

Living Righteously

Let's learn how to live by Torah

What is our guide for right living?

You ask ten Christians from ten different denominations, you'll likely get fifty answers – from some of them going so wickedly as saying, you don't need to live right, to try and stop sinning *is a sin*. This is how wicked the extreme interpretations of Paul's grace message can get. To discern truth, we have to turn to our only source of truth and light.

Psalms 19:7: **The law of Jehovah * is * *perfect***, converting the soul. The testimony of Jehovah * is * sure, making the simple wise. The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart; the commands of Jehovah * are * pure, giving light to the eyes.

Torah is the *only* perfect thing we have. Christians throw out what God inspired David to call perfect, and believe the same God inspired Paul to tell us the Torah is bondage. (Gal 4:25)

Let's first dig into the word - righteous or just

צדקה

The Hebrew word for “righteousness” is also translated, the following ways:

The KJV translates Strong's H6666 in the following manner: righteousness (128x), justice (15x), right (9x), righteous acts (3x), moderately (1x), righteously (1x).

The idea is to be *justified* by our deeds of Torah. (Yes this is what the Bible teaches outside of Paul) - As I went over in my study on imputed righteousness, Paul is fundamentally lying about *tsedeqa* being imputed by mental ascent (faith) - it was Abram counting Yah just. However, scripture does plainly tell us how God will count us **tsedeqa** or righteous. For example, Job:

[Job 1:8 KJV] And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a **perfect** and an **upright** man, one that **feareth God**, and **escheweth evil**?

Digging for the pearl of great price, can help reveal deeper truths

Many people believe they need more than what we have in the Tanakh. So the Catholics added the New Testament and the works of the Apocrypha to their Canon. The Coptic Christians of Ethiopia just added anything and everything to their canon with *no discernment*. So we have these books based on the traditions of men, *declared holy* – but are a mixture, like Paul’s writings. I’m not suggesting that you don’t read them – that’s up to you. I am suggesting that **TORAH is the pinnacle of truth**, the five books of Moses that came from the hand and mind of the Father.

[Mal 4:4 KJV] Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, [with] the statutes and judgments.

We don’t need even the Prophets, the Writings (like Job) to reveal these truths – but they are like, *commentary* the *testimony* of how one performs Torah.

Job's testimony reveals more words and concepts to dig for

Perfect - תָּם (tam)

Upright - יָשָׁר (yāšār)

Feareth God - יָרָא אֱלֹהִים (Yare Elohim)

Escheweth evil? - סוּר רָע (sur ra)

All of these are descriptive words, telling us what a righteous man looks like. He is “perfect”, now does this mean this person *never* sins, never stumbles?

Job never cursed God, however it's clear he did sin against God and got back up. So let's dig into each word, and each of us ask ourselves.

Am I righteous in your eyes Father?

The perfect man?

[Psa 37:37-39 KJV] **Mark the perfect (tam) [man],** and behold the **upright (yasar):** for the end of [that] man [is] peace. But the **transgressors shall be destroyed together:** the end of the **wicked (rasa)** shall be cut off. But the salvation (yeshuah) of the **righteous (tsedeqa)** [is] of the LORD: [he is] their strength in the time of trouble.

Here we see many clear terms coming together helping us to see what the *end* of a perfect, upright and righteous man of YHVH. It's to bring Yeshuah to that man.

The end of the transgressors of Torah is the second death. To be “cut off”.

So we know the righteous man also “escheweth (rejects) evil (ra/rasa)” This is important to understand, that we do have to flee transgressing Torah, which is to reject wickedness. To stop acting wickedly. For we believe what Torah says.

[Exo 23:7 KJV] Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: **for I will not justify the wicked (rasa).**

YHVH will not justify (tsedeqa) the wicked (rasa) - in Greek as Paul uses the opposite.

YHVH will οὐ (ew - not) δικαιῶ (dikaioo - justify) ἀσεβής (asebes - wicked/ungodly)

The wicked tree says:

[Rom 4:5 KJV] But to him that worketh not, but **believeth on him** that **justifieth** the **ungodly**, his **faith is counted for righteousness.**

Characteristic of the perfect man?

The perfect man who is completed in YHVH rejects imputed righteousness. I looked back through my prior studies this last week and even though 2 to 4 years ago, I was still quoting from the Paul and the rest of the NT - I utterly rejected from the beginning the idea that one can remain wicked transgressing God's laws and be declared righteous. The only thing is because I was surrounded by wicked men teaching that, I didn't see through Paul - just the ideas that they were preaching to the masses. When Covid happened and I couldn't attend anymore, then my eyes were opened. The entire church system, even Messianics on Sabbath are deceived by imputed righteousness.

The perfect man seeks his truth from God's fountain of truth.

[Psa 119:142 KJV] Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and **thy Torah [is] the truth.**

This is why I urge CAUTION when pulling doctrine elsewhere than Torah. Even the Psalms are *NOT DOCTRINE*. If the Psalms aren't doctrine - how could the apocryphal works referenced by so many for their doctrinal stands be actual doctrine?

David's commentary here doesn't say, "Enoch is truth" - no, **TORAH is truth**. He doesn't say, "2 Esdras is truth" NO.

TORAH IS TRUTH.

[Pro 4:2 KJV] For I give you good doctrine, *forsake ye not my TORAH.*

Does Torah tell us about a “perfect” man?

[Gen 25:27 kjv] And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob [was] a **plain**[H8535] man, dwelling in tents.

Translations make it so hard to find truth, and that's why concordances should become your friend. Jacob was *perfect* / *complete* this is why he didn't need to leave the tabernacle looking for things outside of the tent as the *cunning hunter* Esau.

We also should find our *completeness* in being satisfied with what the Father above has given us, and not hunger and thirst for things of the world.

[Jas 4:3-4 KJV] Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

We cannot be complete if there remains within us a desire to be friends with the world.

Escaping from Sodom before it's time

Related to this topic is something I've seen in the community of wanting to go “off grid” while the world collapses around us. I can't say what God has told you - but I know what he's told me. Doing that is like burying the single talent he's given you.

It's sad how many want to run away from troubles - are we not told to be strong and courageous if we guard his commandments? I believe that there is a heart issue here - don't fear what may happen. Trust in the coming resurrection, and be the light wherever God has you *right now*. This is related to the next characteristic - being an **upright** man.

The Torah again reveals more about this word.

[Exo 15:26 rsv] saying, "If you will diligently **hearken to the voice of YHWH** your Elohim, and **do** that **which is right (yasar) in his eyes**, and give **heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes**, I will put none of the diseases upon you which I put upon the Egyptians; for I am the LORD, your healer."

What does it mean to be “upright”? To HEAR (Shema) the voice of YHWH, to DO which is **YASAR** (right) in HIS EYES, and to HEED his **mitswa** (commandments).

This is a repeated concept in Torah and the Prophets – HEAR His, OBEY Him. HEED Him. When we turn from Torah, from the commandments – we are turning from the *one source of life*.

If you're sinning against Yah and hear the Torah (as I did about seven years ago) turn back to Him and *obey* His voice.

Self righteousness is not following Torah

Many when pressed on the importance of Torah will all too often retort, “God hates the self righteous!” or “All your righteous deeds are like filthy rags.”

I have a video dealing with the misinterpretation of the latter – he’s talking about unrepentant sinners. But the former I’ve not touched on all that much. What defines “self-righteousness”?

[Jdg 17:6 rsv] In those days there was no king in Israel; **every man did what was right in his own eyes.**

It is when we choose to do what is right in our own eyes, and not what is right in God’s eyes. When you forsake *any* of Torah from the leaven of the NT – you are forsaking the Father’s truth for YOUR OWN TRUTH. Those of you who *refuse* to uphold the sabbaths, and guard with is clean and holy?

YOU are self-righteous. You are declaring yourself RIGHT WITH GOD, even though you walk in the dictates of YOUR OWN HEART.

Fearing God and doing so for your love of Him

[Psa 36:1-4 RSV] To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of Yah.
Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is **NO fear of God** before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. The words of his mouth are mischief and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good. He plots mischief while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he spurns not evil.

From this Psalm – it's clear the fear of God keeps us from sin. So when David slipped into sin? He lost the fear of God. I can see this looking back at my own life as well. When I fear God, I strive to do what is right in His eyes. When I lost that fear, I just acted wickedly continuously.

Do not fear man, fear God who can destroy your body and soul

Many people fear death by men – I have as well. But that man, regardless of what he makes you do against God, can only take your body. God will destroy us body and soul, if we are among the wicked.

Why did Abimelech not sleep with Abraham's wife? He feared God.

Why did Joseph not sleep with Potiphar's wife? He feared God.

Why did Zipporah circumcise her son when Yah came to take Moses' life? She feared God more than her husband in that moment.

The fear of God is *crucial* for a righteous man or woman.

Fear God to work what is right

[Act 10:34-35 KJV] Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation **he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness**, is accepted with him.

God isn't hard to figure out, and if this passage was paid attention to more by Christians the religion wouldn't be such a lawless mess. If you don't fear God – you will never work what is right. Christians believe righteous deeds come out of thinking the right things about Jesus. (Faith comes by hearing, Romans 10) God tells us our righteous deeds come by FEARING him – it's a HEART issue, not a BRAIN issue. Faith requires no thinking at all, just believe and receive it. To change your heart, takes *reason* – to fear the punishment of your sin, and **change your actions** to align with what Father considers right.

The one who eschews evil will find life

Before we dig into that, we should translate old King James into something more understandable. What does “eschew” mean? Abstain, abandon, steering clear, shun, avoid. Now let’s see how well the KJ translators did for the Hebrew word there.

H5493 - “sur” put away (as in put away the evil from amongst you), depart, remove, aside, take, turn in, take off, go, put, eschewed

It’s pretty clear without even getting to where this word is used in Torah (in combination with what we are abstaining from - evil) that it has to do with turning back to the Father and never looking back at sin.

Yakov struggle with pagan idols in his house

[Gen 35:2 csb] So Jacob said to his family and all who were with him, **"Get rid of the foreign gods that are among you. Purify yourselves and change your clothes.**

Here is the idea of *purging* evil from amidst you. Then what does Jacob command? Purify *yourselves* – far too many on this walk are waiting for God to purify their thoughts, remove their evil inclinations. When I was overcoming my stronghold, God commanded me to throw out my idols. I threw out what I had placed above God – didn't even think a second time about it. 3,000 dollars of video game hardware, accessories and software.

Destroyed to the glory of the Father to free me from *worse* bondages I was in.

When I listened on something like that, Father helped me become freer on the deeper bondages. I sought to purify myself, because I feared him, I loved him, and I desired to obey him.

The rebellion of Korah

Sometimes sin can become so deadly to the soul, that Father commands us to get away from others in sin – even *family*.

[Num 16:26 csb] He warned the community, "**Get away now from the tents of these wicked men. Don't touch anything** that belongs to them, **or you will be swept away because of all their sins.**"

The seriousness of being *swept away* to destruction because of the sins of our family. To get away from their tents, don't touch their things. This is a serious warning of being set apart. When I was pursuing sanctifying myself through Torah – many Christians I used to know, told me I was sinning against Jesus (and Paul) they chose to separate themselves from me, because they felt I was in sin *obeying the will of the Father*.

That's how far off track Christianity is from the truth – they invite sinners and reject those seeking to obey Torah. They call evil good, and good evil.

To turn from what is right is an abomination

[Pro 28:9 csb] Anyone who **turns his ear away from hearing the law** -- even his prayer is detestable.

We know that a righteous man turns from wickedness – but this verse tells us a wicked man turns his ear away from hearing what is right, from hearing Torah. This is one of the most powerful warnings against Christianity. That your prayers aren't even heard by the Father. He finds them detestable, an abomination to his ears – because you have chosen to reject His ways for the doctrines and commandments of men.

Now we've seen what makes up a righteous man?

So we need to ask ourselves the question again.

Am I obeying your will to the fullest I can Father?

[Jas 1:21-24 CSB] Therefore, **ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent**, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But **be doers of the word** and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror.** 24 he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was.

Do you see me as righteous?

[1Jo 3:7 CSB] Children, **let no one deceive you.** The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The “**law**” and the “**word**” are connected

[Isa 5:24 NKJV] Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, [So] their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; **Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.**

The warning from Ezekiel of the day of the LORD

[Eze 14:14, 20 NKJV] "Even [if] these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, **they would deliver [only] themselves by their righteousness,**" says the Lord GOD. ... "even [though] Noah, Daniel, and Job [were] in it, [as] I live," says the Lord GOD, **"they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver [only] themselves by their righteousness."**

In that dreadful day, only the truly righteous are going to survive being thrown into the lake of fire. But you believe, "I confessed Jesus - I shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-10) but you are woefully mistaken. Let me show you a contrast from the NT on how badly wrong Paul is in saying that.

Whoever calls on the name of the “lord” shall be saved?

[Mat 7:21-23 NKJV] "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**" Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'

[Rom 10:9-13 NKJV] that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "**Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.**" For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**"

True righteousness comes not from waiting for it, but acting on what Father asks you to do.

Why were the Ninevites delivered from destruction? They weren't natural born Jews – but Father *delivered them* from the wrath to come.

WHY?

They feared the Father and turned from their sin and learned to do what is right. They didn't stay lawless heathens, they turned to the Father's ways. The same is true for Joel 2:32 which Paul completely twists out of context in Romans 10. Those "calling on the name of the Lord" for salvation, are those actively seeking to change their behavior – to *purify themselves*. It talks about them putting sackcloth and ashes on their heart, to make sure that they are PURE for the Father. But Christianity teaches you that you only need call on the name of Jesus and be forever saved, forever secure. This is blasphemy against God and His holy and just nature.

God would be unjust to not judge you by your deeds, just because you confessed Jesus.

God would be UNMERCIFUL to not judge you by your ONGOING SIN just because you confessed Jesus.

This is NOT the model of repentance or righteousness we see OUTSIDE OF PAUL.

Do you want to live?

[Pro 6:23 NKJV] For the commandment [is] a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life,

Torah is not hard to understand – but unfortunately many who go down this road have non-conformist tendencies and feel like it's too simple, to just start observing sabbath – so invent a new way to do sabbath that is impossible for the majority of people to keep. It violates numerous scriptures, which show the simplicity of sabbath. Work six days, rest one.

There are others who try to add rules to remarriage, divorce, what to eat, how to dress – Torah isn't hard to figure out guys. In fact – you are only in need of one teacher – His Holy Spirit, the Ruach HaKodesh should be teaching you. I can help be a guide through scripture – and help teach what I've been taught, discipling you and myself. But I am not your final authority. I am not your teacher.

I am not Torah.

Don't let Oral Torah out there confuse you

[Deu 30:11 NKJV] "For this commandment which I command you today [is] not [too] mysterious for you, nor [is] it far off.

This commandment destroys the idea of anyone trying to add to Torah with burdens that no one can really bear. How someone rationally keeps a lunar sabbath and lives in the world as Daniel did? It's impossible. How does someone keep the dietary restrictions some of you have added to Torah just as the Rabbi's did? And the restrictions on divorce and remarriage?

Torah is NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND. IT IS NOT HARD TO DO. Yet People seeking to please their non-conformist tendencies, act unrighteously and *add to Tórah*. Yes, **Lunar sabbath is *adding to Tórah***. There is not a single Lunar calendar able to correctly count the omer of 50 days. Divorce and remarriage? Messiah wasn't against divorce, **he was against divorce for *any* reason**. The Pharisees oral Torah was twisting the law of divorce to allow it for any reason. And the same goes for remarriage - why would God tie such a burden to you? **It's sad the bondage people place themselves under and believe because they've added to Torah they are holier.**

The same applies for what we eat. If you abstain from meat it doesn't make you holier. It means you are also unrighteous, adding to Torah. Daniel abstained from meat, because they were eating human flesh. (look up the history of Babylon) They were drinking blood and what was sacrificed to idols.

He wasn't abstaining from meat at that time, because it made him holier - He was following Torah. We are forbidden to eat human flesh, to drink blood and to even eat what has been sacrificed to idols. Daniel wasn't following a "higher Torah" (and I've heard some say this) He was righteously guarding the Torah given to Moses.

Truth is not that hard to find, if you're truly willing to humble yourself

[Isa 42:21 NKJV] The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make [it] honorable.

The purpose of the Messiah was to *exalt* Torah – and that should be our purpose as well. I see so many go off in strange tangents, they are ultimately presenting strange fire to YHWH. I understand you are zealous, but have you really prayed, fasted, and sought out the truth in TORAH? Many of you are doing the same as Christians. Using out of context single verses (if even that) proof texts to support the building of strange fire to YHWH. I plead with you, seek HIS righteousness NOT YOUR OWN.

We know the test. Torah, Torah, Torah