

Kehilah Portland



A Messianic Jewish Synagogue

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Messianic Perspectives

Shalom and welcome to Messianic Perspectives – a program aired on radio stations WRKJ 88.5 and WMTP 91.1 in Maine, with the purpose of exploring the scriptures from a Jewish point of view. Paul, whose Hebrew name is Sha'ul writes in Romans 9:4 – 5:

Rom 9:4 the people of Isra'el! They were made God's children, the Sh'khinah has been with them, the covenants are theirs, likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;

Rom 9:5 the Patriarchs are theirs; and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all. Praised be Adonai for ever! Amen.

It is from this perspective that we will explore the relationship between the Tenach – the Jewish Bible and the Brith Hadoshah – the New Covenant writings.

Today's topic – Torah and Application

Hab 2:4 "Look at the proud: he is inwardly not upright; but the righteous will attain life through trusting faithfulness.

These words are from Habbakuk chapter 2 and verse 4. It is used to tell us that the righteous person, the believer is to live by faith. Yet what is often overlooked is the righteous person.

How is one deemed to be righteous?

Many believe nothing else is required but faith in Messiah, and you are therefore deemed righteous. In previous episodes I mentioned Z'kharyah and Elisheva, parents of Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptist) and how they were deemed righteous through observing all the mitzvot and ordinances that applied to them.

Sha'ul writes the following:

Gal 2:15 We are Jews by birth, not so-called 'Goyishe sinners';

Gal 2:16 even so, we have come to realize that a person is not declared righteous by God on the ground of his legalistic observance of Torah commands, but through the Messiah Yeshua's trusting faithfulness. Therefore, we too have put our trust in Messiah Yeshua and become faithful to him, in order that we might be declared righteous on the ground of the Messiah's trusting faithfulness and not on the ground of our legalistic observance of Torah commands. For on the ground of legalistic observance of Torah commands, no one will be declared righteous.

What are legalistic Torah commands?

These are the additional instructions found in what was identified last time as the Tradition of the Elders, also known as the oral law and is today comprised as the Talmud.

Sha'ul concludes this section stating the following:

Gal 2:19 For it was through letting the Torah speak for itself that I died to its traditional legalistic misinterpretation, so that I might live in direct relationship with God.

Torah itself, not the additional traditions.

Now, keep in mind that we can not view Torah in a vacuum. As Messianic believers, we relate Torah to the words of Messiah, Rabbi Sha'ul and the other authors of the New Covenant Writings. They did not create anything new that didn't already exist, but have provided insight in relation to correct and intended understanding of Torah.

Remember, not all Torah applies to all people. Just as with Z'kharyah and Elisheva, they each had instructions that applied to both of them, but also instructions that applied only to Z'kharyah and instructions that applied only to Elisheva.

Know the difference.

We become righteous by turning from our old nature and to Adonai. We will focus on this subject for the next few episodes.

During the month of June, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message "Covenant Confusion" to anyone sending a tax deductible gift in any amount in support of this ministry and Portland's only Messianic Jewish Synagogue, Kehillah Portland. If God places this ministry upon your heart, please send your offering to Jewish Heritage Revival – 12 Liberty Lane, Unit 68, South Portland, ME 04106. Please be sure to include your name and address so that we may send you a copy of the message and your tax deductible receipt.

Past episodes of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site – www.shalommaine.com

Feel free to send your questions and comments to info@jewishheritagerevival.com

So, until next time when we will continue our journey into Messianic Perspectives, todah and shalom (thank you and peace)

Messianic Perspectives is brought to you by Kehilah Portland, a Messianic Jewish Synagogue located in South Portland, where both Jew and non-Jew come together to worship on Shabbat and believe Yeshua is the Messiah spoken of in scripture and is the fulfillment of many promises given to Israel and the Jewish people. We meet every Saturday at 1338 Broadway Ave. in the Greater Portland Christian School gymnasium. Our service begins at 10:00 with meet and greet, followed by Torah study at 1 pm.