

Notes: April 24 2021

Start: 10 AM

**Order of service:**

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Justify, Rationalize, Support

As Believers, that is one who has come to trust in the Word of Adonai and thus have accepted and embraced the actions of Yeshua that have made a way for being able to draw near to Adonai.

When we accept and embrace such a belief, our life is forever changed, or at the very least it should be.

Revealed to us is a whole new world that exists within the world we once knew exclusively and yet we are to function in this world, yet must be transformed.

What does this mean?

When introduced to the world that is the Kingdom of Adonai, we are to remain in this world but we are not to be consumed by this world. As Yeshua was praying in the garden, he uttered these words about us...

**Joh 17:15** I don't ask you to take them out of the world, but to protect them from the Evil One.

**Joh 17:16** They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

**Joh 17:17** Set them apart for holiness by means of the truth—your word is truth.

**Joh 17:18** Just as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Yeshua is praying for us as we remain in the world and yet are not consumed by or conform to the world and its ways. This is the very dynamic of what being set apart is. Holiness represents being distinct, in this manner not common. Common is following the ways of the world, while Holiness is following the ways of

Adonai as revealed through His Word and expressed through the Words of Yeshua. One does not contradict the other as many have been taught, yet one is to corroborate that is affirm the other.

When Yeshua was confronted by the P'rushim regarding His healing of a man possessed by a demon. They believed the source of His power to expel the demon was of the Adversary which led to the following:

**Mat 12:22** Then some people brought him a man controlled by demons who was blind and mute; and Yeshua healed him, so that he could both speak and see.

**Mat 12:23** The crowds were astounded and asked, "This couldn't be the Son of David, could it?"

**Mat 12:24** But when the P'rushim heard of it, they said, "It is only by Ba`al-Zibbul"—the ruler of the demons—"that this man drives out demons."

**Mat 12:25** However, knowing what they were thinking, Yeshua said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not survive.

**Mat 12:26** If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; so how can his kingdom survive?

**Mat 12:27** Besides, if I drive out demons by Ba`al-Zibbul, by whom do your people drive them out? So, they will be your judges!

**Mat 12:28** But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you!

**Mat 12:29** "Or again, how can someone break into a strong man's house and make off with his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? After that he can ransack his house.

**Mat 12:30** "Those who are not with me are against me, and those who do not gather with me are scattering.

**Mat 12:31** Because of this, I tell you that people will be forgiven any sin and blasphemy, but blaspheming the Ruach HaKodesh will not be forgiven.

**Mat 12:32** One can say something against the Son of Man and be forgiven; but whoever keeps on speaking against the Ruach HaKodesh will never be forgiven, neither in the `olam hazeh nor in the `olam haba.

Thus we as believers are not required to justify or rationalize what we believe but to support what we believe. We are to support it by what has been revealed to us, for Sha'ul conveys, referencing Psalm 94...

**1Co 3:18** Let no one fool himself. If someone among you thinks he is wise (by this world's standards), let him become "foolish," so that he may become really wise.

**1Co 3:19** For the wisdom of this world is nonsense, as far as God is concerned; inasmuch as the Tanakh says, **"He traps the wise in their own cleverness,"**

**1Co 3:20** and again, "Adonai knows that the thoughts of the wise are worthless."

**1Co 3:21** So let no one boast about human beings, for all things are yours—

**1Co 3:22** whether Sha'ul or Apollos or Kefa or the world or life or death or the present or the future: they all belong to you,

**1Co 3:23** and you belong to the Messiah, and the Messiah belongs to God.

Consider Adonai's revelation through the Psalmist pertaining to the foolish actions of those who are of the world...

**Psa 7:11** God is a righteous judge, a God whose anger is present every day.

**Psa 7:12** If a person will not repent, he sharpens his sword. He has bent his bow, made it ready;

**Psa 7:13** he has also prepared for him weapons of death, his arrows, which he has made into burning shafts.

**Psa 7:14** Look how the wicked is pregnant with evil; he conceives trouble, gives birth to lies.

Psa 7:15 He makes a pit, digs it deep, and falls into the hole he made.

Psa 7:16 His mischief will return onto his own head, his violence will recoil onto his own skull.

Psa 7:17 I thank Adonai for his righteousness and sing praise to the name of Adonai `Elyon.

They have gone about their own way, that is the way of this world and yet are "digging" their own graves as they pursue this very path that leads to destruction. This very path that is contrary to the Word of Adonai and thus the teachings of Yeshua. Yet what happens.

Let me share with you my experience both as a believer and prior to becoming a believer and what I have concluded.

Technically, people can always be grouped into two categories.

- Jew and Gentile
- Male and Female
- Married and Single
- Free and Slave
- Believer and Non-Believer

To name a few. Yet, let's look at the last example because it too can be broken down into two categories. The non-believer can be identified through two known positions.

- Atheist and Agnostic

Those who do not embrace and therefore do not follow Yeshua are either Atheist or Agnostic. As I share this with you I am not aware of any further categories, but considering the emphasis on non-binary, that is more than two options. Computer code is binary, comprising a combinations of zeros and ones in a grouping known as resolution, so when you hear of something like 16 bit resolution it is a combination of 16 zeros and ones offering 256 possible combinations thus 256 different configurations. Your phones have a nice graphical user interface, yet underneath all of that ease of use functionality are zeros and ones.

We have seen the same thing occur in Mass., whereby there is no longer a binary option on a driver's license for identifying your gender.

I do believe this has not reached the non-believers of the world. Just as with the examples I had provided, there is a distinct difference between being and Atheist and Agnostic.

Atheist - a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.

While...

Agnostic - a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God.

An Atheist's position towards God is rather defined while one who identifies as Agnostic is not certain.

Thus the manner by which each embraces their positions differ as well.

In my experience I have found Atheist tend to justify their position. (To Justify - show or prove to be right or reasonable.) They have come to the conclusion, however that may have been that God does not exist and thus justify their position base on those means. The Big Bang, Darwin, whatever it may have been to form their

position, they are now set to justify it regardless of any other information. The Bible can't be the Word of God because God doesn't exist. They have established their own dogma - a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true, establishing their own authorities.

While one who is Agnostic has claimed neither faith nor disbelief in God.

This position I can relate to rather well in that I am a former Agnostic, that is a former fence sitter. I neither had faith in God yet was not ready to declare His non-existence.

I had a sense of pride in that I didn't pray at all nor relied it, but had faith in my doctors, medication and the power of the human body to heal, yet did not embrace the creator and giver of life.

While at another time in 1998 I was struggling and actually reached out to God with my first words being "God if you are real" followed by what I believe the Agnostic tactic of rationalization.

Rationalize - attempt to explain (one's own behavior or attitude) with logical, plausible reasons, even if these are not true or appropriate.

Been down that road already and that road led me to the path of Yeshua and the narrow gate two years later. He heard me but did not answer me when I wanted Him to nor as I expected Him to. Yet, He did answer in the manner that cast all doubt aside. Thus I got off my fence just as Zakkai got down from the tree...

**Luk 19:1** Yeshua entered Yericho and was passing through,

**Luk 19:2** when a man named Zakkai appeared who was a chief tax-collector and a wealthy man.

**Luk 19:3** He was trying to see who Yeshua was; but, being short, he couldn't, because of the crowd.

**Luk 19:4** So he ran on ahead and climbed a fig tree in order to see him, for Yeshua was about to pass that way.

**Luk 19:5** When he came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zakkai! Hurry! Come down, because I have to stay at your house today!"

**Luk 19:6** He climbed down as fast as he could and welcomed Yeshua joyfully.

Those very words Yeshua spoke to Zakkai are words that have been spoken to each of us when we start to pursue Yeshua. Zakkai was curious, as was I, with the help of a certain woman feeding into that curiosity once I got past rationalizing my beliefs it wouldn't be much after that, that I too welcomed Yeshua joyfully. Ant thus here we are today.

We as believers should support our position for there is no need to justify it because the Word of Adonai has done that for us. He has laid out everything for us, establishing a foundation and thus a lifestyle that was made known to Isra'el and then through Yeshua would go forth to all the world. For from the passage in Matthew where Yeshua was healing a man with a demon conveyed...

**Mat 12:28** But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you!

The Kingdom of God has come upon us. It is through this statement that Yeshua and thus His teachings are intended to prepare us for the Kingdom.

**Mat 28:18** Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**Mat 28:19** Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

**Mat 28:20** and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

There is no need to rationalize our belief because Yeshua has addressed this perspective as well. One of Yeshua's talmidim, who happens to be His brother starts here by diffusing the rational as to requiring more information pertaining to God's existence...

**Jas 2:18** But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions!

**Jas 2:19** You believe that "God is one"? Good for you! The demons believe it too—the thought makes them shudder with fear!

**Jas 2:20** But, foolish fellow, do you want to be shown that such "faith" apart from actions is barren?

Even the demons believe in Adonai, yet Atheist don't and Agnostics are not sure? Thus, this reality leads us to Yeshua's establishment of His authority.

**Joh 14:1** "Don't let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me.

**Joh 14:6** Yeshua said, "I AM the Way—and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

**Joh 14:11** Trust me, that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me. But if you can't, then trust because of the works themselves.

**Joh 14:12** Yes, indeed! I tell you that whoever trusts in me will also do the works I do! Indeed, he will do greater ones, because I am going to the Father.

There is a saying "you can't prove a negative" Thus the negative here is proving that God doesn't exist. There is too much evidence that speaks to His existence. Sha'ul conveys the evidence...

**Rom 1:20** For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities—both his eternal power and his divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made. Therefore, they have no excuse;

**Rom 1:21** because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened.

**Rom 1:22** Claiming to be wise, they have become fools!

**Rom 1:23** In fact, they have exchanged the glory of the immortal God for mere images, like a mortal human being, or like birds, animals or reptiles!

Yet the falasy within the Atheist position is you first have to acknowledge God in order to acknowledge He doesn't exist.

Psalm 119:113 – 120

**Psa 119:113** ם (*Samekh*) I hate doubleminded people, but I love your Torah.

**Psa 119:114** You are my hiding-place and shield; I put my hope in your word.

**Psa 119:115** Leave me alone, you evildoers, so that I can keep my God's mitzvot.

**Psa 119:116** Uphold me, as you promised; and I will live; don't disappoint me in my hope.

**Psa 119:117** Support me; and I will be saved, always putting my attention on your laws.

Psa 119:118 You reject all who stray from your laws, for what they deceive themselves with is false.

Psa 119:119 You discard the wicked of the earth like slag; this is why I love your instruction.

Psa 119:120 My body trembles for fear of you; your rulings make me afraid.

**Joh 15:1** "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener.

**Joh 15:2** Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

**Joh 15:3** Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned.

**Joh 15:4** Stay united with me, as I will with you—for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from me.

**Joh 15:5** "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing.

**Joh 15:6** Unless a person remains united with me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up.

**Joh 15:7** "If you remain united with me, and my words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you.

**Joh 15:8** This is how my Father is glorified—in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be my talmidim.

**Joh 15:9** "Just as my Father has loved me, I too have loved you; so stay in my love.

**Joh 15:10** If you keep my commands, you will stay in my love—just as I have kept my Father's commands and stay in his love.

We are attached to the vine which is Yeshua and to the Olive Tree that is Isra'el...both are true and thus...

**Rom 11:17** But if some of the branches were broken off, and you—a wild olive—were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,

**Rom 11:18** then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you.

We are supported by the root and thus are fueled to support our position because our position, our belief is fully supported by that which is the only and absolute truth. All other truths will be "debunked", maybe not now, but soon.

Psa 119:150 The pursuers of carnality are getting close; they are distancing themselves from your Torah.

Psa 119:155 Salvation is far away from the wicked, because they don't seek your laws.

While in contrast...

Psa 119:165 Those who love your Torah have great peace; nothing makes them stumble.

Conclusion - Psalm 119:129 – 136

Psa 119:129 **א** (*Peh*) Your instruction is a wonder; this is why I follow it.

Psa 119:130 Your words are a doorway that lets in light, giving understanding to the thoughtless.

Psa 119:131 My mouth is wide open, as I pant with longing for your mitzvot.

Psa 119:132 Turn to me, and show me your favor; in keeping with [*your*] judgment for those who love your name.

Psa 119:133 Guide my footsteps by your word; don't let any kind of sin rule me.

Psa 119:134 Redeem me from human oppression, and I will observe your precepts.

Psa 119:135 Make your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

**Psa 119:136** Rivers of tears flow down from my eyes, because they don't observe your Torah.

We don't need to justify our position because Adonai has already done that - declare or make righteous in the sight of God.

Our responsibility is to support our position for we are supported by the root. There is no other means than through the revelation to us of His Word under the authority of His Son and by the power of His Spirit, His Ruach that we know with absolute certainty Adonai is God.