

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 – The New Covenant Writings

Last time I covered Romans 3:28 and introduced a phrase that was likely not familiar to most.

Rom 3:28 Therefore, we hold the view that a person comes to be considered righteous by God on the ground of trusting, which has nothing to do with legalistic observance of Torah commands.

So, just what are legalistic observance of Torah commands?

Most translations will usually interpret this passage as “works of the Law”. This segment doesn't permit the time for going into the nuances of Sha'ul use of the Greek word *nomos*, which is translated into “law”. Needless to say, there is a difference in the words used to represent Torah and what is translated as “works of the law”

So, just what are works of the law if it isn't Torah? Works of the law are identified as the oral law, which is also known as the “Tradition of the Elders” and today is the compiled work of the Talmud. There are many examples of Traditions of the Elders found in the New Covenant writings that we will look at in future segments.

These works of the law are additions to Torah that became more important than the original instructions themselves. You will also find Yeshua teaching against these instructions that aren't even in the written Torah but only found in the Traditions of the Elders or Talmud.

When we look at Sha'ul's letter to believers in Galatia, he is dealing with this very issue.

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.

Unfortunately for believers, whenever the word law is seen, they immediately associated it with Torah. However when you see the phrase "works of the law" it is not the same as law by itself.

Yeshua stated that His Yoke was easy. What is His Yoke?

In its simplest form, it is Torah in its proper and intended form. Not Torah with all the additional stipulations and restrictions. As I have said repeatedly, Not all Torah applies to all people. It is important to know what applies to whom and not to enter into legalistic thinking. If something doesn't apply to you, how can you truly do it?

As mentioned earlier, Sha'ul and many Jews knew that these additional instructions and traditions made by man did not make one righteous. However, Torah, when viewed as the instructions of Adonai, who through Yeshua taught people in the proper and correct understanding of Torah, should listen to what He taught, whether Jew or non-Jew.

During the month of July, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message "Whatever Happened to the Sabbath" 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.

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

Past segments of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site shalommaine.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.