***1 John - Part Two***

Last week we finished chapter one. We have discovered that John fully understands Hebraically what Yahshua came to teach the Torah in the manner it was originally intended and he is continuing to do this same thing as did all the disciples for the rest of their lives.

They were living a life just like their Master Yahshua showed them as a living example. They were endeavoring to become more like HIM.

We also know that John uses some harsh terms by today’s standards but I don’t personally believe the word LIAR was intended for condemnation but rather as a wake up call. GET OFF THE FENCE…..

With that minor recap, lets get into chapter 2.

***Chapter 2****:* ***1*** *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Yahshua Messiah, the one who is truly righteous.* ***2*** *He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*

We have the atonement provided by Yahshua if we slip up and sin, But the second reason he is writing this letter is ***“So we do not sin”.*** Remember last week? Reason 1 – so you can fully share in the joy.

I would submit to you, **my opinion,** how can we not sin if we don’t know what sin is? If you throw away Torah you throw away the very definition of what sin is and we are left with no guideline and no small degree of chaos.

So before we go any further in John we have to ask, where in the Bible does it define sin? Yahshua stated “Go and sin no more”. John is stating those who “continue to sin” are not of God and are not part of the true faith. Paul said much the same thing so what defines sin.

We will read next week in 1 John 3:4

***4*** *Everyone who keeps sinning is violating Torah - indeed, sin is violation of Torah. CJB*

***Paul wrote in Romans 7:7***  *Well then, am I suggesting that the Torah of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the Torah that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the Torah had not said, “You must not covet.”*

No will argue in the Old Testament that sin was the violation of God’s instructions or His Torah, but here in the New Testament we have it clear as day. NOTHING HAS CHANGED, according to John, Paul and the other disciples.

We need God’s instructions or His Torah so we know how to please Him and so we know what is required of us. It is a good thing. Any child needs to know what they can and can’t do.

How fair is it for you to tell your children “There are no rules, I have decided to throw them away”.

• Then a few minutes later you sneak up on your boy and spank him for beating up his sister?

• Or you ground your daughter for a month for cutting off all her hair and running through the house with the scissors in her hands.

Hello……. Anyone home? Left to our own rules or lack of God’s rules we will have chaos.

The New Testament confirms we should not sin. Shortly we are going to discuss a very challenging subject on Who’s Commandments.”

***3*** *And we can be sure that we know him* ***if*** *we obey his commandments.*

***4*** *If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.* ***5*** *But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.*

*One more time…….****4*** *If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.*

Should I read it again? Remember, John wrote this not me!

Two definitive facts are given by John.

1) The assurance of a believer and 2) the fate of a liar.

1) The believer can know that you are secure in your salvation ………. *IF you obey HIS commandments.*

2) The LIAR can be certain of his Liar Label if he claims “I know God”, but does not obey HIS commandments. In reality, John is giving one definition of a liar, “one who claims to know God but is not willing to obey God.”

John has already laid the groundwork that he is NOT talking about someone that made a mistake, slipped up and committed a sin. That person can repent and he/she will be forgiven.

John is speaking of those who refuse to follow God’s commandments. How many of HIS commandments? ANY of them. We are commanded to keep ALL that we can keep. 90% will get you a A in school but gets you the right foot on judgment day, IF you purposely refused to keep HIS commandments for whatever reason.

I assure you there is no attorney that will talk his way out of a righteous judgment on that day. I am not even sure we will be able to speak at all. The case will be open and shut. Messiah will judge us all according to our lives laid bare before us.

*6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Yahshua did.*

This is one of the most important verses in the New Testament.

We read it last week but let’s break it down.

You want to be part of God’s family and in fact you say you live in God or you are part of HIS family…… so here is your question.

• Does your life look like Yahshua’s life?

• Does it look just like it, somewhat like it or **nothing like it????**

Sadly, when God asked me this question after 25 years of saying I was a Christian………. I had to honestly answer C….**nothing like it!** Look, you can lie to me, to others and maybe to your family but your not pulling anything over on the Creator. He already knows the answer so why not be honest with yourself?

So briefly how did Yahshua live? This is just a brief overview…..

He kept all God’s instructions which included: Eating only what God defind as food, wore tzitzits, He kept Sabbath Holy, He kept all the Feasts of God, and He taught others to do the same.

In short, Yahshua studied to know “How to please the Father”. He never studied with an agenda but rather with a focus on what does the Father want from us with these instructions. Yahshua was the anti-Rabbi in a sense.

The Rabbi’s were studying the Scriptures to figure out how they could rule over the people. How they could elevate themselves above the people in both stature and financially. Yahshua was nothing like that and in fact he spoke harshly against the religious leaders.

The Jewish religious leaders hated Yahshua and later His disciples with a passion for this apparent rebellion against their “System”. The disciples reminded the religious leaders of the man they thought they rid the world of when they crucified Him. The disciples were zealous for the Torah but they had two things that they followed in Yahshua that drove the religious leaders nuts.

1) They lived the Torah in the love that Yahshua taught it.

2) They refused to follow the rabbinical man-made laws just like their Messiah Yahshua had taught them.

Later, the distain for the followers of the way extended into the “Church” which was rooted in anti-semetism from the start.

It seems religious leaders of all walks of life HATED the disciples.

I will warn you… anti-semetism is anti Messiah. If you want to be anti something be anti-religious leaders, because they are the direct agents of Satan working to discredit what Yehovah established in the beginning, His Word, His instructions, complete with His salvation.

Today look on the internet at how much vile hatred there is for people who follow the way of life we have chosen to follow. Certainly it is not “Everyone” but it is a rather large percentage of them. They don’t just disagree with us but they have contempt and a vile anger.

Some say by us keeping God’s instructions we are inviting a curse upon ourselves. Others say that by trying to keep His instructions we are assured a place in Hell alongside the Jews. This is real folks.

I have even heard personally, a man condemming the use of Yahshua as it is a false name of the Messiah because the Bible is crystal clear it is actually Jesus.

If the religious leaders hated Yahshua, they hated the disciples then why should they love you? But always remember, Yahshua’s beef was with the leaders and not those being deceived **by those leaders.**

So we are going to do something odd today. We are going to focus in on two things that these first 6 verses teach us and we are going to use the rest of today on these two things. We’ll finish ch 2 next week.

1 – One of the big disconnects in this passage is also tied to John 14:15 where Yahshua states, *“If you love me keep my commandments”.*

So people will say do we keep God’s commandments or Yahshua’s?

• Some will say we don’t need to keep God’s commandments, we only need to keep what Yahshua taught.

• Others say we need to keep all the commandments of the New Testament from all of the writers. In fact, some have counted 1050 New Testament commandments from Yahshua and all the writers.

This last group of people we will not entertain since we already know the Bible defines anyone who changes God’s instructions as a false prophet and false teacher we will not even give credibility to these folks that think the disciples or Paul had any authority to change what the Bible teaches.

But, in fairness, Yahshua was the son of God so possibly He had authority to change something??? So we are going to explore what did Yahshua teach as commandments.

Someone counted those and came up with 50 as the number. Regardless let’s get started by asking all of you……. Please state loudly what some of Yahshua’s commandments were that he gave!

*Let me read you the 50 real quick and tell me if any are not in the OT?*



Let’s not be critical of those who don’t see this. In fairness we have two reasons that should restrain our criticism.

A – You were just like this at one time.

B – We have been taught NOT to study the Old Testament so how on earth would most people have known that what Yahshua was teaching was already in the OT?

They wouldn’t and you know it so we need to be kind, loving, and be the type of people that maybe….. one day….. they would listen to.

The fact is most of us who were taught be denominational teachers believed that the Torah was done away with. And in fact, Yahshua does give the exact time in which that will happen. Yes folks, the Torah will be done away with eventually.

At the exact moment in time when Heaven and Earth are done away with and that comes exactly at the end of the Millennium reign. Read the last two chapters of Revelation and you know exactly when it happens.

Until then it is still in effect and the reality is that there may be a total of 25-30 commands that you as individuals need to follow. That sure seems a lot easier than learning 1050 NT commands doesn’t it?

*Yahshua’s yoke is easy and HIS burden is light.*

Haven’t we learned our lessons from history? Why would we add a heavier burden where it is not necessary?

2 point for today and yes, we are only covering 6 verses.

 There are a lot of people out there that would argue against having to “follow Yahshua” and would prefer to just believe in Him.

So rather than scoff at that idea, let’s examine it Hebraically instead.

The Jewish people by and large did not and do not recognize Yahshua as the Messiah. That does NOT mean that they have rejected “The Messiah”. Let me explain. They are still waiting for the Mashiack that is written about in the Scriptures. They are looking for Mashiack to fulfill all that was written about Him.

The religious Jewish people have not rejected the Scriptural writings about Mashiack, they just did not see Yahshua fulfill everything and hence they did not accept that He was the Messiah. The reason this is important is they are still anticipating and looking forward to Messiah’s return.

The religious Jewish people had a far deeper reverence and respect for Mashiack than many of us who know his name is Yahshua!

Deuteronomy 18: ***15*** *Moses continued, Yehovah your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen“to him (shema).* ***16*** *For this is what you yourselves requested of Yehovah your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, ‘Don’t let us hear the voice of Yehovah our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will die.’* ***17*** *“Then Yehovah said to me, ‘what they have said is right.* ***18*** *I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him.* ***19*** *I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf.*

Yehovah goes on then to define what a false prophet is and clearly shows the difference between the two.

So the Jewish people and us Israelites know that Moses is told about whom the Jewish people call “Thee prophet”. The Mashiack. And we are clearly told that He will speak ONLY what the Father instructs Him to speak.

Yahshua was thee prophet and spoke nothing of His own accord. He spoke only that which the Father gave Him to speak. John 5:19 and John 12:49 John 14:10 *“I only speak what the Father gives me to speak”.*

So let me ask this question. If Yahshua only is speaking what the Father instructs Him to speak……. AND we assume that Yahshua is teaching something completely new……. Is it not fair to then assume the Father messed up in the beginning giving unfair instructions?

That would make Father less than perfect and fallable would it not?

It would also mean that the Father changed and it would render either God as a liar or Malachi as a false prophet.

Malachi 3:6 *For I am Yehovah, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob (Israel) are not consumed.*

God is NOT a liar, He is our everything. He is flawless, perfect, righteous and just. He is merciful, kind, loving, and gracious towards us. He wants the very best for us and He desires to spend eternity with you.

How dare anyone claim He is a liar, he made a mistake, His son had to fix His mess, etc. That is blasphemy in the highest level and it will be required of them.

The religious Jewish people do not read the New Testament for one reason and I believe one reason only. The heresy that they have heard about Jesus of Nazareth.

If they ever heard His followers sharing about Yahshua the Torah teacher maybe they would be more open to it? I will close with a short story I have shared in the past.

A Jewish doctor friend of mine who is a devout orthodox Jew is completely turned off by the Jesus he has heard about from his church friends. Why, because they tell him everything he is doing is wrong and he needs to abandon it all and just follow Jesus.

He asked me a simple question. “So do you think I can’t get into the Kingdom if I don’t follow Jesus?”

Mind you, I had said nothing of the sort to him regarding this and he was falling back on past people trying to convert him.

I told him that even I “Do not follow the Jesus that many Christians teach”. However, I do follow the Yahshua that was clearly a Torah observant Jew who not only kept Torah but instructed His disciples to do the same thing.

No, he did not convert that night but it was the first reasonable answer he had ever heard. If we would focus on living our lives the way Yahshua instructed, not only can we lead Non Jews to the truth but who knows….. perhaps we can provoke a few Jewish people to jealousy and lead them to Messiah as well? ***Let’s close in prayer.***

**Midrash**

1) Questions on today’s 6 verses.

2) Let’s discuss why so few want to “follow” Yahshua’s example on how to live a life for God.

3) Whether it’s God’s commandments or Yahshua’s, why have so many bought into them being thrown away when not a single place in Yahshua’s teachings does it even come close to saying that?

4) Even if we mis-understand Paul’s writings, does he have the right or authority to change both God’s and Yahshua’s teachings?

**Announcements:**

This Monday evening we are going to watch “Genesis, Paradise Lost” in Canton at 7:00 pm. For those that wish to, we are meeting at Applebee’s for dinner at 5:00 pm. Please let Cornelia know if you are coming to one or both so we can be on the lookout for you.

**Next Shabbat, November 18th** – The Exodus Road Band will be here for live worship music and then for an after Oneg Music celebration. We will have Messianic Dance and we encourage you to all be here and bring friends as this will be a very festive Shabbat next week.

**Men’s and Women’s Bible Study -** We delayed the start until November 30th and after talking with a bunch of people are going to move to Thursday evenings. That seems to allow a lot more people to show up. We will start at 6:30 pm sharp so we can finish by 8:00 pm for those who get up early. We ask for you to make every effort to arrive early so as not to disrupt the study once they have begun.

Women’s Study - “ A Heart like David”

Men’s Study – “Biblical Manhood: What does it look like”?

**Thursday November 24th,** we will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner for the House of Scripture. This will be for House of Scripture attendees only AND any family member you would like to invite.

RSVP by November 18th.

House of Scripture will provide the Turkey and Rich & Christiana will organize side dishes for everyone to bring to ensure we have plenty to eat and not too much duplicated. Please get with Rich and Christiana to see what you can bring to the dinner.

• Also, bring games with you and we can play after dinner and enjoy fellowship together.

**Hanukkah Party** will be at the end of Sabbath on December 16th where we will have our traditional White Elephant gift exchange. Max value is $25 and it is intended to be fun. You don’t have to participate but if you would like to then please bring a gift.

• Kids 10 and under will have a separate White Elephant.

\*\* We may have to modify the number of “Stealing” depending on group size and your willingness to “Keep the 7th commandment”…….