand that this life is not the important thing for us. Our life is a short time compared to the eternity that is our goal. This 70 years is only a testing time to see if we are fit for the Kingdom of Yahweh.

**Don't give up what you want MOST  
For what you want NOW**

If we interfere with the salvation of Yahweh's children then we are not going to be in the Kingdom. So it would be better for a person to die young

than to go on with life and get into more trouble with Yahweh.

## BEARING FRUIT

**Matthew 12:33** “. . . a tree is known by its fruit.”

### Matthew 13:3-9

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:

“Behold, the sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed,

some *seed* fell by the wayside;

and the birds came and devoured them.

5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth;

and they immediately sprang up

because they had no depth of earth.

6 But when the sun was up they were scorched,

and because they had no root they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns,

and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop:

some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

The disciples didn’t understand the meaning of this parable so Yahshua explained:

**Matthew 13:18-23** “Therefore hear [understand]

the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM,

and does not [study to] understand it,

then the wicked *one* comes

and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places,

this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root IN HIMSELF, but endures only for a while.

For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word,

immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns

is he who hears the word,

and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches

choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground

is he who hears the word and understands it,

who indeed bears fruit

and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

The seed is the Word of the Kingdom.

Even if we are called

there are still three ways to choose not to bear fruit.

1. Satan can take away our belief with worldly arguments.

2. We can be attacked for our new belief and,

not knowing how to defend ourselves, we may give it up.

3. Or we may allow temptation or being “busy” with other things to take us away from Yahweh.

In some cases these who have failed

may still be attending each Sabbath,

smiling and being friendly,

but they bear no fruit.

Make no mistake – they are still fallen away!

We are known by our fruit.

The ideal response is to grow and be so strong in Yahweh’s word that others are attracted to Yahweh through us.

This is the fruit Yahshua is seeking.

As Yahshua said later:

**John 15:5-6** "I am the vine, you *are* the branches.

He who abides (lives or remains) in Me,

and I in him, bears much fruit;  
for without Me you can do nothing.  
6 If anyone does not abide in Me,  
he is cast out as a branch and is withered;  
and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire,  
and they are burned.

Bearing fruit is a salvation issue.  
This is the parable of the sower (also given in Mark 4).

### THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

**Matthew 25:14-30** "For it [getting into the kingdom of heaven] is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.  
15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.  
16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.  
17 And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also.  
18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his master's money.  
19 After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.  
20 So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'  
21 His master said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'  
22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'  
23 His master said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you

ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'  
24 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.  
25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.'  
26 But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.  
27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.  
28 Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.  
29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.  
30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Once again we see the principle of bearing fruit as a key to salvation.

This is an interesting scripture:

**Matthew 21:18-19** NLT In the morning, as Yahshua was returning to Jerusalem, He was hungry, 19 and He noticed a fig tree beside the road. He went over to see if there were any figs on it, but there were only leaves. Then He said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" And immediately the fig tree withered up.

Yahshua used this incident to teach His disciples about the great power of faith.  
But we can see another lesson here too.  
We've been seeing in many of Yahshua's parables that bearing fruit is crucial to salvation.  
The same lesson is also being taught here.

If Yahshua does not see fruit from those who are called,  
they will not enter the kingdom,  
but will wither and be burned up.

We saw this clearly in **Matthew 13** and **25** and in **John 15**.

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

There is a very important passage about salvation in John 15:

**John 15:12-14** "This is My commandment,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this,

than to lay down one's life for his friends.

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

Yahshua explains to His disciples that

He lays down His life for His friends.

Then He tells them exactly who is His friend.

Who is it?

His friends are those who do whatever He commands.

What does He command?

"That you love one another as I have loved you."

So Yahshua makes it clear that

if you want Him to lay down His life for you

then you must, "love one another as I have loved you."

We will see the same principle in our next section.

We must love one another to enter into life.

On the topic of loving the brethren, we must not only consider  
those who are present members of the body  
but also those who may become members later.

This could include some who appear somewhat hostile today.

Who knows if an act of kindness

will draw them closer to Yahshua.

Let that kind act be yours!

### THE LAST JUDGEMENT

Yahshua's prophecy of the last judgement is rich and certain  
regarding the requirements for salvation:

**Matthew 25:31-46** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and  
all the holy angels with Him,

then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him,

and He will separate them one from another,

as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand,

but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand,

'Come, you blessed of My Father,

inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the foundation of the world:

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food;

I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;

I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 I *was* naked and you clothed Me;

I was sick and you visited Me;

I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying,

'Master, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*,

or thirsty and give *You* drink?

38 When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in,

or naked and clothe *You*?

39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them,

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of  
these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand,

'Depart from Me, you cursed,

into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:  
42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food;  
I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;  
43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in,  
naked and you did not clothe Me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'  
44 Then they also will answer Him, saying,  
'Master, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked  
or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'  
45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you,  
inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these,  
you did not do *it* to Me.'  
46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment,  
but the righteous into eternal life."

This is a major key scripture.  
We must serve our brother and sister in the Messiah  
or be found in everlasting punishment.  
This is not "go stand in the corner until your attitude changes."  
This is the Lake of Fire from which you can never escape.  
It is a quick and certain death.  
There is no resurrection from the second death.  
**Revelation 20:14-15** Then Death and Hades  
were cast into the lake of fire.  
This is the second death.  
15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life  
was cast into the lake of fire.

It is beginning to look as if  
there are a great many requirements for salvation.  
This is a far cry from the impression given by,  
"Just believe in Yahshua and you will be saved."

Yahshua the Messiah requires a  
very close compliance with Yahweh's ways

from every one of those who are to be saved.  
We certainly must depend on Yahshua's sacrifice for our salvation,  
but we must also **show our faith** by our works.

### AS A LITTLE CHILD

Yahshua gives us a very important principle in Mark 10:  
**Mark 10:15-16** "Assuredly, I say to you,  
whoever does not receive the Kingdom of Yahweh as a little child  
will BY NO MEANS enter it."  
16 And He took them up in His arms,  
put *His* hands on them, and blessed them.

This is such a simple concept but it is so easy to forget.  
We get involved in work, doctrine, marriage, etc., etc., etc.  
and we forget how a little child receives things.  
We become so "mature," "sophisticated," and "advanced"  
that Yahweh's Kingdom eludes us.  
We need to study children and follow their best example.  
We need to learn again to be sweet, humble, and loving.  
We have to learn to get excited, smile and laugh easily.  
Yahshua was very clear that this too is a salvation issue.

We should not be surprised that Yahweh puts such a novel and simple  
requirement on us to be saved.

If you trust ANYONE to answer your question,  
"What must I do to gain eternal life?"

**TRUST YAHSHUA YOUR SAVIOR!**

These are His words of the Good News He has taught us so far:  
We must be born of water (baptized) and the Spirit (changed)  
Believe in the NAME of Yahshua  
We must be Poor in spirit, Meek, Pure in heart, Peacemakers  
Eat Yahshua's body and drink His blood (Passover)  
Have great righteousness according to Torah in action and

attitude

Never cause one of those who believe in Yahshua to sin  
Understand the Good News, hold it fast, and tell others  
Love one another as Yahshua loves us  
We need to respond to that free gift with obedience and love.  
We need to bear fruit from our association with Yahshua.  
We need to come to Yahweh as a little child

## REVELATION

Consider the words of Yahshua found in Revelation.  
After all, it is, "The revelation of Yahshua the Messiah" (1:1).

He says to the congregation at Ephesus:

**Revelation 2:5-7** "Remember therefore  
from where you have fallen;  
repent and do the first works,  
or else I will come to you quickly and  
remove your lamp stand from its place; unless you repent. . . .  
7 He who has an ear, let him hear  
what the Spirit says to the congregations.  
To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life,  
which is in the midst of the Paradise of Elohim."

This passage shows that repentance from sin and overcoming  
are required for salvation.

In addition to those requirements,  
Yahshua also urges the various congregations to:  
Be faithful until death, (v10)  
hold fast what you have till I come, (v 25)  
keep My works until the end, (v26)  
and other commands.

He tells the Laodicean congregation:

**Revelation 3:18-19** "I counsel you to

Buy from me gold refined in the fire,  
that you may be rich;  
And white garments, that you may be clothed,  
*that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed;  
[the fine linen is the righteous ACTS of the saints.  
(**Revelation 19:8**)]  
and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.  
19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.  
Therefore be zealous and repent.

ALL THESE are linked with salvation!  
They are phrased as requirements for the congregations to  
"Sit down with me in my throne." (3:21)

There are not very many actual requirements given in Revelation,  
but there are many inferences and other useful statements.

One aspect of salvation requirements is the emphasis on works.  
Is Yahshua at all concerned about our works?  
In chapters 2 and 3 Yahshua was speaking of certain congregations:  
He speaks first to the congregation in Ephesus  
**Revelation 2:2** "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and  
that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those  
who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."

To Smyrna He said:

**Revelation 2:9** "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you  
are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews  
and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."

To Pergamos He said:

**Revelation 2:13** - "I know your works, and where you dwell, where  
Satan's throne [is]. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny  
My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr,

who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

To Thyratira He said:

**Revelation 2:19** - “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

To Sardis He said:

**Revelation 3:1** - “And to the angel of the assembly in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of YAHWEH and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.””

To Philadelphia He said:

**Revelation 3:8** - “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

And to Laodicea He said:

**Revelation 3:15** - “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.”

Hmm. . .

“I know your works”, “I know your works”, “I know your works”,  
“I know your works”, “I know your works”, “I know your works”,  
“I know your works”.

Seven out of seven. Every congregation!

Was He not concerned with their works?

It was His first word to each congregation!

Was He not concerned that His righteousness

MUST dwell in them, lest He spew them out of His mouth? (Separate them from HIS Body)

**Revelation 3:16** - “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Do we want to be separated from His body?

**Revelation 22:12 -14** “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one **according to his work**.

*13* I am the Alef and the Tau, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

*14* Blessed are those who **do** His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

If you read the letters to the seven congregations you also get a strong sense that OVERCOMING is a requirement for all the benefits of salvation and probably for salvation itself.

Here are the rewards for overcoming:

**Revelation 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. To him who overcomes I will give to EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, which is in the midst of the Paradise of Elohim.

**Revelation 2:11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. He who overcomes shall NOT BE HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH.

**Revelation 2:17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. To him who overcomes I will give SOME OF THE HIDDEN MANNA TO EAT. And I will give him A WHITE STONE, and on the stone A NEW NAME written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

**Revelation 2:26-28** And he who overcomes,  
and keeps My works until the end,  
to him I will give POWER OVER THE NATIONS;  
27 He shall rule them with a rod of iron;  
They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels;  
as I also have received from My Father;  
28 and I will give him THE MORNING STAR.

The Morning Star is only mentioned here,  
in **2 Peter 1:19** where it seems to refer to Yahshua,  
and in **Revelation 22:16** (see below).

**Revelation 3:5** He who overcomes shall  
BE CLOTHED IN WHITE GARMENTS,  
and I will NOT BLOT OUT HIS NAME from the Book of Life;  
but I will CONFESS HIS NAME before My Father and before His  
angels.

**Revelation 3:12** He who overcomes,  
I will make him A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE of My Elohim,  
and he shall NOT GO OUT ANY MORE.  
And I will WRITE ON HIM THE NAME OF MY ELOHIM  
AND THE NAME OF THE CITY of My Elohim,  
the New Jerusalem,  
which comes down out of heaven from My Elohim.  
And *I will write on him* MY NEW NAME.

**Revelation 3:21-22** To him who overcomes  
I will grant to SIT WITH ME ON MY THRONE,  
as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.  
22 He who has an ear,  
let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations.

And one more near the end of Revelation:  
**Revelation 21:7** He who overcomes

shall INHERIT ALL THINGS,  
and I WILL BE HIS ELOHIM AND HE SHALL BE MY SON.

These statements are not in the form of, “If ... then...”  
But they certainly are conditional on overcoming.  
Let he who has an ear hear what the spirit says.

If you write YAIM they can send you an article on overcoming  
which appeared in The Master Key Magazine late in 2002.  
either by email or on paper. Furnish your address or a SASE.

The Mark of the Beast is certainly something  
that can make the difference between eternal life and eternal death:  
**Revelation 14:9-13** Then a third angel followed them,  
saying with a loud voice,  
“If anyone worships the beast and his image,  
and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,  
10 he himself shall also drink  
of the wine of THE WRATH OF ELOHIM,  
which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.  
He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone  
in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.  
11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever;  
and they have no rest day or night,  
who worship the beast and his image,  
and whoever receives the mark of his name.”  
12 Here is the patience of THE SAINTS;  
here *are* those WHO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS of Yahweh  
AND THE FAITH of Yahshua. [See also 12:17]  
13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me,  
“Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Master from now on.’”  
“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors,  
and their works follow them.”

The mark of the Beast is not clearly defined in scripture.

**Revelation 13:16-17** says that no one may buy or sell without it. Some have suggested Sunday worship, bar codes, the social security number, a tattoo or an implanted computer chip. It will be something people have to take willingly. I believe those who accept that mark will know they are doing it. This may be an issue that requires believers in Yahshua to bear their stake (**Matthew 10:38** p. 8).

At the white throne judgement all the questions about the topic of this book will be answered. Everyone who ever lived will know whether they have done what is required for salvation or not.

**Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.  
*12* And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before Elohim, and books [Greek: *biblion*] were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books [Greek: *biblion*].  
*13* The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.  
*14* Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.  
*15* And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

All the dead are raised to be judged. It looks like they will be judged by comparing their deeds while they lived to the requirements written in “the books” The Bible [Greek: *biblion*] is the set of books containing the requirements

against which their works will be compared.

In talking about the New Jerusalem John writes:

**Revelation 21:8** “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death.**”

**Revelation 22:14-19** Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

*15* But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

*16* “I, Yahshua, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the congregations. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

*17* And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come.

Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

*18* For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, Yahweh will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;  
*19* and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, Yahweh shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

At the end of verse 17 we see that “Whoever desires” may take freely of the water of life. To be consistent with the rest of the scriptures we have read this needs to be understood to mean that the desire mentioned

is a sincere desire that motivates the person to love Yahweh and obey His commandments. We also should understand that “freely” means he can take as much of the water as he needs or wants, NOT that there is no cost, obligation, or conditions.

From **Revelation** we have learned that we must:

Do the works Yahshua expects of us.

Overcome

Do not accept the mark of the Beast

Do Yahweh's commandments

Do not be a sorcerer, sexually immoral person, a murderer, idolater, coward, unbeliever, or a liar.

## Part 2

# THE GENERAL EPISTLES

The general epistles, the writings of James (Jacob), Peter, John, and Jude, contain several requirements for salvation.

They are called “general” because they are intended for all congregations, not just addressed to one.

These men were close to Yahshua for at least three and a half years. James (Jacob), lived with Him as a brother before Yahshua's ministry began.

They saw Him die and they saw Him resurrected.

They worked together in the congregations after His resurrection.

All these factors must have made a strong impact on their faith.

Of course we can have strong faith without these direct contacts; But part of the foundation of *our* faith is the letters of these men.

Before we look at their letters

we will look at their teachings about salvation in the book of Acts.

Let's see what they have to say.

### THE APOSTLES IN ACTS

In the first twelve chapters of Acts,

the Apostles are shown to be preaching

the good news of salvation through Yahshua the Messiah.

Afterwards the story is mostly about Paul.

Their story starts on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Yahshua's resurrection.

A large crowd has come to see what the great noise was about.

The Apostles all talk to the them about the good news of Yahshua.

Peter's words are recorded.

He recalls to them the prophecies of the end times:

**Acts 2:20-21** “The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh.  
21 And it shall come to pass *that*  
whoever calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved.”

“Calling on the name of Yahweh,”  
is not something a person does in one minute  
but rather it indicates a way of life which includes obedience.  
Please see the comments on Romans 10:9 on page 68.

Peter continues to explain how we know that  
Yahshua is the anointed one of Yahweh.  
He concludes with:

**Acts 2:36-39** “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly  
that Elohim has made this Yahshua, whom you executed,  
both Master and Messiah [Anointed One].”

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart,  
and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,  
“Men, brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you  
be immersed in the name of Yahshua the Messiah  
for the remission of sins;

and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is to you and to your children,  
and to all who are afar off,  
as many as Yahweh our Elohim will call.”

Just like John the Immerser, [Matthew 3:7-8]

Peter insists on repentance before baptism.

Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit  
are granted to those who do sincerely repent.

The meaning of the word, “repent” is to be sincerely sorry for  
breaking Yahweh's law and to turn away from the previous way of

law breaking and follow the path of law keeping.

The disciples taught Yahshua's good news throughout Jerusalem.  
Peter and John were soon called  
before the religious leaders of the Jews  
and Peter defended the faith.

He concluded his statement:

**Acts 4:10-12** “Let it be known to you all,  
and to all the people of Israel,  
that by the name of Yahshua the Messiah of Nazareth,  
whom you executed,

whom Elohim raised from the dead,  
by Him this man stands here before you whole.

11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders,  
which has become the chief cornerstone.'

12 Nor is there salvation in any other,  
for there is no other name under heaven given among men  
by which we must be saved.”

The priests could not argue against Peter's words.

So they did the natural thing - they beat them and threatened them.

It is interesting that Peter brought up Yahshua's name.

He declares that there is only one way that people can be saved  
and that way is through Yahshua's name.

The name, “Jesus” was not to be heard  
for more than a thousand years.

The only name for salvation is still the same – Yahshua.

It is the same name as the Israelite general who succeeded Moses,  
the man we know as Joshua.

The name these two men share means, “Yahweh Saves!”

Later, the Apostles were again brought before the religious leaders.

Peter's testimony to them ended with:

**Acts 5:30-32** “The Elohim of our fathers raised up Yahshua

whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

31 Him Elohim has exalted to His right hand  
as Prince and Savior,  
to give repentance to Israel  
and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are His witnesses to these things,  
and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit  
which Elohim has given to those who obey Him.”

There goes Peter, making the leaders angry again  
by speaking the truth.  
HalleluYAH!

From Acts we have learned that we must:

Call on the name of Yahweh

Repent

Be immersed in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the  
remission of sins

Obey Yahweh to receive His Holy Spirit

## THE BOOK OF JAMES

Some key scriptures from “James the righteous.”

**James 1:12** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation;  
for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life  
which the Master has promised to those who love Him.

Of course, to endure temptation means to resist it successfully.  
It means being tempted and not yielding to it.  
That is what leads to approval and receiving the crown of life.

**James 1:21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness  
and overflow of wickedness,  
and receive with meekness the implanted word,  
which is able to save your souls.

But just HOW can the “implanted word” save a person?

The New Living Translation captures James’ answer very well:

**James 1:22-27** NLT And remember,  
it is a message to obey, not just to listen to.

If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself.

23 For if you just listen and don't obey,  
it is like looking at your face in a mirror  
but doing nothing to improve your appearance.

24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

25 But if you keep looking steadily into Yahweh's perfect law  
–the law that sets you free–

and if you remember what you heard  
and do what it says,

then Yahweh will bless you for doing it.

26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue,  
you are just fooling yourself,  
and your religion is worthless.

27 Pure and lasting religion in the sight of Yahweh our Father  
means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles,  
and refuse to let the world corrupt us.

James’ statement about faith and works is a classic:

**James 2:14** What *does it* profit, my brethren,  
if someone says he has faith but does not have works?  
Can *such* faith save him?

His explanation is also very worthwhile:

**James 2:20-26** NIV You foolish man,  
do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless ?

21 Was not our ancestor Abraham  
considered righteous for what he did  
when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

[See Genesis 22 (worth reading)]

22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together,

and his faith was made complete by what he **did**.  
23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says,  
“Abraham believed Elohim,  
and it was credited to him as righteousness,” [Genesis 15:6]  
and he was called Yahweh’s friend.

24 You see that a person is justified by what he **does**  
and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the harlot  
considered righteous for what she did  
when she gave lodging to the spies  
and sent them off in a different direction? [Joshua 2:1-19]

26 As the body without the spirit is dead,  
so **faith without deeds is dead**.

Of course dead faith will do us no good on judgement day.  
The faith that saves makes a difference in our heart  
and is expressed in our actions.

This next passage does not mention salvation directly,  
but the hint is very clear and strong for those who will listen:

**James 4:4** You adulterous people, don't you know that  
friendship with the world is hatred toward Elohim?  
Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world  
becomes an enemy of Elohim.

As we see in **John 16:33**, Yahshua has overcome the world and,  
through Yahshua dwelling in us,  
we can also overcome it, **1 John 4:4**.

What is “the world?”  
Think about TV and The City.  
Not that we can't watch TV or live in a city;  
but if we absorb the basic attitudes of those things  
James says we show hatred toward Yahweh.

We must show our love for Yahweh by embracing His ways  
and striving to be pure, simple, loving, and devoted to Him.

**James 4:7-8** Submit yourselves, then, to Elohim.  
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
8 Come near to Yahweh and He will come near to you.  
Wash your hands, you sinners,  
and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

This next passage does mention judgement:  
**James 5:9 DON'T GRUMBLE** against each other, brothers,  
or you will be **CONDEMNED**.  
The Judge is standing at the door!

Imagine you had been criticizing a brother or sister.  
Immediately there is a knock at the door.  
You open the door and see the judge standing there to tell you that He  
had heard what you said against one of Yahweh's children and He had  
to condemn you for that!

James ends his letter with a positive note:  
**James 5:19-20** My brothers,  
if one of you should wander from the truth  
and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this:  
Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way  
will save him from death  
and cover over a multitude of sins.

Peter expresses the same idea.  
**1 Peter 4:8** Above all, love each other deeply,  
because love covers over a multitude of sins.

The idea is a quote from Solomon's wisdom:  
**Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all sins.

What a wonderful blessing!  
Our sins can be covered over with our love.  
It truly works.  
When we have sinned against someone,  
if we stop sinning and show true love towards them  
then our sins get covered and hidden by that love.

I believe also that if someone sins against us  
and we decide to forgive and love them  
that our love can cover their sins,  
even if they do not fully repent.

That's my opinion for what its worth.

From James we have learned that we must:

Endure temptation  
Love Yahshua  
Receive the implanted word with meekness  
Obey – don't just listen  
Faith without deeds is useless  
Don't grumble against each other  
Use love to cover over sins

## THE EPISTLES OF PETER

Here's one of the more useful verses for men:

**1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, likewise,  
dwell with *your wives* with understanding,  
[knowledge, even science. Think of the science of marriage.]  
giving [granting or bestowing] honor to the wife,  
as to the weaker vessel,  
and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life,  
[the gift of eternal life]  
that your prayers may not be  
hindered [cut off, cut down or frustrated].

You may ask what that has to do with salvation.  
Well, if Yahweh cuts off our prayers  
then how will He hear when we say  
we accept Yahshua's sacrifice and wish to be part of His family?

Having a spiritual, intellectual, loving and uplifting  
relationship with our wife is certainly a salvation issue!

The phrase, "The grace of life," also has an additional meaning  
besides salvation in the world to come.

Grace is also a gift Yahweh grants His people in this life.  
Grace in this life means doing things in a graceful way;  
It means being  
kind,  
generous,  
helpful,  
a good conversationalist,  
a pleasure to be with.

This passage links repentance and baptism to salvation:

**1 Peter 3:18-21** NIV For the Messiah died for sins  
once for all,  
the righteous for the unrighteous,  
to bring you to Elohim.  
He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,  
*19* through which also He went and preached to the spirits in prison  
[Yahshua, as a spirit being, before His human birth,  
pleaded with the sinners of Noah's generation to repent  
before they were destroyed in the flood]  
*20* who disobeyed long ago  
when Yahweh waited patiently  
in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.  
In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through the flood,  
*21* NLT And this is a picture of baptism, which now saves you  
by the power of Yahshua the Messiah's resurrection.

Baptism is not a removal of dirt from your body;  
it is an appeal to Yahweh from a clear conscience.

When we repent and are baptized we come before Yahweh in Yahshua's name asking for a covenant with Him.  
Having repented and being cleansed of sin by Yahshua's sacrifice, we beseech the Father to accept us as His son or daughter.

**1 Peter 4:17-18** For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of Elohim;  
and if *it begins* with us first,  
what will *be* the end of those  
who do not obey the good news of Elohim?  
18 Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved,  
Where will the unrighteous and the sinner appear?”

Verse 18 is adapted from:

**Proverbs 11:31** If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth,  
How much more the unrighteous and the sinner.

What is the “good news of Yahweh” referred to in v 17  
which we are supposed to obey?

We may understand it through this scripture:

**Revelation 14:6-7** Then I saw another angel  
flying in the midst of heaven,  
having the everlasting good news to preach  
to those who dwell on the earth;  
to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people;  
7 saying with a loud voice,  
“Fear Elohim and give glory to Him,  
for the hour of His judgment has come;  
and worship Him who made heaven and earth,  
the sea and springs of water.”

Peter's second epistle begins with an exhortation to salvation.

**2 Peter 1:2-11** NLT May Yahweh bless you with His special favor and peace as you come to know Yahweh and Yahshua, our Master.  
3 As we know Yahshua better, His divine power gives us everything we need for living a pious life. He has called us to receive His own glory and goodness!

4 And by that same mighty power, He has given us His great and precious promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in His divine nature.

5 So make every effort to  
apply the benefits of these promises to your life.  
Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence.

A life of moral excellence leads to knowledge.

6 Knowledge leads to self-control.

Self-control leads to patient endurance,  
and patient endurance leads to holiness.

7 Holiness leads to love for other believers,  
and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Master Yahshua the Messiah.

9 But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. They have also forgotten that Yahweh has cleansed them from their old life of sin.

10 So, dear friends, work hard to make sure that you really are among those Yahweh has called and chosen. Doing this, you will never stumble or fall away.

11 And the gates will be opened wide for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Master and Savior Yahshua the Messiah.

This last scripture gave us quite an assignment.

Peter makes a point of saying these qualities will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive (v. 8).

Yahshua has already shown us that these are requirements for salvation. (See pages 17-20.)

After writing about the end times  
when there shall be so much destruction  
and Yahshua will return.

Peter concludes with this:

**2 Peter 3:10-14** But the day of Yahweh will come  
as a thief in the night,  
in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise,  
and the elements will melt with fervent heat;  
both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.  
*11* Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved,  
what manner *of persons* ought you to be  
in holy conduct and righteousness,  
*12* looking for and hastening the coming of the day of Yahweh,  
because of which the heavens will be dissolved,  
being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?  
*13* Nevertheless we, according to His promise,  
look for new heavens and a new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.  
*14* Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things,  
be diligent to be found by Him  
in peace,  
without spot  
and blameless;

This last verse forms a good summary  
of the words of Peter about salvation.

Peter's letters are full of exhortation to righteousness.  
He finds so many ways to encourage us  
to guard and enhance our salvation.

From Peter we have learned:

Husbands dwell with *your wives* with understanding  
Obey the good news of Elohim  
Fear Elohim and give glory to Him

Be diligent to be found by Him:

In peace

Without spot (Clean)

Blameless (without sin)

## THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

**1 John 1:5-7** This is the message  
we have heard from Him and declare to you:  
Elohim is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.  
*6* If we claim to have fellowship with Him  
yet we walk in the darkness,  
we lie  
and do not live by the truth.  
*7* But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Yahshua, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

It is this purifying from sin that enables us  
to be with Elohim and live in His presence.

It depends on our walking in the light.

John explains **what it means to walk in the light**:

**1 John 2:9-11** He who says he is in the light,  
and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

*10* He who loves his brother abides in the light,  
and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

*11* But he who hates his brother is in darkness  
and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going,  
because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

John continues and makes clear what must happen when we sin  
after we are baptized. We do still sin:

**1 John 1:8-10** If we claim to be without sin,  
we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar  
and His word has no place in our lives.

This shows how important it is to admit our sinfulness.  
Admitting our sin is the first step of repentance  
Without that, His word  
both THE WRITTEN WORD  
and THE LIVING WORD, which is Yahshua the Messiah  
will not be WITHIN US  
as THEY BOTH MUST BE.

After confession we must not go back to the sin again:

**1 John 2:1-6** NIV My dear children, I write this to you so that you  
will not sin.

**But if anyone does sin,**

we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense  
–Yahshua the Messiah, the Righteous One.

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,  
and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 We know that we have come to know Him [in relationship],  
if we obey His commands.

4 The man who says, “I know Him,”  
but does not do what He commands  
is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But if anyone obeys His word,  
Yahweh's love is truly made complete in him.

This is how we know we are in Him:

6 Whoever claims to live in Him  
must **walk as He [Yahshua] did.**

Those who claim that their life  
is dedicated to Yahweh through Yahshua

must walk, that is they behave, just as Yahshua did.

That is a requirement and a sure sign.

It is also our main project: . . .

**Ephesians 4:13** . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith  
and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim,  
to a perfect man,  
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Messiah;

When we stand next to Yahshua there should be  
noticeable similarities in our behavior and attitudes,  
our faith, our hope and our love.

Paul writes about this in **Galatians 4:19** My little children,  
for whom I labor in birth again  
until the Messiah is formed in you. . .

John gets pretty plain about the requirements for salvation:

**1 John 2:16-17** For all that *is* in the world;  
the lust of the flesh,  
the lust of the eyes,  
and the pride of life;  
is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;  
but he who **DOES the will of Yahweh** lives forever.

**1 John 3:10-11**

This is how we know who are the children of Elohim  
and who are the children of the devil:

Anyone who does not DO WHAT IS RIGHT  
is NOT a child of Elohim;

nor is anyone who does not LOVE HIS BROTHER.

11 This is the message you heard from the beginning:  
We should love one another. (See **John 13:34**)

**1 John 3:14-15** We know that we have passed from death to life,

because we love the brethren.  
He who does not love *his* brother remains in death.  
15. **Whoever hates** his brother is a murderer,  
and you know that **no murderer has eternal life** remaining in him.

**1 John 4:15** Whoever confesses that  
**Yahshua is the Son of Elohim,**  
Elohim abides in him, and he in Elohim.

Compare that to **John 15:1-8** (p 19).

**1 John 5:9-12** NIV We accept man's testimony,  
but Yahweh's testimony is greater  
because it is the testimony of Elohim,  
which He has given about His Son.  
10 Anyone who believes in the Son of Yahweh  
has this testimony in his heart.  
Anyone who does not believe Yahweh  
has made Him out to be a liar,  
because he has not believed  
the testimony Elohim has given about His Son.  
11 And this is the testimony:  
that Yahweh has given us eternal life,  
and this life is in His Son.  
12 He who has the Son has life.  
He who does not have the Son of Elohim  
does not have life.

John ends his first letter with a reminder that  
the NAME of our Savior is a key to salvation.  
**1 John 5:13** These things I have written to you  
who believe in the name of the Son of Yahweh,  
that you may know that you have eternal life,  
and that you may *continue to*  
**believe in the NAME of the Son of Yahweh.**

Another word about sin and salvation:  
**1 John 5:16** If anyone sees his brother commit a sin  
that does not lead to death, he should pray  
and Yahweh will give him life.

I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death.  
**There is a sin that leads to death.**  
I am not saying that he should pray about that.

In John's second epistle we read that we can lose salvation  
by straying from Yahshua's teaching:

**2 John 1:8-9** Watch out, so that you do not lose the prize  
for which we have been working so hard.  
Be diligent so that you will receive your full reward.  
9 For if you wander outside the teaching of the Messiah,  
you will not have fellowship with Elohim.  
But if you continue in the teaching of the Messiah,  
you will have fellowship with both the Father and the Son.

In his third epistle John is short and to the point:  
**3 John 1:11** Beloved, do not imitate what is evil,  
but what is good.  
He who does good is of Elohim,  
but he who does evil has not seen Elohim.

John's epistles have proven to be consistent  
with the other scriptures we have seen.  
We need to believe in Yahshua the Messiah  
and be doers of Yahweh's commands in order to be saved.

**To recall what we have learned from John:**

Walk in the light  
Confess our sins  
Walk as He [Yahshua] did  
DO the will of Yahweh, not the world  
Not the lust of the flesh,

Not the lust of the eyes,  
Not the pride of life;  
DO WHAT IS RIGHT  
LOVE OUR BROTHER  
Confess that Yahshua is the Son of Yahweh  
Believe in the NAME of the Son of Yahweh  
Remain in the doctrine [teaching] of the Messiah  
Do good

#### **A verse from Jude**

**Jude 1:4** For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation; unrighteous men, who turn the grace of our Elohim into lewdness and deny the only Sovereign Yahweh and our Master Yahshua the Messiah.

This verse shows that those who distort the grace of Yahweh or deny Yahweh and Yahshua will bring condemnation on themselves.  
Even if they are preaching things that sound scriptural

## **Part 3**

# **THE EPISTLES OF PAUL**

The general epistles have been consistent with the teachings of Yahshua the Messiah. If anything, Yahshua put more emphasis on the importance to salvation of BEARING FRUIT.

He repeatedly said that those who are going to Yahweh's kingdom must bear fruit in this life.

There has been complete agreement so far that one must obey Yahweh's law in order to receive salvation.

Friends, make no mistake –

We cannot be in Yahweh's presence with sin upon us.

Obedying the law is not what gets your **past sins** forgiven.

Only Yahshua's sacrifice can do that. (**Romans 3:25**)

But salvation is also dependent on being free from any sin that has not been forgiven at the time you die.

There is no scripture that guarantees forgiveness of future sins without repentance.

Millions believe that those who believe in the Savior are saved with NO other requirements.

Its called "once saved – always saved."

Yahshua called it the broad road that leads to destruction (**Matthew 7:13**, p. 2).

As we have seen, we must repent and ask forgiveness

for any sins we commit. Please review page 48.  
**KEEP YOUR REPENTANCE CURRENT.**  
Don't let the day end without going before the Father,  
confessing any sins,  
and asking to be forgiven for the sake of Yahshua's sacrifice.

Paul's writing is usually credited with supporting that false doctrine.  
We will now look at some scriptures that are used to support that  
view and at other scriptures by Paul that relate to salvation.  
If Paul's writings are indeed scripture  
then they **must agree** with the Old Testament  
and with the rest of the New Testament.  
We believe they do.

One thing we must remember in reading Paul  
is that He was addressing certain problems  
that were common in his day  
and in the areas in which he worked.  
Paul worked mainly with two groups.  
Here is his assignment from Yahshua:  
**Acts 9:15** But the Master said to him [Ananias],  
“Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine  
to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.”

Paul was a pharisee  
educated in the scriptures and in Jewish traditions.

He contended with the background of the Gentile believers  
who were coming out of pagan religion.  
These people had worshiped idols  
and sometimes wanted to go back to parts of that worship;  
the foods, the holidays, or the concepts of life.

The scattered Jews Paul encountered  
were steeped in the traditions of Judaism.

Many things Yahshua had preached against  
were part of these people's lives.  
Some joyfully embraced the Messiah,  
but others just made Paul's life very difficult.

## **PAUL IN ACTS**

The last half of Acts is the story of Paul preaching salvation.  
Let's see what we can learn about it there.

The Jerusalem conference in Acts 15 was exactly about  
“what are the requirements for salvation?”  
**Acts 15:1-2** And certain *men* came down from Judea  
and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised  
according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”  
2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small  
dissension and dispute with them,  
they determined that Paul and Barnabas  
and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem,  
to the apostles and elders, about this question.

You may read their discussion in **Acts 15**.  
They had a salvation question; but it was limited.  
It was only about **circumcision being required for salvation**.

It is important to understand what Peter said:  
**Acts 15:11** NLT “We believe that we are all saved the same way,  
by the special favor of the Master Yahshua the Messiah.”

James (Yacob) presents the conclusion of the meeting:  
**Acts 15:19-21** “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those  
from among the Gentiles who are turning to Elohim,  
20 but that we write to them  
to abstain from things polluted by idols, sexual immorality, things  
strangled, and from blood.”

21 For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach Him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

James assumes that the new converts will go to the synagogues to learn all the points of Yahweh's law so that they can obey it more fully.

Circumcision is not required to be baptized nor to be saved, but those new converts may desire to circumcise their sons or themselves to obtain the blessings of that covenant.

See **Genesis 17:1-15** for the blessings of the circumcision covenant.

Notice that it can include receiving a new name.

The Pharisees, who argued in favor of requiring circumcision, were more strict than others on almost everything; but they did have a policy of not going against the decisions of a council.

Once, when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison Yahweh sent an earthquake at night to open the prison doors.

**Acts 16:27-33** And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 So they said, “Believe on the Master Yahshua the Messiah, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

32 Then they spoke the word of the Master to him

and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes.

And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

The simple answer was to believe in Yahshua.

Then they discussed the details of that belief, what it means to believe, and answered all their questions.

They tended to Paul's wounds and then he baptized them.

Paul was not telling them that believe was ALL they needed to do.

One other thing was to be baptized but there was a lot more.

## FROM PAUL'S EPISTLES

In Romans Paul discusses the question of how a gentile comes to salvation compared to how a Jew comes to it.

The Roman congregation had both types of members and Paul needed to encourage them to come to closer unity.

He emphasized the common path to salvation laid out for both:

**Romans 1:16** I am not ashamed of the good news of the Messiah, for it is the power of Elohim to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Here Paul relates salvation to turning from sin:

**Romans 2:4-8** NLT Don't you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient Yahweh is with you? Or don't you care?

Can't you see He has been kind in giving you time to turn from your sin?

5 But no, you won't listen.

So you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself because of your stubborn refusal to turn from your sin.

For there is going to come a day of judgment when Yahweh,  
the just judge of all the world,  
6 will judge all people according to what they have done.

7 He will give **eternal life**

**to those who persist in doing what is good,**

seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.

8 But He will pour out **His anger** and wrath on those

**who live for themselves,**

**who refuse to obey** the truth

and practice evil deeds.

Paul makes the path to salvation more clear:

**Romans 3:20-31** NLT For no one can ever be made right in  
Yahweh's sight by doing what His law commands.

For the more we know Yahweh's law,  
the clearer it is that we aren't obeying it.

21 But now Yahweh has shown us a different way

of being right in His sight--by the way promised in the Scriptures.

22 We are made right in Yahweh's sight

when we trust in Yahshua the Messiah  
to take away the sins we committed.

And we all can be saved in this same way,  
no matter who we are or what we have done.

23 For all have sinned;

all fall short of the standard of our glorious Elohim.

Everyone needs help in approaching Yahweh.

Without some sort of help, our sins (law-breaking) separate us far  
from Yahweh.

Yahshua provides the only help good enough for us to use  
and He was sent by the Father to provide that help freely:

24 NKJV being justified freely by His grace

through the redemption that is in the Messiah Yahshua,

25 whom Yahweh set forth *as* a sin sacrifice by His blood,  
through faith,

to demonstrate His [Yahweh's] righteousness,  
because in His forbearance Yahweh had passed over  
the sins that were previously committed,

26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness,  
that He might be just

and the justifier of the one who has faith in Yahshua.

27 Where *is* boasting then?

It is excluded.

By what law? Of works?

No, but by the law of faith.

Both Israelites and Gentiles can “boast”  
of the salvation we have as a free gift of Yahweh.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith  
apart from the deeds of the law.

29 Or *is He* the Elohim of the Jews only?

*Is He* not also the Elohim of the Gentiles?

Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since *there is* one Elohim  
who will justify the circumcised [Jews] by faith

and the uncircumcised [Gentiles] through faith.

31 Do we then make void the law through faith?

Certainly not!

On the contrary, we establish the law.

Yahweh does not save us by setting the law aside.

He uses the ancient practice

of accepting a SUBSTITUTE SACRIFICE

in payment for the penalty for our law-breaking.

In the Torah, animal sacrifices were taken as a substitute payment  
of the penalty a person incurred for breaking Yahweh's law.  
(**Leviticus 4-7**).

**Ezekiel 18:20** The soul who sins shall die.

However, Paul points out a still earlier example of a person being considered righteous just because of his faith in Yahweh. Abraham fully believed whatever Yahweh taught him and trusted Him fully in every way.

**Romans 4:3-8** For what does the Scripture say?

“Abraham believed Elohim,  
and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

[**Genesis 15:6**]

4 Now to him who works,  
the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

When a person works for something it is not a gift when he gets it. A person who works and does not get the wages he worked for has been cheated.

5 But to him who does not work  
but believes on Him who justifies the unrighteous,  
his faith is accounted for righteousness,  
6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man  
to whom Elohim imputes righteousness apart from works:

7 “Blessed *are those* whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
And whose sins are covered;  
8 Blessed *is the* man to whom Yahweh shall not impute sin.”

[from **Psalm 32:1-2**]

A person may sin and,  
because of his faith in Yahshua's sacrifice,  
Yahweh chooses to forget about his sin.  
The sin is still there in the sense that  
what the person did is still wrong and he still did it,  
but Yahweh does not hold it against the person.

Yahweh created us to be His eternal children.  
Since all of us have sinned and do not deserve to be His children  
He has looked at our hearts  
and determines who can be His children by our love for Him.  
Our faith tells Him how much we love Him.  
To provide the substitute sacrifice for all those with faith and love,  
Yahweh sent His only son, Yahshua, to be the sacrifice.

**Romans 5:8-21** But Elohim demonstrates His own love  
toward us, in that while we were still sinners,  
Yahshua the Messiah died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood,  
we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to Elohim  
through the death of His Son,  
much more, having been reconciled,  
we shall be saved by His [Yahshua's] life.

11 And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in Yahweh  
through our Master Yahshua the Messiah,  
through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

12 Therefore, just as through one man [Adam]  
sin entered the world, and death through sin,  
and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned;

13 (For until the law sin was in the world,  
but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

It was not the case that there was no law before Moses.  
Noah's age was declared wicked and  
Abraham was declared a law-keeper by Yahweh (**Genesis 26:5**).

5:14 *NIV* Nevertheless, death reigned  
from the time of Adam to the time of Moses,  
even over those who did not sin  
by breaking an explicit command, as did Adam,  
who was a pattern of the one to come [Yahshua].

15 But the free gift *is* not like the offense.  
For if by the one man's offense many died,

much more the grace of Yahweh  
and the gift by the grace of the one Man,  
Yahshua the Messiah, overflowed to many.

16 And the gift *is* not like  
*that which came* through the one who sinned.  
For the judgment *which came* from one *offense*  
*resulted* in condemnation,  
but the free gift *which came* from many offenses  
*resulted* in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense  
death reigned through the one,  
much more those who receive abundance of grace  
and of the gift of righteousness  
will reign in life through the One, Yahshua the Messiah.)

18 YLT So, then, as through one offence  
*it is* condemnation to all men,  
so also through one declaration of 'Righteous'  
*it is* justification of life to all men;

19 NKJV For as by one man's [Adam's] disobedience  
many were made sinners,  
so also by one man's [Yahshua's] obedience  
many will be made [declared] righteous.  
20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound.  
[Yahweh's torah law points out many sins  
which were not obvious.]

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,  
21 so that as sin reigned in death,  
even so grace might reign through righteousness  
to eternal life  
through Yahshua the Messiah our Master.

HalleluYAH! There is enough grace available  
to cover ALL our sins.

**Romans 6:1-4** NIV What shall we say, then?  
Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

2 By no means!

We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized  
into the Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death?

4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death  
in order that, just as the Messiah was raised from the dead  
through the glory of the Father,  
we too may live a new life.

We should not break Yahweh's law after baptism!

Paul refers to baptism as our burial and resurrection in this verse:

**Colossians 2:12** . . . buried with Him [the Messiah] in baptism,  
in which you also were raised with *Him*  
through faith in the working of Yahweh,  
who raised Him from the dead.

Paul continues with the same principle:

**Romans 6:5-16** NLT

5 Since we have been united with Him in His death,  
we will also be raised as He was.

Next, Paul compares our previous life of sin  
with our present new life in Yahshua of relative righteousness  
and our future perfection in eternal spirit life.

Life in Yahshua:

6 knowing this, that our old man was executed with *Him*,  
that the body of sin might be done away with,  
that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

“The body of sin” is the sinful nature that each person lives with  
until he or she gives up his/her life to Yahweh.

Baptism symbolizes our willingness for that old nature to die

and for the Messiah to live His life within us.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with the Messiah,  
we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Yahshua's new Life:

9 knowing that the Messiah,  
having been raised from the dead, dies no more.

Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all;  
but *the life* that He lives, He lives to Elohim.

11 Likewise you also, consider yourselves to be truly dead to sin,  
but alive to Elohim in the Messiah Yahshua our Master.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body,  
that you should obey it in its lusts.

**Romans 6:13-14** NLT (mostly) Do not let any part of your body  
become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning.

Instead, give yourselves completely to Yahweh since you have been  
given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right  
for the glory of Yahweh.

14 Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer under the law.  
Instead, you are free [from sinning] by Yahweh's grace.

What is Paul saying?

What does it mean to be under the law?

How does a believer move from being under the law  
to being under grace?

First, we were under the law because we broke the law.

The police take no interest in those who do not break the law.

A person comes under the law when he commits a crime.

When a person repents of his sin and is baptized

into the New Covenant in the Messiah Yahshua,

he receives the gracious forgiveness of past sins from Yahweh.

Those sins no longer stand against him.

The New Living Translation is one of few that has this verse right:

**Colossians 2:14** NLT He [Yahweh] canceled the record  
that contained the charges against us.

He took it and destroyed it  
by nailing it to the Messiah's execution-stake.

Back to **Romans 6:**

15 What then? Shall we sin

because we are not under law but under grace?

Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that  
to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey,  
you are that one's slaves whom you obey,  
whether of sin *leading* to death,  
or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

Once again Paul makes it clear that we are to obey Yahweh's law.

Why would a person repent as a preparation for baptism  
and ask for and accept forgiveness to become righteous,  
and then commit sin

which would put him back under the penalty of that law?

Repentance means turning away from sinning.

We can certainly be forgiven again if we repent again,

but sinning would call into question the sincerity of our repentance  
which was part of our baptism.

One sometimes hears verses 29 & 30 in this next passage  
used to defend the once-saved-always-saved doctrine.

**Romans 8:28-30** And we know that all things work together  
for good to those who love Yahweh,

to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew,

He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son,  
that He [Yahshua] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;

whom He called, these He also justified;  
and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

This scripture puts these things in the past tense.  
I checked several translations and they all use the past tense.  
This is difficult to understand because we know that  
no one has been glorified except Yahshua Himself.

One way to understand it is by Yahweh's words in Isaiah:  
**Isaiah 46:9-10** . . . *I am Elohim, and there is no other;*  
*I am Elohim, and there is none like Me,*  
*10 Declaring the end from the beginning,*  
*And from ancient times things that are not yet done. . .*

Paul echos the idea in Romans 4:17 where he speaks of “Yahweh,  
who calls things which do not exist as though they did.”.

Whatever Yahweh sees in the future will most certainly happen.  
Whatever Yahweh decides to do in a thousand years is as good as  
done **today**.

Another key to understanding this passage is  
to know the meaning of the Greek word *doxazo*.

G1392. *doxazo*, *dox-ad'-zo*; to render (or esteem) glorious  
(in a wide application):  
Translated as: (make) glorify (-ious), full of (have) glory, honor,  
magnify.

We may usually think of “glorify” as  
the time when Yahweh gives us our spirit body.  
This happened to Yahshua at His resurrection.  
**John 7:39** . . . the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Yahshua  
was not yet glorified.

But in another sense of the word

Yahshua had already been glorified by the common people a few  
years before.

**Luke 4:15** He taught in their synagogues, being glorified (*doxazo*)  
by all.

This just meant they saw the mighty works He did  
and acknowledged Him to be a person worthy of great honor.

Romans 8:30 might be more understandable if translated,  
“whom He justified, these He also honored.”

Please see page 83 for comments on **predestination**.

Another passage that is sometimes misunderstood:

**Romans 10:9-17** If you confess with your mouth the Master  
Yahshua  
and believe in your heart  
that Yahweh has raised Him from the dead,  
you will be saved.

*10* For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,  
and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

*11* For the Scripture says,  
“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

This verse 9 is certainly a key scripture!  
It makes salvation sound so easy.  
Let's try to understand it.  
Just what does it mean to confess with your mouth?  
Is the mouth the only part of me that is involved?  
Certainly not!  
What is said with the mouth must proceed from the heart.  
Otherwise I'm afraid  
my mouth would be the only part of me in the kingdom.  
What is said must not only involve my entire belief  
but it must also be reflected in my actions and attitudes.

Otherwise the oral confession would be worthless.  
Why would I make such a confession  
if I didn't intend to follow thru?  
Would I say it just to be saved?  
Surely, we **know** Yahweh will not be so easily fooled!

And what does it mean to believe in my heart  
that Yahweh has raised Yahshua from the dead?

It would certainly mean that I believed in Yahweh  
as a supreme mighty being  
and that I accepted the account of the New Testament.  
If this account is true.  
then I would accept that there are certain commands  
given by the Father and made clear by Yahshua.  
Many of those commands include a penalty of no salvation  
(Please see Part 1)  
Since I have some understanding of Yahweh's Kingdom  
and the benefits of being Yahweh's child,  
I would be motivated to seek that kingdom and that relationship.

If I do not obey Yahweh's commands,  
then there is a weak or broken link in this chain of actions.  
And there is a weak link in my relationship with Him.  
As we have seen, Yahweh will interpret that as  
breaking the covenant I had made with Him.

#### Back to **Romans 10**.

Paul continues his discussion  
of the relationships between Jews and Greeks.  
He writes many of the things in the comments immediately above.  
12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek,  
for the same Master over all is rich towards all who call upon Him.  
13 For "whoever calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved."  
14 How then shall they call on Him

in whom they have not believed?  
And how shall they believe in Him  
of whom they have not heard?  
And how shall they hear without a preacher?  
15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent?  
As it is written:  
"How beautiful are the feet of those  
who preach the good news of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"  
16 But they have not all obeyed the good news. [See p. 35]  
For Isaiah says, "Master, who has believed our report?"  
17 So then faith *comes* by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of Yahweh.

Paul discusses Jews and Gentiles more:

**Romans 11:25-31** For I do not desire, brethren,  
that you should be ignorant of this mystery,  
lest you should be wise in your own opinion,  
that blindness in part has happened to Israel  
until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.  
26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:  
"The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away unrighteousness from Jacob;  
27 For this *is* My covenant with them,  
When I take away their sins." [Isaiah 59:20-21, 27:9]  
28 Concerning the good news *they are* enemies for your sake,  
but concerning the election *they are* beloved  
for the sake of the fathers. [Abraham, Isaac and Jacob]  
29 For the gifts and the calling of Elohim *are* irrevocable.  
30 For as you were once disobedient to Yahweh,  
yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,  
31 even so these also have now been disobedient,  
that through the same mercy shown you  
they also may obtain mercy.

In a passage about what we may eat, Paul writes:

**Romans 14:23** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does* not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

This simple statement tells volumes about our life. The most important thing about a believer's life is just that: he or she is a believer.

This should mean that an appeal for a believer to act in accordance with Yahweh's wishes is **the most powerful appeal that he or she can receive.** "If that's what Yahweh wants then that's what I will try to do with all my heart."

From Acts and Romans we have learned:

Abstain from things polluted by idols  
from sexual immorality,  
from things strangled,  
from blood

Live a new life after baptism  
We shall certainly not sin  
Confess with your mouth the Master Yahshua  
Believe in your heart that Yahweh has raised Him from the dead  
Whatever is not from faith is sin

In **1 Corinthians 3** we see that Paul declares that a person may be saved but can still have a great deal of trouble in keeping his salvation secure:

**1 Corinthians 3:13-15** his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.  
*14* If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

*15* If it is burned up he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Verse 14 implies that the fruit we bear must be lasting fruit. Yahshua said,

**Matthew 7:19** "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Paul returns to the subject of salvation with more emphasis on moral behavior:

**1 Corinthians 6:9-20** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh? Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters,  
nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,  
nor sodomites, nor thieves,  
nor covetous, nor drunkards,  
nor revilers [verbal abusers], nor extortioners  
will inherit the kingdom of Yahweh.

*11* And such were some of you. But you were washed, [Baptized] but you were sanctified, [Learned righteousness and holiness] but you were justified [By Yahshua's sacrifice] in the name of the Master Yahshua and by the Spirit of our Elohim.

As Yahweh's children, we are no longer to walk in our former sins. We are to be holy and righteous.

*6:12* All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Whatever I, Paul, do is within Yahweh's law, but of those things within the law, not everything is desirable and some things could become a bad habit that would control me.

Eating clean foods, drinking, and righteous sexual activity could each easily get out of hand:

6:13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but Yahweh will destroy both it [the stomach] and them [foods]. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for Yahweh, and Yahweh for the body.

It is true that we are made to reproduce.

That is one of our purposes here on earth.

However reproduction is to be done only within marriage.

Our primary purpose for our life is to develop our relationship with Yahweh.

14 And Yahweh both raised up the Master and will also raise us up by His power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of the Messiah? Shall I then take the members of the Messiah and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*?

For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” [Genesis 2:24]

17 But he who is joined to the Master is one spirit *with Him*.

18 Run away from sexual immorality!

Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *which is* in you, which you have from Elohim, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a [high] price; therefore glorify Yahweh in your body and in your spirit, which are Yahweh’s.

Sexual activity in marriage is a good thing; But if sexual activity is out of control

it will endanger our marriage relationship **and** the relationship with Yahweh.

The value of our relationship with Yahweh far outweighs the pleasure of sex for those who love Yahweh.

Even though Chapter 15 does not contain specific requirements for salvation, it is full of important information about salvation.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** Brethren, I declare to you the good news which I preached to you,

which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved,

IF you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain.

[was the initial belief you had shallow and short-lived?]

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that the Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried,

and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

Paul later explains the time sequence of resurrections:

**1 Corinthians 15:20-25** But now

the Messiah is risen from the dead,

*and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man *came* death,

by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die,

even so in the Messiah all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order:

the Messiah the firstfruits,

afterward those *who are* the Messiah's at His coming.

24 Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to Yahweh the Father,

when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

More about the resurrection  
and what it's like:

**1 Corinthians 15:42-57** So also *is* the resurrection of the dead.

*The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.

It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Another way of saying this is that  
before our resurrection we have  
a deteriorating, common, and weak body of flesh.

After our resurrection we have  
an eternal, beautiful, and powerful body of spirit.

45 And so it is written,

“The first man Adam became a living being.”

The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural,  
and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust;  
the second Man *is* the Master from heaven.

48 As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *made* of dust;  
and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust,  
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

50 Now this I say, brethren,  
that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahweh;  
nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Look, I'll reveal to you a secret:

We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed;

52 in a moment, in the blink of an eye,  
at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,  
and the dead will be raised incorruptible,

and we [believers who are alive] shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption,  
and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption,  
and this mortal has put on immortality,

then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” [Isaiah 25:8]

55 “O Death, where *is* your sting? O grave, where *is* your victory?”

56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.

[The law provides the penalty of death for certain sins]

57 But thanks *be* to Yahweh, who gives us the victory  
through our Master Yahshua the Messiah.

Brethren, this is the really good news!

This is the way our new eternal life will begin

at the return of Yahshua the Messiah, our Master.

We are intended to be given a powerful spirit ‘body’  
which will last forever.

In this form we will not sin

for Yahweh’s law will be in our heart,  
part of our nature.

HalleluYAH!!!

In 2 Corinthians Paul tells us that

Yahshua has reconciled us to Yahweh

by taking our sins upon Himself.

**2 Corinthians 5:17- 6:2** Therefore, if anyone *is* in the Messiah,  
*he is* a new creation;

old things have passed away;

behold, all things have become new.

18 Now all things *are* of Elohim,

who has reconciled us to Himself through Yahshua the Messiah,  
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that Elohim was,  
in the Messiah,

reconciling the world to Himself,  
not imputing their trespasses to them,  
and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for the Messiah,  
as though Yahweh were pleading through us:  
“We implore *you* on the Messiah's behalf,  
be reconciled to Yahweh!”

21 For He [Yahweh] made Him [Yahshua] who knew no sin *to be* sin  
for us,

that we might be made the righteousness of Elohim in Him.

**6:1-2** We then, *as* workers together *with Him*  
also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of Yahweh in vain.

2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.

Behold, now *is* the accepted time;  
behold, now *is* the day of salvation.”

HalleluYAH!!!

Receiving the grace of Yahweh in vain would indicate that  
after Yahweh has provided a sacrifice for us  
we do not do our part, and we fail to be saved in the end.

**2 Corinthians 9:15** Thanks *be* to Yahweh  
for His indescribable gift!

There's just a mention in this next passage  
that repentance (feeling truly sorry and turning away from sin)  
leads to salvation:

**2 Corinthians 7:10** For righteous sorrow produces repentance  
*leading* to salvation,  
not to be regretted;  
but the sorrow of the world produces death.

The sorrow of the world is demonstrated by Cain.

Yahweh told him:

**Genesis 4:12-13** “When you till the ground,  
it shall no longer yield its strength to you.  
A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

13 And Cain said to Yahweh,  
“My punishment *is* greater than I can bear!”

Cain was upset about his punishment.

He didn't care that it was a fair punishment.

He certainly didn't care if he could learn something from it.

He just wanted it not to hurt so much.

The righteous person **desires** punishment  
that will help him to be a better child of Yahweh.

This next passage gives us a test to tell if we are saved:

**2 Corinthians 13:5** NLT Examine yourselves  
to see if your faith is really genuine.

Test yourselves. [here's how...]

If you cannot tell that Yahshua the Messiah is within you  
that means you have failed the test.

Can you tell that Yahshua is living inside you?

If He is, you will be able to tell by your actions.

They will resemble those of Yahshua.

Do you pass the test?

The books of Corinthians have yielded these strong  
requirements for salvation:

We must not be fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor  
homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor  
drunkards, nor revilers [verbal abusers], nor extortioners.

We must have Yahshua within us in a noticeable way.

## Galatians

There is a great deal of misunderstanding of what the book of Galatians says about salvation. Let's see if we can understand it clearly.

Here are some of the scriptures with which some people have trouble:

**Galatians 2:15-21** *We who are Jews by birth, and not 'sinners of the Gentiles',*

*16 know that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Yahshua the Messiah.*

*So we have believed in the Messiah Yahshua, so that we might be justified by faith in the Messiah and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no one shall be justified.*

*17 But if, while we seek to be justified by the Messiah, we ourselves also are found to be sinners, does that mean the Messiah promotes sin? Certainly not!*

*18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*

*19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to Elohim.*

Verse 18, in context, is the key to understanding this passage. As a religious Jew, Paul held to the concept of obeying Torah to be justified before Yahweh. But when Paul became a believer he gave up, renounced, and destroyed that concept in himself. He realized he had to rely on Yahshua's sacrifice to be truly justified. He did not give up KEEPING THE LAW!

He just gave up his prideful concept of thinking he could ever be justified by his own actions. If he had taken up that former attitude again, it would have been an arrogant rejection of the Messiah's sacrifice!

*20 I have been executed with the Messiah; it is no longer I who live, but the Messiah lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of Yahweh, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*  
*21 I do not set aside the grace of Yahweh; for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then the Messiah died in vain.*

Religious Jews had believed that they were saved in some sense by their covenant with Yahweh at Mount Sinai unless they were rather bad law-breakers. Paul makes it clear that both Jews and Gentiles can be saved to eternal life ONLY by Yahshua's sacrifice.

Paul gets pretty direct:

**Galatians 3:1-14** NIV You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?

Before your very eyes

Yahshua the Messiah was clearly portrayed as executed.

*2 I would like to learn just one thing from you:*

*Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?*

*3 Are you so foolish?*

*After beginning with the Spirit,*

*are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*

*4 Have you suffered so much for nothing- if it really was for nothing?*

*5 Does Yahweh give you His Spirit and work miracles among you*

because you observe the law,  
or because you believe what you heard?  
6 Consider Abraham: "He believed Yahweh,  
and it was credited to him as righteousness."  
7 Understand, then,  
that those who believe are children of Abraham.  
8 The Scripture foresaw  
that Yahweh would justify the Gentiles by faith,  
and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:  
"All nations will be blessed through you."  
9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham,  
the man of faith.  
10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse,  
for it is written:  
"Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do  
everything written in the Book of the Law."  
11 Clearly no one is justified before Yahweh by the law, because,  
"The righteous will live by faith."

Yahweh's law is good and yields blessings to those who keep it;  
but salvation is not one of those blessings  
unless the law is kept perfectly.  
Since there are blessings for keeping the law  
and curses for breaking it;  
And since none but Yahshua has kept the law perfectly  
then the law brings death, not life, to all other men  
**ONLY BECAUSE WE BREAK THE LAW.**

12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary,  
"The man who does these things will live by them."  
13 The Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law  
by becoming a curse for us,  
for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."  
14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham  
might come to the Gentiles through the Messiah Yahshua,

so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

**Galatians 3:21-26** NIV Is the law, therefore, opposed to the  
promises of Elohim?  
Absolutely not!  
For if a law had been given that could impart life,  
then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.  
22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world  
is a prisoner of sin, [**Psalm 14:1-3**]  
so that what was promised,  
being given through faith in Yahshua the Messiah,  
might be given to those who believe.  
23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law,  
locked up until faith should be revealed.  
24 So the law was our tutor to lead us to the Messiah,  
that we might be justified by faith.  
25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the tutor.  
26 You are all sons of Elohim  
through faith in the Messiah Yahshua.

Can you imagine a man hiring a tutor for his son  
to teach him what he needs to know  
and then, when his son comes of age,  
telling him to forget what the tutor taught him?  
Certainly not!  
He will tell him, "Now that you are of age  
you must remember and use all the things your tutor taught you.  
These are the things that will make you successful in life.  
That is why I provided the wisest tutor for you."

In the same way, we must keep Yahweh's law  
to enjoy the blessings of doing things right  
and pleasing our Father who provided the law for us.

We could look at this next passage as being an extension of the same idea of Yahweh's law being our tutor.

The tutor was empowered to beat the student as part of his job.

**Galatians 5:1-6** Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which the Messiah has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised [for salvation], the Messiah will profit you nothing.

3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised [for salvation] that he is a debtor to keep the whole law [for salvation].

4 You have become estranged from the Messiah, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. [Yahweh's grace lifted us up]

5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in the Messiah Yahshua neither circumcision nor un-circumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

So, if the law is not the most important thing, what is?

Faith and love working together within us!

With strong faith and strong love for Yahweh and for other people keeping the law will be automatic.

Without this faith and love we remain in the flesh.

The carnal nature will do what carnal flesh does:

**Galatians 5:19-21** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,  
20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies,

outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,  
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;  
of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past,  
that those who practice such things  
will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh.

All these things (which are against Yahweh's Torah law) will keep us out of the Kingdom.

We must remember that these works are to be understood as Yahshua explained in Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

We don't have to physically do them to be condemned as guilty.

If we desire them in our heart we fall in condemnation.

This passage is the strongest list of requirements for salvation in Galatians.

Paul has also made it very clear that our law-keeping can never take the place of Yahshua's sacrifice for our forgiveness.

**Ephesians** and **Philippians** are important books to understand because they also present some things that have been twisted.

Be sure to grasp Paul's message correctly, it is a matter of life and death.

**Ephesians 1:4-14** [Yahweh] chose us in Him [Yahshua] before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,  
5 having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Yahshua the Messiah to Himself,  
according to the good pleasure of His will,  
6 to the praise of the glory of His grace,  
by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.  
7 In Him we have redemption through His blood,  
the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace  
8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will,  
according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,  
10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times  
He might gather together in one all things in the Messiah,  
both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

In verse 5, Paul says we are **predestined** to be Yahweh's sons.

What exactly does this mean to us?

Does it mean we don't need to do anything to be saved?

Well, it couldn't mean that, because we have already seen many scriptures that show *there are* actions required to be saved.

It could possibly mean that Yahweh has looked into our future and seen that we will do those things required.

It may also mean that He will give us certain assistance in our life.

Perhaps He will guide our genetic makeup

and make sure that we get the education we will need.

11-14 NLT Furthermore, because of the Messiah,  
we have received an inheritance from Yahweh,  
for He chose us from the beginning,  
and all things happen just as He decided long ago.

12 Yahweh's purpose was that we  
who were the first to trust in the Messiah  
should praise our glorious Elohim.

13 And now you also have heard the truth,  
the Good News that Yahweh saves you.

And when you believed in the Messiah,  
he identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit,  
which He promised long ago. 14 Which is Yahweh's guarantee  
that He will give us everything He promised  
and that He has purchased us to be His own people.  
So we praise our glorious Elohim.

Some have claimed that this passage shows that all professing  
believers **are already** saved.

Anyone who understands that salvation includes eternal life **as a perfect spirit being** will know that they do not presently have it.

Let us consider if this passage proves that all professing believers will surely be saved.

Please also see the discussion of predestination after Romans 8:29-30 on page 64

In **Ephesians 1:13** above Paul writes that when you believed in the Messiah, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit  
In **Acts 5:32** Peter declares that Yahweh's Holy Spirit is given to those who OBEY Him.

If the scripture cannot contradict itself, then that means that those who truly believe in the Messiah do obey Yahweh.

This conclusion agrees with the other truths we have seen.

**Ephesians 2:4-10** But Yahweh, who is rich in mercy,  
because of His great love with which He loved us,  
5 even when we were dead in trespasses,  
made us alive together with the Messiah  
(by grace you have been saved),  
6 and raised *us* up together,  
and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places*  
in the Messiah Yahshua,

“Scholars have compared the image of the exaltation of believers in 2:6 with the fairly common Jewish image of the righteous enthroned in the world to come; [Believers] have come to experience the life of the coming age in advance. The context would drive an additional point home especially forcefully to readers once enslaved by fear of Fate or the stars. To be “seated with [the Messiah]” means in 2:6 what it meant in 1:20-21 – to be enthroned over evil powers. [Believers] need not fear demons, Fate or anything else;

their lives are ruled by [Yahweh].”  
IVP Bible Background Commentary by Craig S. Keener PhD,  
1993, InterVarsity Press, p.544.

7 that in the ages to come  
He might show the exceeding riches of His grace  
in *His* kindness toward us in the Messiah Yahshua.  
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of Yahweh,  
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.  
10 For we are His workmanship,  
created in the Messiah Yahshua for good works,  
which Yahweh prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We must never forget that it is Yahweh who saves us  
by the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah  
We may now be relatively righteous  
but our righteousness can never save us  
from the penalty for our past sins.  
Only Yahshua’s blood can do that.  
As we have seen  
Yahshua and the Apostles say many times,  
we must remain righteous to keep our salvation.  
See **Ephesians 5:5** below (p. 89) for example.

We need to understand this next passage  
because some try to use it to prove things it does not say.  
**Ephesians 2:11-22** Therefore remember that you,  
once Gentiles in the flesh;  
who are called “Un-circumcision”  
by what is called “the Circumcision” made in the flesh by hands;  
12 that at that time you were without the Messiah,  
being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel  
and strangers from the covenants of promise,  
having no hope and without Elohim in the world.

13 But now in the Messiah Yahshua  
you who once were far off  
have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.  
14 For He Himself is our peace,  
who has made both one,  
and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

In the second temple,  
which was still standing at the time of this letter,  
non-Jews were not allowed into the court of the temple.  
There was another courtyard called the court of the Gentiles  
where they were allowed to worship.  
A low wall separated the court of the Gentiles from the inner court.  
This court and the dividing wall were invented by the priests.  
There is no ordinance found in Yahweh’s word  
about any such court or wall.  
Paul is contending that Yahshua’s blood  
makes the Gentiles part of Yahweh’s people  
just as much as any Jew.  
Gentiles who are immersed are adopted into Yahweh's family  
by the covenant they make through Yahshua the Messiah.  
This baptism covenant effectively breaks down  
the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles.  
Yahweh desires both groups to come to Him together  
in unity through Yahshua.

15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity,  
*that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances,  
so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two,  
*thus* making peace,

The law that was abolished by Yahshua’s sacrifice  
is NOT the law of Yahweh.  
It is the ordinances made by the Jews  
to keep people they thought were unclean

from making the temple and the Jewish people unclean.  
Those laws made the Jews and the Gentiles enemies of each other.

It is interesting to note that this letter to the Ephesians was written by Paul from prison.  
What was he in prison for?  
He was wrongly accused of bringing a Gentile through that wall of partition!  
To the Jews this was a capital offence  
The Romans let them execute those who violated these rules.  
You can read the story of Paul's case in **Acts 21:17** through the end of Acts.

*16* and that He might reconcile them both to Yahweh in one body through the tree,  
thereby putting to death the enmity [the tradition of being enemies].  
*17* And He came and preached peace to you [Gentiles] who were afar off and to those [Jews] who were near.  
*18* For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.  
*19* Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of Yahweh,  
*20* having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yahshua the Messiah Himself being the chief corner *stone*,  
*21* in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Master,  
*22* in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of Yahweh in the Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:5** For this you know, that no fornicator,

unclean person,  
nor covetous man, who is an idolater,  
has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Messiah and Yahweh.

This last verse contains requirements for salvation from Ephesians.

**Philippians 1:27-28** NIV Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the good news of the Messiah.  
Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the good news  
*28* without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by Yahweh.

Paul tells the Philippian brethren to stand together and to be firm in their faith so that others will know they are to be saved by Yahweh.

**Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul tells us we must DO SOMETHING about our own salvation. This is not trivial, but a pursuit to be carried out in fear and even in quaking terror.

The final scripture from **Philippians 3** gives us Paul's personal valuation of Yahweh's salvation. He has told us many times about the effort we must spend to assure and secure the salvation we have received. In this passage he tells us the value he personally places on it.

Have you had the idea that Paul wanted you to feel secure in your salvation and be confident that there is nothing you need to do or keep from doing to be assured of salvation?

If so, then you have not carefully read what Paul wrote in 3:8-15.

Yahshua has indeed already done everything He needed to do.

**Now we must do everything we need to do.**

**Philippians 3:8-15** NLT Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing the Messiah Yahshua my Master.

I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have the Messiah

9 NKJV and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law,

but that which *is* through faith in the Messiah, the righteousness which is from Elohim by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings,

being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 NLT I don't mean to say that

I have already achieved these things

or that I have already reached perfection!

But **I keep working** so that I will finally be

all that the Messiah Yahshua saved me for and wants me to be.

13 NKJV Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*,

forgetting those things which are behind

and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize

of the upward call of Elohim in the Messiah Yahshua.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature,

have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise,

Elohim will reveal even this to you.

## Colossians and Thessalonians

We march on in our study of salvation in the New Testament.

Now we come to Colossi and Thessalonika.

These cities may be 400 miles apart as the crow flies but they're only a page apart in our Bibles.

In time, Colossians was probably written about ten years after the Thessalonian epistles.

Let's see what they have to say about salvation.

This passage provides a simple expression of thanks for salvation:

**Colossians 1:12-14** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

How has He done that?

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness

and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul seems to be saying that we presently have forgiveness of our sins.

But he does not specifically say

we already have forgiveness of sins we will commit tomorrow.

That would be a large and important step!

That future forgiveness is assured

but it requires our repentance and confession before the Father

(See **1 John 1:9 -2:1**, on page 48).

Paul is a little clearer in this next passage.

Notice the IF:

**Colossians 1:21-23** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death,  
to present you holy, and blameless,  
and above reproach in His sight;  
23 IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH,  
grounded and steadfast,  
and are not moved away  
from the hope of the good news which you heard,  
which was preached to every creature under heaven,  
of which I, Paul, became a minister.

To become a member of the tribes of Israel, foreign people had to accept the law of Yahweh and all the males had to be circumcised. Later the ritual of washing for cleanness was also part of the process. In the congregation of Yahshua's followers the process of the washing by immersion covers the circumcision part also. Paul explains: (Using the New Living translation for clarity).

**Colossians 2:11-14** NLT

When you came to the Messiah, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure--the cutting away of your sinful nature. 12 For you were buried with the Messiah when you were immersed. And with Him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of Yahweh, who raised the Messiah from the dead. 13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then Yahweh made you alive with the Messiah. He forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He erased it by nailing it to the stake.

This is a wonderful passage! And it is very informative. Especially verse 14. When we sinned, the adversary was careful to make a note of it.

He writes up a charge against us so that we may be thrown into the lake of fire at the last judgement. The angels also record our sins. However Yahshua takes those accusations and when we repent of our sins and trust in His sacrifice He nails them to the base of His execution stake. There they are figuratively covered with His cleansing blood. Now, if anyone wants to draw attention to those accusations they must go to that stake and there they will see those sins covered with the pure blood of Yahshua the Messiah. Yahshua did not cancel the law, He covered the list of charges against believers with His blood.

Remember this important requirement from **Colossians**:  
Continue in the Faith

**Thessalonians**

We notice in these next three passages that Paul links works with salvation and encourages us to continue in good works so that we may be assured of salvation. Yahweh will not have anyone in His kingdom who rebels against His commands. May we all be careful to obey the Father in all we do.

**2 Thessalonians 1:3-5** We are bound to thank Yahweh always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the congregations of Yahweh for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of Elohim, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of Yahweh,

for which you also suffer;

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12** NLT We keep on praying for you, that our Elohim will make you worthy of this calling.

And we pray that Yahweh, by His power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds.

12 Then everyone will give honor to the name of our Master Yahshua because of you, and you will be honored along with Him.

This is all made possible because of the undeserved favor of our Elohim and our Master Yahshua the Messiah.

This passage is important for two reasons.

First, Paul prays that these believers will be **made worthy** of their calling.

This is called sanctification in other places. (See page 105)

It shows us that our initial confession is not necessarily sufficient for salvation.

Second it shows that we have the great power of Yahweh working with us in our struggle to overcome!

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** Now may our Master Yahshua the Messiah Himself, and our Elohim and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

From **Thessalonians** we learned we must have patience and faith in all our persecutions and tribulations.

## Timothy

Paul begins his first letter to Timothy with an encouraging statement that could have been embarrassing to Paul:

**1 Timothy 1:13-16** I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man;

but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Master was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in the Messiah Yahshua.

15 This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that the Messiah Yahshua came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

16 NLT But that is why Yahweh had mercy on me, so that the Messiah Yahshua could use me as a prime example of His great patience *with even the worst sinners*.

Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.

With such mercy and grace available from Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah, perhaps I too can be saved. Of course Paul *did* repent and thereafter did his best to obey Yahshua.

**1 Timothy 2:1-6** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all righteousness and reverence.

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved

and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For *there is* one Elohim and one Mediator

between Yahweh and men, *the* Man Yahshua the Messiah,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Some have said that verse 4 shows that everyone will be saved. They reason that Yahweh can do anything He wants and if He wants someone to be saved He can do it. When they say this they have to ignore many of the scriptures we have been considering which say that people who do certain things will not be saved.

What Paul meant is that Yahweh would like it if people would decide to do right so they *could* be saved. ANY person who yields himself or herself to Yahweh has the same salvation available to them. Even if they have done terrible things in the past as Paul had done.

**1 Timothy 3:14-15** These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; *15* but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of Yahweh, which is the congregation of the living Elohim, the pillar and ground of the truth.

There is a way to behave in Yahweh's congregation. Paul does not say that our behavior there affects our salvation but that implication may be drawn. It's something to consider.

**1 Timothy 6:12-16** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. *13* I urge you in the sight of Yahweh who gives life to all things, and *before* the Messiah Yahshua who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

*14* that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Master Yahshua the Messiah's appearing, *15* which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Mighty One, the King of kings and Master of rulers, *16* who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Here Paul tells us that an emotional and spiritual battle is before all who seek to be saved. We must continue in the same vein in which we confessed our desire to follow Yahshua. We must try hard to be blameless when Yahshua appears to take His called-out ones.

Paul has this word for those who have worldly goods: **1 Timothy 6:18-19** *Let them* do good, that they be rich in **good works**, ready to give, willing to share, *19.* storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, **that they may lay hold on eternal life.**

### **2 Timothy 1:8-10**

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Master, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the good news according to the power of Yahweh, *9* who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in the Messiah Yahshua before time began, *10* but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Yahshua the Messiah, *who* has abolished death

and brought life and immortality to light through the good news.

Paul says (vs 9) we have been called but NOT according to our works. His own calling is a good example of that. Yahshua called Paul to be a believer while he was still persecuting the congregations. (**Acts 22:4-7**) We have been called, “according to His own purpose and grace.” That means Yahweh called us to fulfill some plan He had for us. Or because He liked something He saw in us.

Paul speaks (vs 10) as though Yahshua’s work is already finished. He says that Yahshua abolished death, however we know that people are still dying. Yahshua has indeed finished His part of the work. His sacrifice has been made. But death has not yet been abolished or done away with. Billions will die before death's work is done.

Yahshua has revealed life and immortality through the good news of Yahweh’s Kingdom, but that Kingdom has not yet been established in full.

This next scripture just says the scriptures are important to salvation but doesn’t give any specific command: **2 Timothy 3:14-15** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in the Messiah Yahshua.

Paul was writing about what we call the Old Testament scriptures.

The early congregations didn't have the NT scriptures in any real sense

A word for pastors:  
**2 Timothy 4:1-2** I charge *you* therefore before Yahweh and the Master Yahshua the Messiah, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:  
2 Preach the word!  
Be ready in season *and* out of season!  
Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and teaching.

Paul is just telling the Evangelist Timothy to take his work for Yahweh seriously since he will be judged by Yahshua.

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**  
For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
7 I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.  
8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul is not planning on coasting into the Kingdom. He has “fought” and “finished” and diligently “kept”. He is not looking forward to a crown of “I once confessed Jesus.” The righteous judge of all people will not judge him leniently, based on what he once said; He will judge righteously based also on what Paul has DONE.

## Titus

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of Yahweh that brings salvation has appeared to all men,  
12 teaching us that,  
denying unrighteousness and worldly lusts,  
we should live soberly, righteously, and piously in the present age,  
13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great Elohim and Savior Yahshua the Messiah,  
14 who gave Himself for us,  
that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people,  
zealous for good works.

Yahshua gave Himself SO THAT He could get us away from lawbreaking and purify us and motivate us to be excited about doing good things. Yahweh's law defines what Yahweh considers good, what He wants us to do; how He wants us to behave. Doing good things means keeping Yahweh's law.

**Titus 3:4-8** But when the kindness and the love toward man of Yahweh our Savior appeared,  
5 He saved us, not by works of righteousness which we had done, but according to His mercy through the washing of rebirth and renewing by the Holy Spirit,  
6 which He poured out on us abundantly through Yahshua the Messiah our Savior,  
7 so that, having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.  
8 This is a faithful saying, and I want you to constantly affirm these things,

so that those who have believed in Yahweh should be careful to **maintain good works.**  
These things are good and profitable for everyone.

Paul repeats the same ideas as the previous passage in different words.

Yahshua cleansed us from our sins by baptism in His name and Yahweh graciously accepted Yahshua's sacrifice for us so that we could become His children and heirs and gain eternal life.

What follows from this washing and grace is that those so blessed should respond by DOING what Yahweh desires – follow His instructions.

Summary of additional requirements from **Timothy** and **Titus**

Be blameless until our Master Yahshua the Messiah's appearing

Live soberly, righteously, and piously

Be zealous for good works.

## The Epistle To the Hebrew Believers

The epistle to Hebrews is included with Paul's epistles even though its author is not clearly identified.

A discussion of the authorship of Hebrews is outside the scope of this work.

Our first scripture does not give any requirements for salvation but it does shed some light on Yahweh's method

And the costs.

**Hebrews 2:9-12** But we see Yahshua, crowned with glory and honor, who for the suffering of death was made a little lower than the angels, so that He, by the grace of Yahweh, might taste death for everyone.

*10* For it was fitting for Him [The Father], for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

*11* For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one *family*, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, *12* saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to You."

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Yahshua the Son of Yahweh, let us hold fast *our* confession.

*15* For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, *yet is* without sin.

*16* Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,

that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Just how we come before Yahweh's throne of grace is taught in **1 John 1:9** (p. 48) and in **Hebrews 10:19-22**.

This passage again tells of the cost of our salvation:

**Hebrews 5:8-11** though He [Yahshua] was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. *9* And having been perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Logical deduction says that if I don't obey, then I can not be sure that He is a source of salvation for me.

**Hebrews 6:10-12** For Yahweh *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His Name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. *11* And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, *12* that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Another reference to our part in keeping our salvation secure.

This next passage is better translated in other versions than in NKJV.

The reference is to a pattern of sinning, after a full understanding that it is wrong and against Yahweh's law:

**Hebrews 10:26-31** LIT For if we are willfully sinning after we have received the full knowledge of the truth,

there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,  
27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment,  
and fiery indignation which will consume the adversaries.  
28 If anyone does not regard Moses' law he dies without mercy  
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.  
29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose,  
will he be thought worthy  
who has trampled the Son of Elohim underfoot,  
counted the blood of the covenant by which He was sanctified  
a common thing,  
and insulted the Spirit of grace?  
30 For we know Him who said,  
"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says Yahweh.  
And again, "Yahweh will judge His people."  
31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.

Once saved - always saved? Not according to these verses!

**Hebrews 10:37-39** "For yet a little while,  
*And* He who is coming will come and will not tarry.  
38 Now the just shall live by faith;  
But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."  
39 But we are not of those who draw back to destruction,  
but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

We must be faithful to fulfill our part  
of the covenant we have made!

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*,  
for he who comes to Yahweh must believe that He is,  
and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

**Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who  
corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect.  
Shall we not much more readily

**be in subjection to the Father** of spirits and **live**?

Do we want to have life? Then we must do what Yahweh desires.

**Hebrews 12:14-15** Pursue peace with all,  
and holiness, without which no one will see Yahweh:  
15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of Yahweh;  
lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble,  
and by this many become defiled;

Peace with everyone is sometimes not a priority  
with Yahweh's called-out ones.  
Some seem to think we can win an argument but lose a brother  
and it will be all right with Yahweh.

NO SO!  
Sanctification (becoming holy and dedicated to Yahweh)  
must also be a priority for Yahweh's people.  
That's another large topic under the subject of salvation.  
Bitterness is an attitude that can also  
keep us out of Yahweh's family.

The ones who inherit Yahweh's kingdom  
will be rather special people.  
YOU have the capacity to become one of them!

Summary of requirements from **Hebrews**:

- Obey Yahshua
- Do not sin willfully
- Believe that Yahweh exists, and rewards those who seek Him
- Pursue peace with all
- Pursue holiness
- Avoid bitterness which can defile us

## Part 4

### How Baptism Relates to Salvation

Many people believe that baptism is a requirement for salvation. We do not find that as a specific command.

We do find Yahshua saying,

**John 3:5** “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of Yahweh.”

We understand “born of water,” as referring to baptism.

And,

**Mark 16:16** “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

The first line would indicate that baptism is a key to salvation but the second line allows that it is not strictly necessary.

The consistent practice of the NT congregations was to baptize new believers.

My conclusion is that a person should be baptized for the initial forgiveness of sins and as a sign of entering into the new covenant with Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah.

However if the person just has not gotten baptized *yet* because of no one being near to do it or cold weather or for whatever reason then Yahweh will look at their heart and consider their faith.

Yahshua promised salvation to the thief on the stake (**Luke 23:43**) and He also said that He would speak for those who had spoken for Him, (**Matthew 10:32**).

On judgement day I would not want to be in the position of one who *refused* baptism.

## Part 5

### Atonement

The Day of Atonement is one of the most interesting Holy Days.

There is a detailed description of the ceremony in **Leviticus 16**.

Commentaries have given various explanations of it.

But we’re going to look at the New Testament scriptures that mention atonement

and their effect on our understanding of salvation.

In the KJV NT “atonement.” is usually translated “propitiation” which is an archaic word for a sin-offering.

**Luke 18:13-14** "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying,

'Elohim, be merciful to me a sinner!'

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other;

for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

"Merciful" in v. 13 is from the same Greek word as "atonement." The tax collector is asking to be given atonement for his sins.

Paul writes about how Yahweh made the arrangement to have our sins forgiven.

**Romans 3:21-26** But now the righteousness of Elohim apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of Elohim, through faith in Yahshua the Messiah, to all and on all who believe.

For there is no difference [Jews or non-Jews];

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Elohim,

24 being justified freely by His grace  
through the redemption that is in the Messiah Yahshua,  
25 whom Yahweh set forth *as* a propitiation [sin-offering]  
by His [Yahshua's] blood,  
through faith,  
to demonstrate His righteousness,  
because in His [Yahweh's] forbearance  
Yahweh had passed over the sins that were **previously committed**,  
26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness,  
that He might be just  
and the justifier of the one who has faith in Yahshua.

By grace are we saved through faith.  
Halleluyah!

Notice that only, “the sins that were previously committed” (v 25)  
are passed over.

Please review page 48 for what to do about any sins after baptism.

The writer of Hebrews emphasizes the suffering of Yahshua  
as an element in Yahweh's plan for our salvation:  
**Hebrews 2:10-17** For it was fitting for Him [Yahweh],  
for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things,  
in bringing many sons to glory,  
to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both He who sanctifies [Yahshua]  
and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one,  
for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,  
12 saying, “I will declare Your name to My brethren;  
In the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to You.”  
[**Psalm 22:23**].

13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” [**Isaiah 8:17** LXX].  
And again: “Here am I  
and the children whom Elohim has given Me.” [**Isaiah 8:18**].

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood,  
He Himself likewise shared in the same, [being a human]  
that through death  
He might destroy him who had the power of death,  
that is, the devil,  
15 and release those who through fear of death  
were all their lifetime subject to bondage.  
16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels,  
but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.  
17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren,  
that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest  
in service to Elohim,  
to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews also is the only place in the NT  
where the Day of Atonement is specifically referred to.  
The author refers to the Tabernacle built at Moses' direction.  
It had to be an exact copy of Yahweh's throne room in Heaven:  
**Hebrews 9:2-15** For a tabernacle was prepared:  
the first *part*, in which *was* the lamp-stand,  
the table, and the show-bread,  
which is called the sanctuary;  
3 and behind the second veil,  
the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,  
4 which had the golden censer [a pot with holes for burning incense]  
and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold,  
in which *were* the golden pot that had the manna,  
Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;  
5 and above it were the cherubim of glory  
overshadowing the mercy seat.  
Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

The word translated ‘mercy seat’ in verse 5  
is the same as the word for atonement.  
This is also true in the Old Testament.

'*Kippur*' is atonement and '*kapporeth*' is mercy seat.  
Both words came from the same root meaning 'to cover'.

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared,  
the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle,  
performing *the services*.

7 But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year,  
not without blood, which he offered for himself  
and *for* the people's sins *committed* in ignorance;

8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All  
was not yet made manifest [clearly shown]  
while the first tabernacle was still standing.

9 It *was* symbolic for the present time  
in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered  
which cannot make him who performed the service  
perfect in regard to the conscience;

10 *concerned* only with foods and drinks, various washings,  
and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

11 But the Messiah came  
*as* High Priest of the good things to come,  
with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands,  
that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves,  
but with His own blood  
He entered the Most Holy Place once for all,  
having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer,  
sprinkling the unclean,  
sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of the Messiah,  
who through the eternal Spirit  
offered Himself without spot to Elohim,  
cleanse your conscience from works that lead to death  
to serve the living Elohim?

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant,

by means of death,  
for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant,  
so that those who are called  
may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

John says it in fewer words:

**1 John 2:1-2** My little children, these things I write to you, so that  
you may not sin.

And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father,  
Yahshua the Messiah the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins,  
and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

John also makes it clear that  
the forgiveness of our sins puts us under obligation  
to love those whom Yahweh is calling out as His children.

**1 John 4:10-11** In this is love,  
not that we loved Yahweh,  
but that He loved us  
and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if Elohim so loved us,  
we also ought to love one another.

So let it be, Father.

This review of the New Testament has revealed in a powerful way that Yahweh has many definite **requirements for action** on the part of those who desire eternal life.

Yahweh wants those in His kingdom

who want to and who DO obey His voice.

When Yahweh speaks, His true children obey.

(A word to the wise parents among us.)

Yahweh requires His children to:

Rely in faith on Yahshua, His Anointed One, for Salvation

Keep His commandments

Overcome the carnality of the world as little children

Bear fruit for His kingdom

Have a personality of great faith and hope

Love all men and especially other believers.

One requirement stands out by its omission from scripture.

In spite of what some religious leaders may say,

there is no requirement to be in any certain congregation.

It appears that Yahweh's children may be found in various groups.

Anyone who tells you that you have to belong to their group to be saved is not in agreement with scripture.

To put it very plainly, they are lying and they should know it.

Let us all continue to work harder towards these lofty goals, working with Yahshua and with the Father Yahweh to bear good fruit.

May Yahweh bless you and your family with His love,

May you all stand at that last day.

The ones who inherit Yahweh's kingdom

will be rather special people.

YOU have the capacity to become one of them!

With Yahweh's help we can each stand before Yahshua as righteous children of Yahweh on that last day.

Fight the good fight!

Stay on that narrow path!

Yahshua will help us if we work with Him.

May Yahweh bless our struggle to attain our goal of salvation.

HalleluYAH!

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