

Torah Studies – Statutes #397-399

Statute Summary:

Statute 397: If a clean animal dies (meaning that it would normally be Scripturally classed as “clean to eat”), and the cause of its death was not a proper slaughtering, anyone who touches the carcass of the animal is unclean until the evening of the day.

Statute 398: If someone eats the flesh of a clean animal which died (not by proper slaughtering), the person is unclean until evening of the day.

Statute 399: If a person carried the carcass of the clean animal which died (not by proper slaughtering), the person must wash his/her clothes, which were worn during contact with the carcass. And the person is unclean until the evening of the day.

Leviticus 11:39-40 “And if any **beast**, of which ye may eat, die; he that toucheth the **carcase** thereof shall be **unclean** until the **even**. And he that eateth of the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: he also that beareth the carcase of it shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
BEAST	H929	b ^h ê ^m âh	any large quadruped or <i>animal</i> (often collectively): - beast, cattle
CARCASE	H5038	n ^h bê ^l âh	a <i>carcase</i> or <i>carrion</i> , <i>dead of itself</i>
UNCLEAN	H2930	ṭâ ^m ê'	to <i>be foul</i> , especially in a ceremonial or moral sense (<i>contaminated</i>)
EVEN	H6153	ʿereb	<i>dusk</i> : - + day, even (-ing, tide), night

Uncleanness in the Bible:

Scripturally, the ordinary state of most things is "cleanness," but a person or thing can contract ritual "uncleanness" (or "impurity") in a variety of ways: by skin diseases, discharges of bodily fluids, touching something dead (**Numbers 5:2**), or eating unclean foods (**Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14**).

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An unclean person, in general, is required to avoid that which is holy. They also are to take steps to return to a state of cleanness.

Uncleanness places a person in a "dangerous" condition under threat of divine retribution, even death (**Leviticus 15:31**), if the person approached the Sanctuary. In other words, uncleanness is to be avoided, for one cannot gather to worship **Yahweh**, while being unclean. Unclean people can't worship a holy God, but **Yahshua** has provided a Way of cleansing. In His Blood, all our uncleanness is washed away.

Of course, this doesn't mean that we disregard the Statutes about uncleanness! If we just ignore **Torah**, claiming **Yahshua's** Blood, we cheapen and dishonor His Sacrifice. So, even after Calvary, uncleanness is to be avoided. See Ezekiel 22:26.

Uncleanness ultimately leads to expulsion of the land's inhabitants (**Leviticus 18:25**) and its peril lingers upon those who do not undergo purification (**Lev 17:16; Num 19:12-13**). Of course, "expulsion" from the "land" is ultimately going to manifest in Eternal Death. For the Land (Earth) and Heaven also, will only be inhabited by those who are clean:

- Job 17:9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.
- Psalms 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Thus, the Statutes regarding clean-unclean directly pertain to the 6th Commandment. For we may kill ourselves, by foolishly ignoring these precepts.

Priests are to avoid becoming defiled (**Leviticus 21:1-4, Leviticus 21:11-12**), and if defiled, we have to abstain from sacred duties. An unclean had to celebrate the Passover with a month's delay (**Num 9:6-13**), and had to stay far away from God's Tabernacle (**Numbers 5:3**).

Clearly, even today, cleanness pertains to Life. Uncleanness pertains to Death. And uncleanness is to be avoided.

Torah Studies – Statutes #400-408

Statute Summary:

Statute 400: We may not ever eat the flesh of any Scripturally unclean animal.

Statute 401: We are also to avoid touching the carcass of any unclean animal. However, if we must carry the carcass of an unclean animal in order to remove or bury it, we are to wash our clothes and be unclean until the evening of the day.

Statute 402: Cud-chewing animals with split hooves can be eaten (Leviticus 11:3; Deuteronomy 14:6). These specifically include the cattle, sheep, goat, deer and gazelle families (Deuteronomy 14:4-5).

Statute 403: Camels, rabbits and pigs are unclean (Leviticus 11:4-8).

Statutes 404: "Creeping things" are unclean, which includes moles, mice (rodents) and reptiles as (Leviticus 11:29-31).

Statutes 405: Four-footed animals with paws (cats, dogs, bears, lions, tigers, etc.) are unclean (Leviticus 11:27).

Statutes 406: Salt and freshwater fish with fins and scales may be eaten (Leviticus 11:9-12), but water creatures without those characteristics (catfish, lobsters, crabs, shrimp, mussels, clams, oysters, squid, octopi, etc.) should not be eaten, as they are unclean.

Statutes 407: Torah also lists birds and other flying creatures that are unclean for consumption (Leviticus 11:13-19). Carrion eaters and birds of prey are unclean, as are ostriches, storks, herons and bats. Birds such as chickens, turkeys and pheasants clean and therefore can be eaten.

Statutes 408: Insects, with the exception of locusts, crickets and grasshoppers, are listed as unclean (Leviticus 11:20-23).

Leviticus Chapter 11, 11:8, 24-25 “Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you... And for these ye shall be unclean: whosoever toucheth the carcass of them shall be **unclean** until the **even**. And whosoever beareth ought of the carcass of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.”

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Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
UNCLEAN	2930	ṭâmê'	to be foul, especially in a ceremonial or moral sense (contaminated)
EVEN	6153	'ereb	dusk: - + day, even (-ing, tide), night

Synthesis:

Why does **Yahweh** identify some animals as suitable for human consumption and others as unsuitable? Scripture tells us that **Yahweh** gave His Laws (including those of which meats are clean or unclean) "that it might be well" with those who seek to obey Him (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Although God did not reveal the specific reasons some animals may be eaten and others must be avoided, we can make generalized conclusions based on the animals included in the two categories.

In listing the animals that should not be eaten, **Yahweh** forbids the consumption of scavengers and carrion eaters, which devour other animals for their food.

Animals such as pigs, bears, vultures and raptors can eat (and thrive) on decaying flesh. Predatory animals such as wolves, lions, leopards and cheetahs most often prey on the weakest (and at times the diseased) in animal herds.

When it comes to sea creatures, bottom dwellers such as lobsters and crabs scavenge for dead animals on the sea floor. Shellfish such as oysters, clams and mussels similarly consume decaying organic matter that sinks to the sea floor, including sewage.

A common denominator of many of the animals God designates as unclean is that they routinely eat flesh that would sicken or kill human beings. When we eat such animals we partake of a food chain that includes things harmful to people.

As nutritionist David Meinz observes:

"Could it be that God, in His wisdom, created certain creatures whose sole purpose is to clean up after the others? Their entire 'calling' may be to act exclusively as the...

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...sanitation workers of our ecology. God may simply be telling us that it's better for us believers not to consume the meat of these trash collectors". *Eating by the Book, 1999*, p. 225

What Science knows about the dangers of eating pork: Neurocysticercosis Video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhgXukqla5U>

What About Peter's Food Vision

Peter's dream in Acts 10 is used more than any other passage of scripture to argue that Christians are no longer expected by God to follow the dietary laws in Leviticus 11. Many believe this to be a proof text for the abolishment of many laws in the Torah.

Acts 10:9-16 ESV - "The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. **In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.** And there came a voice to him: "**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**" But Peter said, "**By no means, Sovereign; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.**" And the voice came to him again a second time, "**What God has made clean, do not call common.**" **This happened three times**, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven."

A closer look into this passage shows us that this vision was not about food at all. It is first worth noting that Peter cannot bring himself to comply when he is told to rise, kill, and eat. Peter knew that **Yahweh** does not change (Malachi 3:6). Yet, if this dream-vision had been from **Yahweh**, it appeared that God was changing his own sacred Word. Peter would likely have quickly assumed that this vision was not from God, being that it seemingly transgressed His own Character. Yet, Scripture tells us that Heaven confirms its Messages by 2-3 witnesses, and Peter was given the vision **three times!** The three witnesses, which is a Heavenly Stamp of authenticity is on the vision, yet it bore a message which seemed to undermine **Torah**, which no Light-filled Message ever will (Isaiah 8:20). No wonder Peter was "perplexed".

Acts 10:17-18 ESV - "**Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean**, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there."

But Peter's perplexity was quickly relieved. For **Yahweh** showed Peter that the vision wasn't about food at all... It was a vision about people – specifically non-Jewish people, which Jewish law declared to be "unclean".

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Acts 10:24-29 ESV - “And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And he said to them, **“You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.** So, when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me.”

Peter, a first-century Jewish man, who had been raised his entire life under the teachings and traditions of the Pharisees and Sadducees, believed Gentiles to be “unclean” people and that Jews were to never associate with them. This is not a teaching of God, and it absolutely does not appear in the Word of God. On the contrary, God has always associated and recognized Gentiles as his people just as much as native-born Israelites (Numbers 15:15-16; Isaiah 56:3-7). Peter, however, had been taught his whole life by the wicked men of his time that certain people were subhuman and that God could never redeem them. And believe it or not, it took until this vision for Peter to understand that he was believing a lie.

Yahweh used a vision to grab Peter’s attention to teach him something Peter had been shut off to for so many years, even after Yahshua died and rose again. But why was this necessary? This was necessary because God’s plan was for Peter to reach a man named Cornelius – a Gentile. Immediately after receiving this vision, Peter was met by Cornelius’s men on his behalf. Peter agreed to go meet Cornelius after realizing the true meaning behind the vision.

So the next time someone suggests that Acts 10 is God’s way of telling Peter that we can disregard His Laws and eat whatever we want, show them that God instead used this vision to help a fisherman blinded by his own tradition reach millions for Messiah.

But, Didn’t Paul Teach that Torah was Done Away?

Romans 14 is one of the most misunderstood Chapters of the Bible. It is used as a justification to disregard the Sabbath - so long as a person keeps another day as he is convinced in his own mind. Additionally, Romans 14 is used to justify eating anything - even foods which other Scriptures list as "unclean".

In short, Romans 14 seems to nullify the principles clearly stated in the Torah and throughout Scripture. In fact, the writings of Paul (including Romans 14) are used to justifying nailing the whole Law of God to the Cross.

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So, what is up with Romans 14? This is a passage which needs to be set in its proper, Scriptural setting, rather than leaving it outside this context, as if it were the guidelines for starting a whole new religion.

Let's take a closer look at the teachings of Paul - and Romans 14. We need a Scriptural perspective on the writings of Paul, as they are being unwittingly used to start a whole new religion, disregarding the old.

Most Christians today have been taught that the Law of Yahweh was a burden, the "handwriting of the Ordinances" which was "against us." The teachings of the apostle Paul are viewed as birthing New Testament Christianity, which is contrasted starkly against the Old Testament writings.

On the one hand, David wrote of the Law of Yahweh with high praise. He identified it as a vital catalyst in the conversion process (Psalm 19:7). He also proclaimed that the Torah (the original Hebrew word, from which the English word "Law" is translated) brought wisdom and spiritual enlightenment. Understanding and obeying it was a source of great spiritual riches and joy!

So great was the Psalmist's delight in the Torah that he meditated upon it day and night and attributed all true success to this practice!

Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of Yahweh; and in His Law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

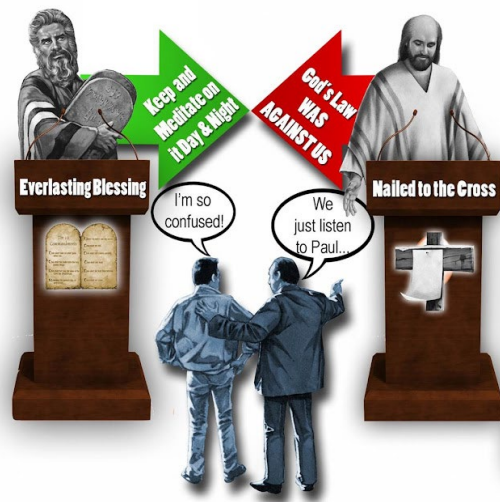


the burdens of the Law.

Contrastingly, Paul seems to hold a completely opposite view of the Law. Christians today cite his writings as proclaiming the Law to be "against us" (Colossians 2:14). Obedience to it is viewed as returning to the "beggarly elements" to which we were enslaved before our Salvation (Galatians 4:9). The only personal value the Law has now is that it serves as our "schoolmaster", which "brings us unto Christ" (Galatians 3:24). But once we have come to Messiah and our sins are covered in His Blood, we are freed from

Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Yahshua, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Yahshua hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

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So, if the issue of the Law of **Yahweh** could be put up for debate, Bible writers like Moses and David would apparently spearhead the pro-Law team, who support the Law and proclaim it a blessing. But Paul would apparently head the opposing team, who consider it a burden and nail it to the Cross! So divergent are these perspectives and so serious is the doctrinal fracture they create, that the biblical foundation beneath a Christian's feet may crumble away, if one is not careful to account for it correctly!

To some, this may seem an extreme statement. Maybe the Law doesn't seem so pivotal an issue, at first. They may ask, "Don't Christians only need to concern themselves with 'salvational' subjects and Spiritual Warfare?" What may surprise many is that actually the Law is a vital part of

BOTH!

What does the Law have to do with Salvation? The Law defines sin. Sin, by its very definition, is "transgression of the Law" (1 John 3:4). It is because of sin that we need a Saviour. It is only by comparing our own lives with the perfect beauty of the Law that we are convicted of sin and brought to full repentance, bringing true conversion. This is why David rightly credited the Law as "converting the soul."

Paul agrees with David on this, plainly stating:

Romans 7:12-13 (NOGV) "So the Laws in Moses' Teachings are holy, and the Commandment is holy, right, and good. Now, did something good cause my death? That's unthinkable! Rather, my death was caused by sin so that sin would be recognized for what it is. Through a Commandment, sin became (could be seen to be) more sinful than ever."

Notably then, if the Law is merely "done away with" at the Cross, Christians will not concern themselves with learning its principles. Then, in the dimness of our resulting spiritual ignorance, sin prospers, repentance is incomplete, and the process of full conversion is left unfinished. Yet that is just one devastating fruit to come from nailing the Law to the Cross, effectively removing it from value among contemporary Christians. Another devastating result of relegating the Law to the archaic past has been increasing spiritual impotency.

Christians are largely aware that Spiritual Warfare is vitally important to finding and keeping true freedom in Christ. The devil is like a "roaring lion", especially working to "devour" Christians, who are most threatening to him and his kingdom (1 Peter 5:8-9). Thus, choosing to walk with God automatically means that we must resist the devil...

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...(in **Yahweh's** Power, of course). As it says in James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The process of daily submitting to God and resisting the devil is called Spiritual Warfare. Yet while most Christians understand the importance of effective Spiritual Warfare as a necessity to genuine Christian living, most do not realize that, without Torah, effective Spiritual Warfare is impossible!

Countless Christians unwittingly place themselves in spiritual harm's way by acting in ignorance to the principles of the Torah. The Law of Yahweh is intended to protect us from the onslaught of the enemy. But when we are spiritually ignorant, the Bible warns us that the devil gets the advantage over us (2 Corinthians 2:11)!

Throughout our years in ministry, we have interceded for Christians who have unknowingly stepped outside of the protective guidelines of Torah, only to reap the fruits of hell as a result.

One man was unable to find peace in his home. Instead of a sanctuary, a little taste of Heaven on earth, his home had become a place of demonic torment and spiritual oppression. He explained to us that he felt better when he left his house. He asked us to come and do a prayer and anointing over his home. He hoped that Yahweh would then cleanse his home, removing this demonic darkness and spiritual pestilence.

When we arrived at his home and began the requested prayer and anointing, we saw that he had a large Buddha sitting on a stand in his house. We inquired about it, realizing that the devil could have gained the right to infect his home just from the presence of this idol alone! It turned out that the man, although a Christian, had simply picked up the Buddha as a souvenir during his travels. It meant nothing to him, other than as a memento of the trip. But, had he been aware of the Torah safeguards, which forbid all idolatry in the lives and homes of God's people, he would have been spared a great deal of pain and suffering! Demons don't get the right to infect a Christian's home without a cause!

Proverbs 26:2 "As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."

On another occasion, we were asked to drive to a couple's home, located several hours from us. The wife tearfully explained that they were afraid to live in their own home. Lights and water faucets would supernaturally turn on and off. Menacing presences would threaten the household. The couple couldn't even sleep through the night without some form of hair-raising manifestation.

"Why is Satan doing this to us? We're CHRISTIANS!" the woman cried.

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Gently, we shared with the exhausted couple that there was likely a cursed object in their home, giving the demons the right to possess the house. We knew this because of a warning given in the Torah:

Deuteronomy 7:26 “Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.”

Because the Law (the Torah includes the first five books of the Bible: Genesis—Deuteronomy) is viewed as “done away with”, Christians no longer study it or concern themselves with its principles. As a result, this poor couple had no idea that cursed items could bring such terror to their home!

As it turned out, there was one cursed item in the couple’s home. It was a gorgeous tapestry, hanging on the living room wall. The artist had been a mystical, New Age, “white witch”. When the wall-hanging was removed and burned, the home prayed over and anointed, the spiritual manifestations stopped and the demonic shadow was fully lifted. We were all thankful to God for this powerful deliverance, but we were also saddened to realize that the precious couple could have been spared the whole ordeal had they only known and kept the principles of the Torah!

But of all the unnecessary sorrows brought on unsuspecting Christians by nailing the Law to the Cross, perhaps the most devastating blow to effective Spiritual Warfare is the devil’s resulting “revolving door policy”. This “revolving door” to the human soul is a spiritual condition in which demons are kicked out of the soul, through Warfare Prayer, only to return, for reasons soon to be explained. As will be shown, it is only when we remain within the protection of the Torah principles that we can find lasting freedom in Christ.

When we disobey the Law of Yahweh, we have committed sin (1 John 3:4). And it is through sin that the devil gets the rights to afflict and enslave us in the first place! All demonic bondage, even full demonic possession, began with sin—either sins which we have committed personally, or it is bondage brought on us by the sins of our ancestors (Exodus 20:5). The connection between disobeying the principles of the Law (which is sin) and demonic bondage is plainly stated in Proverbs. To be “holden” with the “cords” of our own “sins” literally means to be unable to get free from the devil’s bondage.

Proverbs 5:22 “His own iniquities (sins—Law breaking) shall take (ensnare, imprison) the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.”

When we come to Christ, repent of our past sins and are delivered from demonic bondage, we become God’s loving children and are made FREE (John 8:36) in the Name and Blood of the Lamb (1 John 1:9).

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...But we are not now free to keep sinning—or keep disobeying the principles of Torah. We are made free to demonstrate our love for God, by obedience to His Instructions (by His Grace).

1 John 5:2-4 “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His Commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

After we have been cleansed in Christ, if we return to our old sinful habits and Lawlessness, we also return to the former demonic bondage and spiritual enslavement. Demons that were kicked out of the person’s soul, during their deliverance in finding Salvation, now return and re-infest the soul temple (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Only this time, the demonic oppression or possession will be even greater than it was before!

Scripture teaches that when a demon is cast out, he will come back to check out the “house” (person) in whom he used to dwell. If he finds that he can get back into that soul-temple again, he will not come alone. Each demon, upon re-entry, brings SEVEN devils - more wicked than himself - into the soul of the formerly cleansed person! Thus, the Bible teaches that the person is now worse off than he was before he became “saved”; all because the Christian was ignorant of how vitally important the Torah is in both the Salvation-process and in keeping the freedom.

2 Peter 2:20-22(ESV) “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our [Master] and Savior [Yahshua] Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the Way of Righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy Commandment delivered to them.”



The Proverbs 26:11 warning has happened to them: ‘The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire’.”

Luke 11:24-26 “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”

Sadly, we have observed Spiritual Warfare ministries, unaware of this principle, casting demons out of people, in the Name and Blood of **Yahshua**.

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They truly believe they are being used of God to help and bless. But deliverance without Torah instruction is not a blessing! It is a curse! For the devil gets a hellish revolving door policy. The demons cast out, gain the legal right to re-enter the soul temple of the cleansed person, when the principles of Torah are broken.

Think of it! How many demonically oppressed or possessed people can afford to come for help, only to end up seven times worse? This is why the Psalmist exclaimed:

Psalm 119:92 “Unless Thy Law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.”

So, if it’s dangerous - even deadly - to believe the Law of God was nailed to the Cross, what did Paul mean? Certainly, Paul wasn’t teaching us to do away with the Law, if that teaching was going to give hell the power to destroy God’s people! The problem isn’t with Paul’s teachings - the problem is with our understanding of what Paul taught.

Peter himself said that Paul was a very difficult man to understand. Even in the time of the Early Christian Church, many were already misinterpreting Paul’s writings - which Peter warned would bring destruction.

2 Peter 3:15-16 (NCV)“...Our dear brother Paul told you the same thing when he wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes about this in all his letters. Some things in Paul’s letters are hard to understand, and people who are ignorant and weak in faith explain these things falsely... but they are destroying themselves by doing this.”

Of all the Bible writers, Paul is the most difficult to interpret and the most commonly misunderstood. This statement is not just my opinion. It is a fact, having been expressed by the Apostle Peter and preserved within the pages of Scripture itself. (See 2 Peter 3:15-16, above.)

Twisting the meaning of Paul’s words was a common problem in the Early Christian Church. And it has not lessened in our time. In fact, the way Christians commonly misinterpret Paul’s New Testament writings is the single biggest cause for doctrinal deception today! Here are some examples:

We are Twisting the Teachings of Paul When we Make Them Mean Something Different than the Rest of the Bible.

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What About Romans 14 – Esteeming Days and Eating?

People believe that Paul taught it doesn't matter which day you "esteem" as holy—keep any day you choose as your Sabbath - They cite Romans 14:5 to support this.

But we are jumping to conclusions if we interpret Romans 14:5 in this way. Paul never says that we should "unesteem" (make common) a day which God has esteemed (made holy). What he does say is that man may also esteem a day, as needed.

In other words, there are times when my personal circumstances warrant having a day or two of fasting and special prayer. By planning to fast and pray for a day or two, I am choosing to esteem these days. They don't have to be Sabbaths, for me to pray and fast effectively at these times.

According to the rest of Scripture, **Yahweh** wants His people to remember and keep holy the Days He sanctified. Man may "esteem" days, such as setting aside a special day for fasting over a needed issue - but man may not unesteem a day which **Yahweh** has made holy. (Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 26, Ezekiel 20:12-24, Hebrews 4:8-11, and many more...) Paul never says to unesteem God's esteemed holy Days.

Romans 14:5 "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

So, if esteeming a day is setting the day apart for special worship, fasting or special prayer (or all of the above) in what context might someone "esteem every day alike"?

One example of esteeming "every day", which is to set apart oneself for holy use day-after-day, is the Nazarite Vow. A Nazarite Vow was not required. This is a good example of how a person would only voluntarily esteem a day - being fully persuaded in his own mind, as Paul says in Romans 14:5. During the time of his voluntary vow, a Nazarite would not engage in common practices (like going to work, etc). This time was specially set apart for closeness with God and for focusing on the Kingdom!

The context of Romans 14 refers to eating or not eating... This is a chapter about fasting and esteeming a day for special fasting and prayer. Some fast by abstaining from food. Some fast by eating pulse because they are weaker (and can't fully abstain).

Some people almost feel holier than others because they can fast without food at all - only water for many days at a time. But in Romans 14, we find the message that God doesn't look at us this way. For those who are physically weaker, and cannot fully fast for many days (such as a person with diabetes, etc), God accepts what you can do. Fasting empowers prayer.

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Whatever level of fasting you are able to do will be equally accepted by God and will equally empower your prayer. This is the meaning of Romans 14:3:

Romans 14:3 "Let not him that eateth despise (judge as less holy) him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him."

On the Subject of the Law:

It is believed that Paul taught that the Law of God was a burden that was "against us" - standing in the way of our Salvation. The Messiah took the Law out of the way, by nailing it to His Cross - Colossians 2:14-16.

But again we're jumping to conclusions. Paul does not say that the *Law* was nailed. He says the *Handwriting of Ordinances* which was **against us** was nailed. This is the written record of our Law-breaking (sins).

Yahweh's Law is a blessing (Deuteronomy 30:16-20, Psalm 19:7, Jeremiah 31:33, 1 John 5:2-4, Revelation 22:14...) It was not the Law, but our sins - the record of our Law breaking which was nailed to the Cross, as is clear in the NLT and CEV Bible translations (for example):

Colossians 2:14-16 NLT "He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the Cross."

So serious is the difference between how Christians interpret Paul's writings and the message of the rest of the Bible, that it appears Paul's words are being used against the rest of the Scriptures! It seems, as has already been mentioned, that Paul and Moses head two opposing teams in "The Great Spiritual Debate" on doctrinal Truth.

But what is perhaps the most sobering and scary part of it all, is that Paul's perceived teachings are used as the ultimate doctrinal "trump card", overpowering every other Scriptural writer or Message—including Christ Himself!

As an example, consider the topic of the Law. Most Christians believe that Paul taught the Law was done away with at the Cross. But, Yahshua clearly stated He had not come to remove any part of the Law. In fact, He went on to state that nothing in the Torah - not even the tiniest punctuation or accent marks it contained - would be done away with until Heaven and Earth passed away.

Matthew 5:17-18 "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, **Till Heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law,** till all be fulfilled."

Torah Studies – Statutes #400-408 (continued)



Was Paul actually in conflict with Christ? No! Had Paul been in conflict with Christ, he could not have been one of His apostles! The apparent conflict in Paul's writings versus **Yahshua's** has been brought about by misinterpreting Paul's messages. Just as Peter warned that many were doing, even in his day, Christians wrongly interpret Paul's meaning, producing these two perspectives that are entirely opposite.

Yet, alarmingly, the twisted understanding Christians get from misinterpreting Paul seemingly holds more weight than even **Yahshua's** Words! Misunderstood or not, if Paul can effectively "trump" Christ, we can no longer call ourselves Christians (followers of Christ), but "Paulians" (followers of Paul).

And so, with no disrespect to the Apostle Paul, who truly did not teach heresy but promoted the Truth; it is necessary to expose how Christianity has actually morphed into a twisted "Paulianity". But if we put our "Torah-glasses" on, viewing Paul's writings and teachings from the standpoint that the Law of God is the basis from which he taught, we will find enlightenment rather than delusion.

Isaiah 8:20 "To the Law and to the Testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them."

In Romans 14, Paul (or anywhere else) wasn't throwing away the Torah principles on Sabbath-keeping. Rather he was pointing out that man could "esteem" a day for fasting and prayer, as needed. But whatever days a man might esteem were *in addition* to the days that Yahweh had already esteemed (set apart as holy) - not in place of them! The doctrinal twist comes when we use this chapter to validate "unesteeming" a Holy Day which Yahweh Himself already esteemed.

Rather than daring to set aside Yahweh's holy Days (which would have made Paul an apostate not an Apostle), Paul taught both Jews and Gentiles to keep them and kept them, faithfully. See Acts 13 & 17.

Acts 18:4 "And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and Greeks."

Paul's own testimony about his teachings and conduct is that he had never done or taught anything against either the Torah (wrongly translated as the "Law of the Jews") or against the laws of the land (Roman law).

Torah Studies – Statutes #400-408 (continued)

Acts 25:7-8 “And when he came, the Jews who came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and made many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. While he answered for himself, Neither against the Law of the Jews, nor against the Temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I **offended** any thing at all.”

The word “offended” in the above passage is translated from the Greek word *hamartano*, which means to “sin against” or “trespass”. Paul could only say that he had not trespassed against the Torah if he was a Sabbath-keeper! In fact, he not only kept the Sabbath, but also the Feast days (Acts 18:21; 20:16). And he even left plain instructions for Yahweh’s people to keep them:

1 Corinthians 5:8 “Therefore let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and Truth.”

Breaking the Sabbath commandment carried a penalty of death (Exodus 31:15) and Paul said that if he had committed anything worthy of death he would accept such judgment (Acts 25:11). Festus said concerning Paul, “I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death.” (Acts 25:25). Thus, the Scriptural record shows Paul to be a Torah and Sabbath-keeper.

Paul wasn’t making up new doctrines, nailing the Law which David and Moses - and **Yahshua** Himself - upheld. Just as Peter warned, Paul’s teachings have been twisted into strong delusions. But far from teaching that the Law is no longer valid, Paul taught that breaking God’s Law would result in eternal damnation (Galatians 5:19-21).

Ephesians 5:5-8 “...No whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the Kingdom... of God. Let no man deceive you... walk as children of Light.”

To rightly understand Paul’s writings, we must interpret them through the “lens” of the Law. Paul was not starting a whole new religion, doing away with the principles given already in the Scripture. Had he done so, he would have been an apostate - not an apostle! Paul was in full agreement with all that **Yahweh** had already given. His writings always align with the God-given principles of the **Torah**, when correctly interpreted through letting Scripture interpret Scripture.

Torah Studies – Statutes #409-411

Statute Summary:

Statute 409: If the carcass of a dead animal, which is an unclean animal, falls upon skin, clothes, containers of wood or sack material; the item on which the carcass fell must be cleansed with water.

Statute 410: Such contaminated objects are unclean and cannot be used until the start of the next day (evening).

Statute 411: If an unclean animal, such as a mouse, falls into an earthen vessel (clay pottery), the vessel must be destroyed by smashing it into unusable bits. Anything that touches a container or item polluted in this manner is also contaminated by the contact.

Leviticus 11:32-34 “And upon whatsoever any of them (unclean animals), when they are dead, doth fall, it shall be unclean; whether it be any **vessel** of wood, or **raiment**, or **skin**, or **sack**, whatsoever vessel it be, wherein any work is done, it must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the even; so it shall be cleansed. And every earthen vessel, whereinto any of them falleth, whatsoever is in it shall be unclean; and ye shall break it. Of all meat which may be eaten, that on which such water cometh shall be unclean: and all drink that may be drunk in every such vessel shall be unclean.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
VESSEL	H3627	k'îly	<i>apparatus</i> (implement, utensil, dress, vessel or weapon) bag, furniture, instrument, jewel
RAINMENT	H899	beqed	<i>a covering</i> , that is, clothing; also <i>treachery</i> or <i>pillage</i> , garment, lap, rag
SKIN	H5785	ôr	<i>skin</i> (as <i>naked</i>); by implication <i>hide</i> , <i>leather</i>
SACK	H8242	śaq	<i>a mesh</i> (as allowing a liquid to <i>run</i> through), that is, coarse loose cloth or <i>sacking</i>

Torah Studies – Statutes #409-411 (continued)

Going Deeper – Smashing Clay Pots – and Jeremiah 19:

When we understand the Statutes pertaining to unclean clay pots, we more fully see the meaning in the prophetic act of the prophet Jeremiah, who smashed a clay pot in front of the elders of Israel as a warning of Judgment coming upon them.

To understand the significance of WHY God had Jeremiah use a clay pot instead of a wooden yoke or a linen cloth for his prophetic act, we need to lay the foundation of the significance of such an item from scripture itself.

- *Leviticus 11:33* - 'As for any earthenware vessel into which one of them [an unclean animal] may fall, whatever is in it becomes unclean and you shall break the vessel.
- *Leviticus 15:12* - 'However, an earthenware vessel which the person with the discharge touches shall be broken...

Because Adam was formed by **Yahweh** out of the clay of earth, clay pots are also used in Scripture to represent people. We are an “earthen vessel” (clay pot) which is designed to hold-house the Presence of **Yahweh**:

2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Since clay pots also represent people, when a person, or a group of people have rejected the Call of Yahweh and have chosen to be contaminated vessels, **Yahweh** foretells of His destroying Judgment against them by the act of breaking clay pots:

- *Judges 7:20-20* And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.
- *Jeremiah 48:10-12* ...Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.

So, let's unpack Jeremiah 19, which says (verses 1-3)...

Thus saith Yahweh, Go and get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests; And go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the east gate, and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee..."

Jeremiah was to break the pots in the presence of the leaders of Israel at the Valley of Hinnom which is where they sacrificed their children to demons (idols). The crime that required Judgment to fall for justice to manifest was 3-fold...

Torah Studies – Statutes #409-411 (continued)

- 1) They forsook Yahweh and failed to Shema by obeying Torah.
- 2) They lost their Fear of Yahweh and in turn defiled the House of Yahweh.
- 3) They worshipped and prayed to others – idols – demons...

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love Yahweh your God, to walk in obedience to Him, and to keep His Commands, Decrees and Law; then you will live and increase, and Yahweh your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you Life and Death, blessings and curses. Now choose Life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love Yahweh your God, listen to His Voice, and hold fast to Him. For Yahweh is your Life...”

Because of these things, Israel was to be Judged. The Prophet Jeremiah was commanded to smash clay pots in front of them, in the Valley of Hinnom, the very place in which they had committed spiritual whoredoms and had shed innocent blood.

Jeremiah 19:6 “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith Yahweh, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter.”

- Tophet = place of fire, place of cremation. It was in the southeast end of the Valley of the son of Hinnom.
- Valley of the son of “Hinnom” = lamentation. a valley (deep and narrow ravine) with steep, rocky sides located southwest of Jerusalem, separating Mount Zion to the north from the hill of evil counsel' and the sloping rocky plateau of the 'plain of Rephaim'(giants) to the south.

Jeremiah 19:7 “And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.”

Breaking a clay pot which has been defiled by something unclean is an obedient act which demonstrates our understanding that uncleanness has no place in the Presence of God, nor in the sinless future. Uncleanness must be destroyed now, for all who cling to it will be destroyed with it, like the defiled clay pots.