

Buying and Selling

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(Extracted from News Letter 5850-040)

Shabbat Shalom Royal Family of Yehovah,

It has become an ongoing problem with people demanding me to send them books and DVD's for free. Yes, they are demanding it and calling me all sorts of things because I am selling the information I sell.

Let me take a moment and address this.

Pro 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

The word "BUY" is the word which most people omit when they quote this scripture. It is the word;

H7069 ??? qa'nah kaw-naw'

A primitive root; to erect, that is, create; by extension to procure, especially by purchase (causatively sell); by implication to own: – attain, buy (-er), teach to keep cattle, get, provoke to jealousy, possess (-or), purchase, recover, redeem, X surely, X verily.

The word "sell" is not to surrender or sell into slavery.

H4376 ??? ma'kar maw-kar'

A primitive root; to sell, literally (as merchandise, a daughter in marriage, into slavery), or figuratively (to surrender): – X at all, sell (away, -er, self).

In other words get the truth zealously. And do not use it to enslave others. Do not use the word to make yourself a religion in which you can yoke people to your church.

The 5 wise virgins bought the oil they needed to keep their lamps lit. The 5 foolish did not. Oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. How do you buy the Holy Spirit? You spend your time and energy searching out the truth. Time and energy are how you make a living which is then converted into money. The 5 wise virgins bought the oil needed to keep their lamps lit. Hmmm.

Another man found a great treasure in the field and sold all he had to buy it. What was that treasure? It was the word and truth of Yehovah. He bought it.

Do people consider that the Levites ate and took part in those things donated to Yehovah for the Temple? People paid tithes to the Temple in order to be taught those things Yehovah had shown the Priestly teachers of the Torah.

In the past I have given the books and DVD's to those who asked for them. Later on I would ask them how they liked the book or DVD only to find out they had not opened them and yet a year had gone by. They had not valued what was given to them. They had not considered the hours and hours of research I had to do in order to gain the expertise to write that book and then pay the thousands of dollars to have it published and make it available for them to read, which they never did. They did not and do not consider the hours and hours of work I had to do in researching the vast amount of material and read the endless amount of books to prepare the Power Point slides. Nor do they consider the time spent in arranging a venue to video the teachings, and to hire a professional videographer to record the teachings and then edit them so that these teachings would be available for others to have and learn from.

These people who demand I give them the hard work I have prepared, have also neglected the cost it takes on a monthly basis to maintain the high standards that the web site has in order to be accessible to everyone from around the world upon which I have all this information for them to look up if they would take the time to do so.

Those same selfish people also presume that if I should send them the complete set of DVDs or books that the post office is going to ship them for free. These also cost me between \$20 and \$100 for shipping fees, not to mention the cost of the DVD's themselves or the cases they come in nor the space they take up in my basement. But there is never an appreciation of these things expressed by those who demand to be given these truths for free. And after checking up with them months later we find out they have not even bothered to read or watch them.

“Buy the truth and do not sell it.”

Does this mean it is wrong to sell books containing truth?

No. If that is what the verse meant, then it would mean that only sinners sell the truth, and therefore the only way we could buy the truth is to purchase it from sinners—and by our purchase, we would be involved in their sin! This is not the meaning.

This verse is a proverb, explaining a principle in figurative language. We could paraphrase it in this way: Value truth highly, and never let it go. Today's English Version says, “Truth, wisdom, learning, and good sense—these are worth paying for, but too valuable for you to sell.” The Bible in Basic English says, “Get for yourself that which is true, and do not let it go for money.”

Yehshua said, “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

Is it wrong to sell books, tapes and other products?

No. We must understand this saying in its context. In Matthew 10, Yehshua sent his disciples out on their first mission. He told them to heal the sick, drive out demons and preach that the kingdom of Yehovah was

near. He also told them that they did not need to take any supplies with them, not even a money bag. And they were not to accept payment for their services:

“Freely you have received, freely give” (verses 5-10).

The disciples on those early missions were not to carry money or accept money. However, they could accept room and board,

Luk 10:5 And into whatever house you enter, first say, Peace to this house. 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest on it. If not, it shall return to you, 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking the things *shared* by them; for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Do not move from house to house. 8 And into whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick that are in it, and say to them, The kingdom of God has come near you! 10 And into whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, going out into the streets say, 11 Even the dust of your city which clings to us, we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.

Wherever they went, they were to look for hospitable persons and stay with them as long as they preached in that area. The disciples were able to preach, heal and cast out demons, and the people gave them what they needed.

Now read what Yehshua tells the disciples before he was killed.

Luk 22:35 And He said to them, When I sent you without purse and wallet and sandals, did you lack anything? And they said, Nothing.

The experience had been a practical lesson for the disciples' faith.

Luk 22:36 And He said to them, But now, he who has a purse, let him take *it*, and likewise *his* wallet. And he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.

Yehshua told them to change the way that they went on missionary journeys. They were to carry a purse. They would need money, presumably because there would be no hospitable persons in some areas. The money would come from those who accepted the message.

Many years later, the apostle Paul wrote that those who preach the gospel have a right to be supported by it.

1Co 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in *the* Lord? 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in *the* Lord. 3 My answer to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we not have authority to eat and to drink? 5 Do we not have authority to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and *as* the brothers of the Lord do, and Cephas? 6 Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no authority *whether* not to work? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own wages at any time? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock and does not partake of the milk of the flock? 8 Do I say these things according to man? Or does not the Law say the same also? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox threshing grain.” Does God take care for oxen? 10 Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? It was written for us, so that he who plows should plow *in* hope, and so that he who threshes *in* hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown to you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? 12 If others have a share of *this* authority *over* you, rather *should* not we? But we have not used this authority, but we endured all things lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? And those attending the altar are partakers with the altar. 14 Even so, the Lord ordained those announcing the gospel to live from the gospel.

Although he did not use that right with the church at Corinth, it was nevertheless a right.

Traveling preachers could ask one area to subsidize a missionary journey into another area. Paul commended the church at Philippi for giving him financial support even when he was preaching in another city.

This principle may be applied to ministry today: We may ask believers to pay the expenses of preaching the gospel.

All our information is free on the web site, even the videos. The books and DVD's cost money, so we pass on those expenses and at the same time make a small profit to finance other works. I do not draw any wages here; I have a full time job I use to pay for my personal expenses. I am not growing rich, as some assume. I have spent more of my own money than what most could understand.

Deu 24:14 You shall not oppress a hired servant who *is* poor and needy, of your brothers, or of your strangers that *are* in your land within your gates. 15 At his day you shall give *him* his hire, neither shall the sun go down on it. For he *is* poor and sets his heart on it; lest he cry against you to Jehovah, and it shall be sin to you.

You will pay for a magazine, or you will pay for a tutor or lesson, you will buy some book on how to grow your finances, yet you do not consider the hours I have put into this worthy of a wage. Some of you assume it should all be for free. Consider what you have learned at sightedmoon.com and consider the value of those truths you have gained. And then consider those teachers who force you to subscribe to their teachings on a monthly basis.

If you want everything to be free, then you all need to pay a weekly tithe, which we do not encourage.