119 MINISTRIES

"The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below."

Righteousness of My Own

At one time, Paul subscribed to the teachings and philosophies of the Pharisees. The Pharisees built traditions and laws that they expected others to follow.

One such law of the Pharisees was to wash your hands in a prescribed method, with prescribed prayers, prior to eating. The Pharisees had thousands of man-made commandments such as this.

The Pharisees built these commandments from concepts from the Torah, or Law of God, but not really found in the Law of God. Today, those commandments are called the oral law, or the Talmud.

If you did not follow the laws of the Pharisees the Pharisees would not consider you righteous. They would correct others and compel others to follow their man-made commandments under the premise that their authority to make such commandments came from YHWH, Himself.

Quite often our Messiah, Jesus, His Hebrew name being Yeshua, intentionally broke the commandments of the Pharisee oral law just to show people how the Pharisee laws are nothing, but it is God's commandments that count.

For example, we see this exact situation occurring in Mark 7.

Mark 7:1-13

> Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches. And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

> "'This people honors me with their lips,
> but their heart is far from me;
> in vain do they worship me,
> teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'
> You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

> And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, " Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban (that is, given to God) — then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

At one time, Paul subscribed to these "traditions of the Elders."

But did you see what our Messiah said in Mark? Yeshua said that these traditions make void the Word of God. Notice that Yeshua did not say to not follow the Law of God. In fact, Yeshua quotes Moses and defines what Moses wrote as the Law of God and the Word of God.

> You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said...

and he also said:

> ...thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.

Why? Why would these man made commandments make void what Moses wrote?

Because even though these oral law traditions are built with concepts from the Law of God, they are not in the Law of God. Thus, the Pharisees actually have created a new type of righteousness...a righteousness that comes from man, not from God. In addition, this causes people to follow man instead of our Creator through His righteous law.

This is what Paul is teaching in Philippians 3 as well, the same message as our Messiah in Mark 7.

Philippians 3:8-11

> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Our Messiah only taught and practiced the Torah. The Torah is the righteousness that we are to practice.

1 John 2:29

> If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has

been born of him.

1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

1 John 3:10

By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Does this discount what Yeshua did in His perfect righteousness? No! Not at all. We are to follow the Law of God the best that we can, because we should want to, as following the Law of God is how we love God.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

So, the righteousness that we practice does not earn us salvation, we practice righteousness because we love God. We love God because we are reminded of what our Creator did through Yeshua, offering us grace in our deficiencies in keeping His perfect righteousness, or Torah. For more on righteousness and the Torah, we encourage you to consider watching the teaching titled "Hunger."

We hope that this teaching has blessed you. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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