

Understand, Paul Did not do away with Torah, Translators Did

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By Joseph F. Dumond

June 28, 2013

News Letter 5849-020

17th day of the 4th month 5849 years after the creation of Adam
The 4th Month in the Fourth year of the third Sabbatical Cycle
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

June 29, 2013

Shabbat Shalom Family,

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people and said, How long are you limping over two opinions? If Jehovah is God, follow Him. But if Baal is God, then follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.

How much longer are you going to continue to be wishy washy over this new walk you have just come to learn and over the former walk you were in that you know does not produce any fruit, just dried up confusion.

At some point in history one generation was destined to be that last generation that would have to go through the great Tribulation; The great and awful Tribulation. Brethren that generation is you!!!

Glenn McWilliams had not read last week's News Letter when he wrote this following paragraph; but his words are so true I have to copy them here. I have been called arrogant and a number of other things as I share with people the truths I have come to know. It forces them to as Glenn so aptly put it to get outside the current circle they are in; Their comfort zone. This is why my teachings rub people the wrong way. They do not consider the god small "g"; the god they worship to be the one that is going to send these severe curses on them. I keep telling you the God I worship with a large "G" Yehovah does and is and will continue to send these curses that you and the world is now experiencing. This week's newsletter is addressing this very subject.

Glenn McWilliams

It is often our fear of transgressing the accepted doctrine that prevents us from seeing the truth. We all know what lies inside the circle of our accepted doctrines and traditions, but to see what lies beyond the circle we must step outside the circle. We all know intuitively that the moment we do so, we will be judged and condemned by those still standing in the circle. We

may even be excommunicated from the circle and left standing alone outside. As long as we stay inside the circle we feel like we belong. As long as we stay inside the circle, everyone else in the circle affirms us that we belong and that we are right. But if we challenge, if we question, we risk our comfort, security, affirmation, identity, and possibly our place inside the circle. The journey for the truth does not stop at the boundary of the circle. The truth may even lead beyond the circle. It is truly an adventure.

Hi Joseph,

All of us who take God's word for what it says and have given up previous beliefs and practices have been the target of judgement, criticism, and ridicule. Dealing with this is the point of Paul's comments in Colossians 2:16-17. My thoughts on these verses follow.

The members of the congregation at Colossae were made up primarily of gentile converts and were certainly very familiar with the rites and requirements of the dominant pagan religions before their conversion to Christianity as some of them would likely have been involved in one or more of those religions. All of those religions promoted a lifestyle and a system of worship that was contrary to that which is taught in Hebrew scripture and which was certainly taught by Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and other early missionaries. Many of the pagan religions held in common the worship of the sun on the first day of the week. Mithra, the official religion of the Roman Empire, also set aside the 16th of every month as a day dedicated to the worship of Mithra, and the entire seventh month was dedicated to Mithra. Certain holidays were also expected to be celebrated. The celebration of the winter solstice, held on December 25, also coincided with the mythical birthdays of Mithra, Baal, Tammuz, and many others. The celebration of the mythical resurrection of Tammuz each spring at Easter, with its Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, and Easter lilies, was observed by the adherents of Ashtoreth for 500 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is part of the backdrop against which Paul wrote to the congregation in Colossae.

A major reason for writing this letter to the Colossians is to counter the teaching of Gnosticism which had made significant inroads in the belief system of several Christian congregations. This teaching promoted the concept that the spirit is good, but matter and the body are evil. With respect to Jesus, it taught that the Spirit of God had entered the human form of Jesus at His baptism, remained in this human body until the trial began, but that the Spirit of God departed from the human body and returned to heaven just before the crucifixion because it is not possible that God can suffer pain. It was only the human body that Jesus had occupied and left behind that suffered the pain and death on the cross.

The Christian converts were not only taught about Jesus as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Hebrew scriptures, the gracious character of God which He demonstrated throughout His life, death, and resurrection, and the hope of eternal life promised by God, but the necessary change in lifestyle and worship that should result from gaining familiarity with the God of creation and redemption. They were taught to observe the dietary and other health laws expressed in Leviticus. They were taught to keep the entire plan of the Lord's festivals: the Sabbath festival, the new moon festivals, and the annual festivals. These gentile converts

continued to work and live with their unconverted family and friends who on occasion made fun of the new lifestyle and plan of worship that was so different from their former pagan traditions. The ridicule of family and friends, neighbors and co-workers is not easy to withstand and many of them must have felt tempted to lapse back into the former lifestyle.

Paul tells them to allow no one to judge, criticize, or ridicule them for adopting the new lifestyle and plan for worship promoted by scripture. In verse 17 Paul tells them that following the new lifestyle and plan for worship is a shadow of the reality that will be theirs when they are united in Christ. A shadow is a silhouette of an object and tells us a little bit about the size and shape of the object that casts the shadow, but only a few details of the object are revealed by the shadow. This shadow is a silhouette of what will be experienced when Christ comes and those who have embraced the lifestyle and plan for worship directed by the Lord are united with Him for eternity. Verse 17 is a parallel to his statement in 1 Corinthians 13:12 where he wrote: "For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known." This is a promise that, just as Moses looked on the face of God and was blessed, so those in the New Testament era who trust His instructions regarding lifestyle and worship, and embrace their practice will have the privilege and blessing of being face to face with Christ for eternity. The judging, criticism, and ridicule of family and friends, neighbors and co-workers should not be allowed to derail their relationship with their Savior and their newly adopted lifestyle and worship pattern.

God requires the same thing from us as He required of Adam and Eve in the garden. He requires us to listen to Him, learn from Him, trust Him, and obey Him. The word for "belief" and "trust" in the Greek is the same word: *pistas*. When you write that Abraham believed God, it also means he trusted God, obeyed God, and relied on God as his life-coach. He wants us to take Him seriously in that same way. I'm glad you do!
Keep up the good work.

Shalom,

Gerald Brown

My Friend Sandy Bruce posted this short article and I think it adds to those things we have been addressing here in the past few weeks.

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. (Titus 3:9)

In the verse: "about the law" is SCRIBES (*nom-ik-as'* ??????? ; LAWYERS)

It comes from the word which is translated as "LAW" (*nomos* ?????), which is used to translate the Hebrew word TORAH.

But LAW (*nomos* ?????) does NOT always means TORAH. Sometimes it means SPIRITUAL LAW, like the SPIRITUAL LAW of Sin and Death (Rom 8:1-2 and Rom 6:14) or the SPIRITUAL LAW of Life in Messiah (Rom 8:1-2)

Corrected translation:

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about SCRIBES (nom-ikas' ??????? ; LAWYERS); for they are unprofitable and useless.

The MEANING of the word used here: SCRIBES (nom-ik-as' ???????) is: about law / relating to law (but NOT the “law” or “Torah” itself)

The GRAMMAR of the word used here:

Number: PLURAL, not SINGULAR. Therefore, it can NOT be translated as “LAW” [Torah] (nomos ?????), which is SINGULAR.

In the EIGHT (8) other times used in the ReNewed Covenant writings, this word (nom-ik-as' ???????) is ALWAYS translated as SCRIBES.

So why in this once instance is it mistranslated as “LAW”, misleading people to think that Sha’ul (Saul – Paul) is allegedly talking about “LAW” [Torah] (nomos ?????), when the word for “LAW” [Torah] (nomos ?????) is NOT used here?

Even if someone did NOT know Hebrew and did NOT know Greek, they could still come towards the Truth, by applying PRINCIPLES of TORAH ??????? knowing that Sha’ul could simply NOT be teaching that we should NOT talk about or discuss TORAH ??????? – since that is what the IsraElites have been taught to do since they came out of Egypt: Talk about and discuss TORAH ??????? and teach TORAH ??????? to your children: night and day (see the Shema: Deut 6:4-9)

LAW (nomos ?????) singular

LAWS (nomon ?????) plural

CONTENTIONS (machas ?????) is a PLURAL.

About SCRIBES (nom-ik-as' ??????? ; LAWYERS) is also a PLURAL

“about the law” would be SINGULAR, and does NOT fit the Greek here.

I read, write, speak and translate Russian, whose alphabet comes mostly from Greek. The grammar is also similar as far as CASES goes and how adjectives work.

In Luke 11:45, the same word is also used (and as an ADJECTIVE) and in the PLURAL, and it is one of the 8 other instances where it is translated as “SCRIBES” / “LAWYERS”

In Luke 11:46, the same word is also used (and as an ADJECTIVE) and in the PLURAL, and it is one of the 8 other instances where it is translated as “SCRIBES” / “LAWYERS”

In Luke 11:52, the same word is also used (and as an ADJECTIVE) and in the PLURAL, and it is one of the 8 other instances where it is translated as “SCRIBES” / “LAWYERS”

In Luke 14:3, the same word is also used (and as an ADJECTIVE) and in the PLURAL, and it is one of the 8 other instances where it is translated as “SCRIBES” / “LAWYERS”

Acts 15 is a ONE-QUESTION discussion among the Messianic Hebrews “about the Torah” (“law”)

Guess who created all of that?

Sha’ul, the very one who wrote to Titus.

Some Perushim who had come to faith in Yeshua, believed that gentiles could only be saved if they FIRST were circumcised. So Sha’ul went up to Jerusalem to seek the counsel of the assembly there.

The issue was NEVER ... IF gentiles should become circumcised, but WHEN.

Shimon Kefa (Peter) explained that the Torah is read in every SYNAGOGUE (not CHURCH) on SHABBAT (not on sunday)...so therefore the new gentile believers in Yeshua, the Hebrew Messiah, were hearing the TORAH read and LEARNING and OBEYING.

They only needed to do FOUR (4) things to START, so that they would not be unclean and be prohibited from entering into the SYNAGOGUES and hearing the TORAH read and taught.

SO does Sha’ul now contradict himself in what he writes to Titus? Answer: No. Again, we must always follow TORAH and the PRINCIPLES of Torah to understand the ReNewed Covenant writings. The English translation is WRONG.

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Now, better understanding Acts 15 as well, we see better what Sha’ul may have been talking about here:

Avoid contentions about things related to the Scribes beliefs in their man-made rules and regulations.

We must understand things from a Hebrew and Hebraic mindset, culture, language and background and NOT from Greek, English, western or christian mindset.

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One pastor wrote to me and said that the Greek word means:

” of those who are of the law”

So using his words ” of those who are of the law” we then have: “CONTENTIONS ... of those who are of the law (SCRIBES)”

If Sha’ul wanted to say CONTENTIONS about the “LAW” (nomos ?????) [TORAH] he would have used something like: OF (tou ???) the LAW (nomou ?????) where the Grammar CASE of “of the Law”: Genitive

In Romans 2:13, we read:

(for not the HEARERS of the “LAW” (nomou ?????) [TORAH] are just in the sight of ELOhim, but the DOERS of the “LAW” (nomou ?????) [TORAH] will be justified.

HEARERS (????????? akroatai)

Grammar: NOUN, Case; Nominative, Gender: Masculine; Number: PLURAL

of the "LAW" (nomou ?????) [TORAH]

Grammar: NOUN, Case; Genitive / , Gender: Masculine; Number: Singular

Thus, if Sha'ul intended: "about" or "of" the "LAW" / TORAH, the Greek would be different.

Instead, the Greek is about: "those who are of the law" (your words), but NOT about: the LAW itself.

That pastor wrote back and said:

< But I stand firmly by the translation of nomikas in this passage as "quarrels about the law.">

This absolutely CONTRADICTS the very essence of Hebrew culture and society.

Yeshua Himself repeatedly had quarrels with the religious leaders of His day in "quarrels about the law."

Sha'ul likewise had them.

So Messiah Yeshua is guilty of doing something that Sha'ul later teaches NOT to do?

And Sha'ul himself is also guilty of doing (Acts 15) what he himself later teaches NOT to do?

This is WHY those who REJECT the TORAH can NOT understand the ReNewed Covenant writings correctly, properly or fully. TORAH is the FOUNDATION of all spiritual Truth.

"Circumcision is nothing and unCircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters."

Without going into a lot of detail, we know from all of Shaul's (Saul – Paul) writings, and also the Book of Acts, that he KEPT Torah and taught Torah, to both Hebrews and non-Hebrews.

When we take a single verse OUT of CONTEXT, we lose or distort its meaning. So 1 Cor 7:19 must be understood in light of what he is teaching in the surrounding verses.

That being said, ENGLISH translations are not always correct or accurate, especially when so often they are written to appear as anti-Torah.

Nevertheless, when we read the Greek of 1 Cor 7:19, we find the word "BUT" (ah-lah ????) which is a CONJUNCTION comparing what is said BEFORE this word to what is said AFTER this word.

Thus, we would compare:

Circumcision (peritom? ?????????) (ie: the act, or the condition, done by Hebrews keeping the commandment given to Abraham)

and (kai ???)– (? h?) UnCircumcision (akrobystia ?????????) (not being circumcised, done by non-Hebrews) nothing (ouden ????) is (estin ????) BUT (ah-lah ????) KEEPING (tee-ree-sis ?????????) COMMANDMENTS (entol?n ?????????) of ELOhim (Theou ????)

The CONJUNCTION translated as the word “BUT” (ah-lah ????), might better be translated “except that”

In other words, even if a Hebrew is circumcised, but he is NOT keeping the commandments of ELOhim, what good does that do him? It is supposed to be an OUTWARD SIGN of an INWARD circumcision of the heart – which is a heart that WANTS to LEARN and OBEY the COMMANDMENTS.

Therefore, “BUT” (ah-lah ????) might better be understood as “EXCEPT THAT” he is also walking in OBEDIENCE to the rest of the commandments of Torah, his PHYSICAL circumcision is of no value, because his heart is NOT SPIRITUALLY circumcised — something which was properly pointed out by someone else on this thread above.

Thus, there is no problem with what Sha’ul would have written in HEBREW. This would have been translated into Greek, in the SECOND century, by non-Hebrews. The problem is in the ENGLISH translation or in the understanding of those who do not or cannot see the Hebrew thoughts of Torah in what Shaul is teaching here.

The same understanding would apply to other passages concerning circumcision, which are likewise misunderstood and taught wrongly, incorrectly and falsely.