



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 30:11-34:35
- II Corinthians 2:14-4:6
- Matthew 13:1-23
- Jeremiah 4:1-4

## FACE COVERINGS

- Proper Perspectives
- Veiled to Unveiled
- From Glory to Glory
- Dull to Understanding Heart

*Have you ever found it difficult to track with the Apostle Paul? You're not alone. Even Peter recognized that many people had a hard time understanding his writings, often twisting his words so badly that it caused trouble. Are you doing the same? And, no other topic has birthed such confusion than Paul's words about the Law. Let's highlight some of his doozies:*

- *The doers of the law will be justified...*
- *By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified...*
- *You have become dead to the law through the body of Christ...*
- *We have been delivered from the law...*
- *Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law...*

- *The commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death...*
- *The ministry of death, written and engraved on stones...*
- *The ministry of condemnation had glory...*
- *The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good...*
- *The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life...*
- *We know that the law is spiritual...*
- *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions...*
- *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!*
- *I agree with the law that it is good...*

*All the confusion exists because we are reading his words through a filter, a face covering. Paul referred to this as a “veiled face.” The face covering is supposed to be removed in Christ. Today, the whole world is walking around with their faces covered, a physical manifestation of their minds being blinded, a spiritual blindness for sure. Are you still reading Paul’s words with your face covered?*

### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

“But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been

commanded. **And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again,** until he went in to speak with Him.

Exodus 34:34-35 NKJV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“But their minds were blinded. **For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.** But even to this day, when Moses is read, **a veil lies on their heart.** Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” II Corinthians 3:14-16 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. It's time to take a head count. This portion of scripture starts off with Moses being instructed to take a census, or in the Hebrew idiom, “lift up the head.” There are some final directions for completing the Tabernacle and a review of the Sabbath commandment. Then our reading turns to the golden calf incident, the violation of the covenant between God and Israel, and how Moses addresses the restoration of Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh. The reading contains some other popular pieces as well: the breaking of the first set of tablets;

Moses' second forty days on the mountain (with no food or water), Yahweh speaking to him as a friend, and Moses' emergence with a second set of tablets with his face shining with the Glory of the Lord.

2. The first census is ordered and each man twenty years old and above shall give a ransom for himself to Yahweh. The offering shall be a half-shekel per man (rich and poor alike), so there may be no plague among them. It will be used for the service of the Tabernacle and as a memorial.
3. **The Bronze Laver:** Next we have instructions for the placement and use of the Bronze Laver for the priests to wash their hands and feet before they make an offering by fire. This gives rise to the thoughts about our great High Priest Y'shua, who washed His disciples feet right before He became the offering. (I guess He was preparing them to be royal priests who would present Him as the offering for the sins of the world.)
4. **The Holy Anointing Oil:** Details on the spices and exact composition for the oil compound are given, for them to anoint the Tabernacle with all its contents and the Ark, so they are "most holy." It is also used to consecrate the priests as ministers to Yahweh. It may not EVER be used for anointing outsiders (put on the flesh of non-priests), nor duplicated in composition as it is holy!

(a) *“It shall not be poured on man’s flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.”* Exodus 30:32 NKJV

5. **The Incense:** Equal amounts of sweet spices are used to compound a fine incense. It is to be placed before the Ark of the Testimony. It too is holy and it’s formula may never be used for common purposes.

(a) **Note:** all of these instructions about the laver, oil, and incense can’t but awaken imagery of Y’shua and: the foot washing of His disciples (John 13:1-17); He being anointed with the expensive oil by Mary (John 12:1-8); and of course, the embalming spices used after His death (John 18:38-42).

6. Then we see the call of the artisans to build everything having to do with the Tabernacle (see Exodus 31:1-11), as previously laid out in detail starting in Exodus 25. They are anointed by Yahweh with **wisdom, understanding, and knowledge**, to complete the tasks perfectly. (See teaching called [Implanted Sagacity](#) which emphasizes that where “God guides, God provides.”)

(a) **Last Portion:** *“So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, **whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom**, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”* Exodus 28:3 NKJV

(b) **This Portion:** *“And I have **filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,**”* (Exodus 31:3 NKJV) *“...**and I have put wisdom in the hearts** of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:”* Exodus 31:6 NKJV

7. **The Sabbath Law:** (See Exodus 31:12-17) We learn that the Sabbath was given as a “sign” (vv. 13 & 17), and we are reminded that it is “holy,” and that it serves as a reminder that God made the heavens and the earth in six days and that He rested and was refreshed on the seventh day.
8. At this point (v. 18) Yahweh gives Moses the two tablets of stone (the first set), *“written with the finger of God.”*
9. **The Golden Calf Incident:** (Exodus 32) The people are impatient because they see Moses as being delayed in returning from the Mountain. They insist Aaron make them *“gods to go before us,”* seemingly to replace the God who delayed the man who brought them out of Egypt.
10. As a weak leader, Aaron complies with the demands of the people (see teaching notes and video [Fake News](#), notes page 19, Section: Mob Rule—what happens when the masses influence the leader’s decision?).
11. Aaron fashions a golden calf and the people say: *“This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”*

(Exodus 32:4b NKJV) and Aaron says, *“Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.”* Exodus 32:5b NKJV

12. They sacrifice to the idol and then Yahweh tells Moses what is happening down below and that He is about to consume them.
13. Moses intercedes for the people as he “reasons” with Yahweh: He reminds Yahweh how He delivered them from Egypt, and of His promises to the Abraham, Isaac and Israel (Jacob), and that He promised to multiply their decedents as the stars of Heaven. Besides, what would the Egyptians think? “You brought them out of Egypt simply to kill them in the wilderness?” The Lord relented as per Moses’ petition.
14. Moses heads down the mountain, tablets written by God in hand, and when he sees the pagan revelry, he burns with anger and breaks the tablets at the base on the mountain.
15. Moses grinds the calf into dust and makes the people drink it!
16. Then Aaron offers the most ridiculous excuse. *“The people were impatient as they did not know what had become of you, so they asked for a new god; I collected some gold and cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”* (Paraphrase Exodus 32:22-24)  
Again I shall refer you to the teaching notes and video [Fake News](#).
17. Moses asks the unrestrained people to pick a side (Yahweh’s or otherwise) and he has those on the wrong side killed. Then

Moses has those who performed the judgement prepared for a blessing, for coming against their sons and brothers, on behalf of Yahweh.

18. Moses then goes before Yahweh to ask that He forgive them. He is so committed to the people that He offers himself in Messiah-like fashion: *“Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”* Exodus 32:32 NKJV

19. God agrees to blot out only those who were personally involved and spare the others: *“And the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.”* Exodus 32:33 NKJV

20. Now Moses is told to take back the lead as it is apparent Aaron is not capable: *“Now therefore, go, lead the people...My angel shall go before you...those deserving of discipline will be punished when the time comes.”* Exodus 32:34

(a) One last time I shall refer you to the teaching notes and video [Fake News](#).

21. In Exodus 33, the people are commanded to leave Sinai, and head toward the promised land (the land flowing with milk and honey). God will send an angel to lead them, because if He goes Himself He says He'd consume them. The people are



grieved by the warning and they set out after they remove their jewelry as commanded.

22. Moses then pitches his tent outside the camp and calls it “*the tabernacle of meeting*” (Exodus 33:7), and everyone who sought the Lord would go there. Each time Moses rose to enter, the people would stand at their tent doors and watch. When Moses would enter, the pillar of cloud would set at the door and Yahweh would speak to Moses.

23. Yahweh would speak to Moses face-to-face and then he would return to the camp. But Joshua would not depart from the tabernacle of meeting.

(a) *“So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, **did not depart from the tabernacle.**”* Exodus 33:11 NKJV

(b) You see Joshua’s heart in his refusal to leave the tabernacle of meeting in the words of Hebrews 12:2 *“Fix your eyes on Jesus.”*

24. Then Moses begs God to show him the way to know Him and find grace on this coming journey, and to show him His glory. God promises that His presence will go before Moses and that when His glory is shown, that Moses will need to be hidden in

the cleft of the Rock as to not see His face. (See Exodus 33:12-23).

25. In Exodus 34, Moses is ordered to cut two new tablets of stone like the first ones, to replace the one the Moses broke, so God can rewrite the commands. The first set was given to him by Yahweh as we see in Exodus 24, but it seems he must cut the next set himself.

(a) **The first set cut by Yahweh:** *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and **I will give you tablets of stone**, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.””* Exodus 24:12 NKJV

(b) **The second set cut by Moses:** *“And the LORD said to Moses, “**Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones**, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.”* Exodus 34:1 NKJV

26. We see that Yahweh will forgive iniquity and transgression, but the guilty will not be cleared and that the iniquity of the fathers will pass down three or four generations.

27. Moses prays that God we still take them as His inheritance, even though they have sinned, and Yahweh renews His covenant.

28. God says He will do with Israel what has never been done in all the earth. It will be an awesome thing. Be obedient and He will clear the way for them to take the land of promise.
29. He then warns...do not make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whom you will displace, as it will become a snare to you.
30. They are to break down their pagan altars, sacred pillars, and all pagan images. They are not to worship any other god! Yahweh is jealous!
31. DO NOT play harlot with their gods, or sacrifice to them, or marry into their families (their daughters will lead your sons astray.)
32. Don't repeat the Golden Calf incident and make any molded god ever again!
33. **Then we see reminders:** The Feast of Unleavened Bread, and redemption of all the firstborns (man and animal). The Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles, and how three times per year they shall appear before God at the Feasts (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles).
34. **Other Reminders:** Do not appear before the Lord empty handed; no leaven at Passover; and bring the Firstfruits of your harvest into the house of the Lord.

35. **The this amazing verse:** *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.””* (Exodus 34:27 NKJV)

- (a) Moses is commanded to write the commands as they are the words that will govern the covenant relationship between God and man!

36. We find that Moses has spent his second forty days and forty nights on the mountain with no food or water and he gets his second set of completed tablets.

- (a) **The first forty days and nights:** *“So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”* Exodus 24:18 NKJV

- (b) **The second days and nights:** *“So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.”* Exodus 34:28 NKJV

37. Finally, in this lengthy portion, we end with Moses descending from the mountain. He did not know it, but his face was glowing with the glory of God. It frightened the people as he reiterated Yahweh’s commands, so Moses began to cover his face with a veil in front of the people. Each time he went in

before Yahweh he would take the veil off and the glory of God would cover him. When he emerged in front of the people again, he would cover his face as they were afraid of the glory.

- (a) You see this picture in Moses meeting with Yahweh in II Corinthians 3:7-18.

## PROPER PERSPECTIVES

### 1. The Apostle Paul and our difficulty understanding him...

#### A. Paul, according to the wisdom given to him—He was special!

##### (1) Twisting Paul

- (a) “Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand **[He was a Torah scholar so he understood things and taught at a level beyond anyone of his day]**, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction **[People who were uneducated and/or had lousy motives made up their own dangerous doctrines**

—we see this in full bloom in the Church today, and is why we have 40,000+ denominations], as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” II Peter 3:14-16 NKJV

(2) What was Paul thinking? So easy to twist Paul’s words when you are “untaught and unstable””

(a) **Think about this quintessential example:** How on earth can you possibly understand what Paul is about to say when you DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE LAW!?! “Or do you not know, brethren (**for I speak to those who know the law**), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?” Romans 7:1 NKJV

(b) Now consider just a few samples of the myriad of Paul’s writings so often twisted (resulting in so much controversy and destruction)!

1. The doers of the law will be justified...Romans 2:14

2. By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified...Romans 3:20

3. You have become dead to the law through the body of Christ...Romans 7:4

4. We have been delivered from the law...Romans 7:6

5. Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law...Romans 3:31

6. The commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death...Romans 7:10
7. The ministry of death, written and engraved on stones...II Corinthians 3:7
8. The ministry of condemnation had glory...II Corinthians 3:9
9. The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good...Romans 7:12
10. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life... II Corinthians 3:6
11. We know that the law is spiritual...Romans 7:14
12. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions...Galatians 3:19
13. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Romans 7:7
14. I agree with the law that it is good... Romans 7:16

## **B. The Romans' Road**

- (1) The doers of the law will be justified but by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified!
  - (a) "For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, **but the doers of the law**

**will be justified;** for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them ) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” Romans 2:12-16 NKJV

(b) “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

(c) Paul makes the same argument in Galatians about justification!

1. “**But that no one is justified by the law** in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.””

Galatians 3:11 NKJV

2. “You have become estranged from Christ, you who **attempt to be justified by law;** you have fallen from grace.” Galatians 5:4 NKJV



(d) Let's reason together INSTEAD of TWISTING Paul's writing to our own destruction!

1. As you can see in these concepts in Romans separated by one chapter in the same letter, either Paul is nuts, or "doers of the law" and "deeds of the law" do NOT mean the same thing. Some versions say "works" in place of "deeds" and you will also find the same phrase many times in the letter to the Galatians. Works of law is the equivalent to NOT OBEYING THE LAW BY FAITH as it is considered LEGALISM because it considers the law as a checklist and not the loving instructions of a Father to be faithfully kept because we love the God who gave them. It is attempted obedience with the wrong heart and no faith.

a) "What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. **Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.** For they stumbled at that stumbling stone." Romans 9:30-32 NKJV

- b) “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, **that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law**; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” Galatians 2:16 NKJV
- c) “This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**” Galatians 3:2 NKJV
- d) “Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does **He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—**” Galatians 3:5 NKJV
- e) “**For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.**” But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”” Galatians 3:10-11 NKJV
- 1) The math is simple! This last reference reveals clearly what **works of law means**, if you take off your twisted glasses!

- a. Works of Law = Curse
- b. Curse = everyone who DOES NOT OBEY all things written in the book of the law; therefore...
- c. Works of Law = NOT OBEYING all things written in the book of the law...therefore
- d. Works of Law (by works of law no flesh will be justified) ≠ Doers of the Law (doers of the law will be justified)

(2) Do we then make void the law through faith?

- (a) “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.**”

Romans 3:27-31 NKJV

- 1. Now this should make complete sense! Faith is the only way to be considered a “doer of the the law” as opposed to a person of “works of law.”

2. Now these words should make total sense:

- a) “For by grace you have been saved **through faith [doers of law]**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works [works of law]**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works [a Hebrew idiom that means obeying commandments]**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10  
NKJV
- b) “But be **doers of the word [doers of law]**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22  
NKJV

(3) Dead to the law

- (a) “Or do you not know, brethren **(for I speak to those who know the law)**, that **the law** has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married

another man. **Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ,** that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. **But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by,** so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.” Romans 7:1-6 NKJV

1. You cannot understand the context here if you do not understand the law. If you do, immediately you would recognize that Paul is speaking SPECIFICALLY about **the law** that governs marriage. Put simply, the only way to be released from marriage to be free to marry another is if there is a death. Paul is making the point that, we, as the betrothed of Christ, are free to become the bride of Christ, even though we have been previously married (to sin, death, Satan), **BECAUSE THE LAW SAYS SO!** The law says we can be delivered from the law that holds us to a marriage,

so we are free to marry Christ. If we get rid of the law we get get rid of the bride of Christ!

(4) The Law is holy and just and good

(a) **“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!**

On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. **I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. **Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”** Romans 7:7-12 NKJV

1. In case you are confused about what I just taught you about the law of marriage, I will remind you that it is not the law that is the problem.
2. The law was not “new” at Mount Sinai; instead it was codified at Mount Sinai. It came (in witting) to increase our awareness of sin. In Galatians, Paul

worded it like this: *“What purpose then does the law serve? **It was added because of transgressions...**”*

Galatians 3:19 NKJV

3. Therefore that which seemed to bring death, the law, is actually holy, and the commandment **holy** and **just** and **good!**

(5) For we know that the law is spiritual

- (a) **“Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not!** But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. **For we know that the law is spiritual,** but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. **If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.”** Romans 7:13-16 NKJV

1. So you see, the law, although from a certain perspective seems to be condemning, is actually spiritual in nature, a very good thing that serves a very good purpose. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!

### **C. More Proper Perspectives on the law**

(6) Under a Curse

- (a) “For as **many as are of the works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, **“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”**” Galatians 3:10 NKJV

1. See The Romans’ Road (1) above!

(7) Not Justified by the Law

- (a) **“But that no one is justified by the law** in the sight of God is evident, for **“the just shall live by faith.”**”  
Galatians 3:11 NKJV

1. See The Romans’ Road (1) above: “The doers of the law will be justified but by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified!”

(8) Added because of Transgression

- (a) **“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions**, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.” Galatians 3:19 NKJV

1. See The Romans’ Road (4) above: “The Law is holy and just and good.”

(9) Not against the Promises of God



(a) **“Is the law then against the promises of God?**

**Certainly not!** For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.” Galatians 3:21 NKJV

1. The Law is part of the plan—you can’t eliminate it from the promise equation!

(10) The Law as a Tutor

(a) **“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ,** that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV

1. The Law is a tutor (schoolmaster) pointing us toward Christ. So do we still need it?

(11) Limitations of a Child

(a) **“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed,** and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29 NKJV

(b) **“Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,** but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.” Galatians 4:1-2 NKJV

(c) **“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,”** Galatians 4:19 NKJV

1. Yes we are heirs and masters, not slaves. HOWEVER, as long as the heir is a child he is NO DIFFERENT than a slave and he still needs the tutor (schoolmaster).

## (12) The Yoke of Bondage

- (a) “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which **Christ has made us free**, and do not be entangled again with a **yoke of bondage**. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you **become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing**. And I testify again to **every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law**. You have become estranged from Christ, you **who attempt to be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace.” Galatians 5:1-4 NKJV

1. Yoke of bondage! Yes, when you attempt to be justified by works of law!
2. What might that look like? When you think that the physical act of circumcision itself means ANYTHING if you do it as a work of law!
3. If you do, then you are a debtor to the WHOLE law, which means outside of strict obedience to every detail (no grace allowed), you are dead!

## (13) To Circumcise or Not?

(a) “And I, brethren, **if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution?** Then the offense of the cross has ceased.” Galatians 5:11 NKJV

1. Judaism of the day was stuck in “works of law” as discussed early. If Paul was still preaching that message, he would not have been constantly persecuted by Jews who were against Christ!

(14) Fulfill or Fulfill?

(a) “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only **do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another. **For all the law is fulfilled [Strong’s 4137: to make replete] in one word**, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”” Galatians 5:13-14 NKJV

1. “**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill [Strong’s 4137: to make replete]. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled** [Strong’s 1096: to come into being].** Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does

and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-20 NKJV

- a) From Strong’s Greek 4137 (pléroó): to make replete, i.e. to cram, level up, or to furnish, satisfy
- b) From Strong’s Greek 1096 (ginomai): to come into being, to happen, to become
- c) The law is made replete in Christ, not obsolete in Christ. He came to fully demonstrate it not do away with it! He shows us how, so we can be “doers” and not “workers”!

**D. Proper perspective for our NEXT SECTION!**

(1) If anyone could have confidence in the flesh it would be Paul!

- (a) “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, **rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he**

**may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:**

circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." Philippians 3:1-6 NKJV

1. If there was any man on earth who could have boasted with confidence in the life he was leading in obedience to the law, it was Paul!

(2) Yet when I COMPARE ANYTHING else with the excellence of knowing Christ...it is rubbish (Key: by Comparison)

(a) "But what things were gain to me, **these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to

His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Philippians 3:7-11 NKJV

1. However, Paul came to the revelation that, although that life was great, in comparison to coming to know Christ, meaning, stacking them side-by-side, his former life was NOTHING, the equivalent of a pile of trash.
  2. This DOES NOT mean a life of obedience to the law is a pile of trash, simply that if you attempt to compare it to a new life in Christ, it just is not in the same league!
- (3) Highlighting statements about righteousness above and adding one from Romans 10...
- (a) “For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20 NKJV
  - (b) “and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law**, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;” Philippians 3:9 NKJV
  - (c) “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that

they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.** For **Christ is the end** [Strong's 5056: principal end, aim, purpose, goal] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Romans 10:1-4 NKJV

1. The righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees which was a righteousness of "works of law," obedience based on self-righteousness, is the very thing that deceived them and made them ignorant of God's righteousness in Christ. Christ has been the goal of the law all along and Paul had come to that truth and was desperate for his fellow Israelites to see it!
2. Unfortunately, in many English translations it uses the phrase "Christ is the **end** of the law" as opposed to "Christ is the **goal** of the law." This has led to generations of wrong thinking about the truth that connects Christ with the law. Most Christians have adopted the view that Christ ended the law as opposed to pointing to the law correctly. Peter used the same Greek word that Paul used when he pointed to salvation in 1 Peter.

a) **The END of the Law?** “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **receiving the end [Strong’s 5056: principal end, aim, purpose, goal]** of your faith—the **salvation of your souls.**” I Peter 1:6-9 NKJV

1) Both Romans 10:4 and 1 Peter 1:9 use Strong’s Greek 5056 (telos) for end: the principal end, aim, purpose, goal

2) Do we **“end”** our faith to receive the salvation of our souls, or is the **“goal”** of our faith the salvation of our souls?

3) Is Christ the **“end”** of the Law or is Christ the **“goal”** of the Law?

(4) If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain...



(a) “I have been **crucified with Christ**; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; **and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; **for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**” Galatians 2:20-21 NKJV

1. If we could achieve righteousness by working to keep the law, then why would we need a savior?

Remember, the law comes in to show us we are sinners, so we crumble under the need for the Messiah. The alternative: *“being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”*

### Summery **PROPER PERSPECTIVES**

1. Paul was a Torah scholar, so he understood things and taught at a level beyond anyone of his day.
2. People who were uneducated and/or had lousy motives made up their own dangerous doctrines—we see this in full bloom in the Church today, and is why we have 40,000+ denominations.
3. You must understand the contrast between Works of Law and Doers of Law.

4. The law says we can be delivered from the law that holds us to a marriage if there is a death, so we are free to marry Christ. If we get rid of the law, we get get rid of the bride of Christ!
5. The law was not “new” at Mount Sinai; instead it was codified at Mount Sinai. It came (in witting) to increase our awareness of sin. ***“It was added because of transgressions...”***Galatians 3:19
6. It is not those who love the law who are cursed; it is those who do not continue, by faith in Christ, in all things written in the law!
7. The law is out tutor (schoolmaster) until Christ is fully formed in us.
8. Bondage is thinking the law can be accomplished outside of faith!
9. Circumcision is valuable only in the context of faith, otherwise it is just a work!
10. Christ came to show us the way, fully demonstrate, so we could do the law, not do away with the law.
11. If anyone could have confidence in the flesh it would be the Apostle Paul. And he leaned to have none!
12. When compared with Christ, even the best of what life can offer, is total rubbish, no matter how good it is otherwise.
13. Coming to Christ gives us the proper perspective on His righteousness vs. self-righteousness.

14. Christ is not the end of the law; He is the goal of the law.
15. The life we now live, we live because we died with Christ and He now lives in us.

## GLORIOUS AND MORE GLORIOUS

### 2. Veiled to Unveiled from Glory to Glory

#### A. The Tenor of these Words

##### (1) Covenant

- (a) “Then the LORD said to Moses, “**Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.**” So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets **the words of the covenant**, the Ten Commandments.”

Exodus 34:27-28 NKJV

##### (2) Five levels in which to see Scripture (DJV)

- (a) Plain text: it says what it says...
- (b) Historic Narratives: this is what happened...
- (c) Lesson Narratives: this story means something...
- (d) Spiritual Application: this is what is revealed in Christ...
- (e) Personal Application: This is what it means to me, **RIGHT NOW...** (*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,*

*piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)*

## **B. Veiled Faces**

- (1) A Glorious Covenant too glorious to gaze upon
  - (a) “Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the **two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses’ hand** when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know **that the skin of his face shone** while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. **Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.** And when Moses had finished speaking with them, **he put a veil on his face.** But **whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out;** and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. **And whenever the children of Israel saw**

**the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again,** until he went in to speak with Him.” Exodus 34:29-35 NKJV

1. Moses was reflecting so much glory that the people could not or did not wish to participate in it!
2. Soon we will see in the words of Paul what this actually meant about the people, how this blindness affected them, and how the same blindness is playing out in the world today.
3. Moses was clearly not suffering from that fear as just one chapter earlier in Exodus 33 he was asking for the glory: *“Please, show me Your glory.”*

(2) The Set-up: Show me Your Glory!

- (a) “So the LORD spoke to **Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.** And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11 NKJV
- (b) “Then Moses said to the LORD, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, **‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’** Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in **Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know**

**You and that I may find grace in Your sight.** And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, **“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”** Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. **For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?** So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” So the LORD said to Moses, **“I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.”** And he said, **“Please, show me Your glory.”** Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” But He said, **“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”** And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while **My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock,** and will **cover you with My hand while I pass** by. Then I will take away My hand,

and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”” Exodus 33:12-23 NKJV

### **C. The Aroma of death to the Aroma of Life**

(1) Those being save; those perishing!

(a) “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being **saved** and among those who are **perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.** And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, **peddling the word of God**; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.” II Corinthians 2:14-17 NKJV

1. The message of Christ is a stench in the nostrils of those who are perishing, but will smell like sweet perfume to those who will inherit eternal life.
2. There are many who are out there peddling the Gospel of other reasons than sincerity.

### **D. Not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh**

(1) God’s Epistle

(a) “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? **You are our epistle written in our hearts**, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, **written not with ink** but by the Spirit of the living God, **not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.**” II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

1. We are God’s letter on whom the law is written, the tablets of flesh (fertile hearts) as opposed to tablets of stone!

#### **E. Not of letter—but of the Spirit**

##### **(1) The letter kills—the Spirit gives life**

(a) “And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us **sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**” II Corinthians 3:4-6 NKJV

1. The letter is referring to those who think that obedience by works of law, a checklist of does and don’t, makes them righteous. This will end in death!



2. The Spirit of God, instead, writes the law on our hearts, which brings life.

## F. Unveiled Faces

- (1) Pay close attention to the comparison Paul is making about our abilities to witness and experience the glory (See Philippians 3:7-11 above). And see all the imagery he uses to tell us what was really happening back then after Moses came down from the mountain and was going in out of the tent of meeting.
  - (a) **“But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was**

passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**" II Corinthians 3:7-18 NKJV

1. The Ministry of death (condemnation) written on tablets was so glorious that the people could not even handle the Glory all over Moses.
2. The ministry of righteousness was so much more glorious.
3. In other words, what was glorious then, is as if not glorious at all, when compared to the glory of Christ. This is consistent with Paul's assessment of his very life before Christ in Philippians 3.
4. It does not mean the law is not glorious.

5. Moses had to cover his face to hide the glory from the people because their minds were blinded and hearts were dull.
6. That same veil remains today in the reading of the Old Testament.
7. The veil is taken away in Christ.
8. If the veil remains on YOU FACE when you read the Old Testament, what does that say?
9. When we remove the veil we are transformed from glory to glory.

**G. Veiled to those who are perishing**

- (1) The god of this age has blinded those who do not believe...
- (b) “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, **we do not lose heart**. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine**

on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, **who has shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II Corinthians 4:1-6 NKJV

1. Blind mind = Blind hearts
2. Remedy = Light of the Gospel to shine in your heart

### **Summary: GLORIOUS AND MORE GLORIOUS**

1. Moses was reflecting so much glory that the people could not or did not wish to participate in it!
2. This same blindness is playing out in the world today.
3. The message of Christ is a stench in the nostrils of those who are perishing, but will smell like sweet perfume to those who will inherit eternal life.
4. The letter of the law is referring to those who think that obedience by works of law, a checklist of does and don't, makes them righteous. This will end in death!
5. The Spirit of God, instead, writes the law on our hearts, which brings life.

6. What was glorious then (Ministry of death (condemnation) written on tablets), is as if not glorious at all, when compared to the glory of Christ.
7. Moses had to cover his face to hide the glory from the people because their minds were blinded and hearts were dull.
8. That same veil remains today in the reading of the Old Testament.
9. The veil is taken away in Christ.
10. If the veil remains on YOUR FACE when you read the Old Testament, what does that say?
11. When we remove the veil we are transformed from glory to glory.

## A MATTER OF THE HEART

### 3. **The Dull Heart vs. The Understanding Heart**

#### A. **The Parable of the sower**

##### (1) The Soils of the Heart

- (a) “On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, [1] **some seed**

**fell by the wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them. [2] **Some fell on stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And [3] **some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them**. But [4] **others fell on good ground** and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 13:1-9 NKJV

- (2) Parables explained—the hearts of this people have grown dull
- (a) “And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” He answered and said to them, “**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. **Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand**. And in them the prophecy of **Isaiah** is fulfilled, which says: \***Hearing you will hear**

**and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'** But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:10-17 NKJV

1. \*"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, **"Here am I! Send me."** And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'  
**"Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."**" Isaiah 6:8-10 NKJV
2. **Paul speaking to Jews in Rome whose hearts were dull! Same scripture from Isaiah that Y'shua quoted**

**in Matthew 13 (Parable of the Sower):** “So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly **testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets,** from morning till evening. And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. So **when they did not agree** among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: **“The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying,** ‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this **people have grown dull.** Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should **understand with their hearts** and turn, So that I should heal them.” ’ “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” **And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.** Then Paul dwelt two whole years



in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him." Acts 28:23-31 NKJV

a) Parable reveals the heart!

### (3) The Parable of the Sower Explained

(a) ""Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away **what was sown in his heart**. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful**. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and

produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”” Matthew 13:18-23 NKJV

1. The Soil of the heart is what makes all the difference.
2. Hard untilled soil will yield no produce.
3. Fertile soil = Fertile heart = Uncircumcised heart

## **B. Circumcision of the Heart**

(1) Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts.

(a) ““If you will return, O Israel,” says the LORD, “Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved. And you shall swear, ‘The LORD lives,’ In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory.” For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: “**Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts,** You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.”” Jeremiah 4:1-4 NKJV

1. This is what Y’shua was referring to with the third type of soil in His parable.

(2) Written in their hearts

(a) “for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **who show the work of the law written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them ) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” Romans 2:14-16 NKJV

1. The law written in your hearts is circumcision

(3) For circumcision is indeed profitable if

(a) “**For circumcision is indeed profitable if** you keep the law; but **if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision**. Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the

letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

Romans 2:25-29 NKJV

1. If you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision, even if you are physically circumcised.

(4) Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing!

- (a) “But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.

**Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what**

**matters.** Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.” I

Corinthians 7:17-24 NKJV

1. We’ve come full circle

2. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.
3. By keeping the commandments we mean, with a fertile, uncircumcised heart, you are a doer of the law.
4. You will only see this if you take off your Face Covering!

### **Summary: A MATTER OF THE HEART**

1. There are four soils of the heart, only one fertile.
2. The Soil of the heart is what makes all the difference.
3. Hard untilled soil will yield no produce.
4. Fertile soil = Fertile heart = Uncircumcised heart
5. If you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision, even if you are physically circumcised.
6. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.
7. By keeping the commandments we mean, with a fertile, uncircumcised heart, you are a doer of the law.
8. You will only see this if you take off your Face Covering!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

**1. Peter was a simple fisherman; Paul, a highly educated Torah scholar. Peter acknowledged that Paul wrote in complex ways that readers often twisted:**

A. Why did Peter say it would lead to their own destruction?

**2. Make sense of these seeming contradictions:**

A. The doers of the law will be justified vs. By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified.

B. You have become dead to the law through the body of Christ vs. Do we make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

C. The ministry of death, written and engraved on stones vs. The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

D. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life vs. We know that the law is spiritual.

**3. Paul said, "I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."**

A. How does this help explain his many seeming contradictions as referenced in Question #1?

B. How does this shed greater light on his words in II Corinthians 3:9-11? *"For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in*

*glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.”*

- C. How did this help him finally distinguish the difference between his own righteousness and God’s righteousness?

**4. Moses had such glory on his face after spending time with Yahweh that he was forced to cover his face with a veil when speaking to the people.**

- A. Why does Paul elude to these people as having their minds blinded?
- B. What does it mean that “until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament?”
- C. What does it mean that “The veil is taken away in Christ?”
- D. What does it mean that “the Gospel is veiled to those who are perishing?”

**5. In Y’shua’s famous parable about the sower and the four soils, it is obvious that the soil represents the condition of the heart.**

- A. Describe the four soils.
- B. Relate Y’shua’s explanation about the heart to the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5-10).
- C. Relate Y’shua’s specific reference to the third soil to the words of the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 4:1-4).