



# KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 2:17-29
- Deut. 10:16; 17:18-20; 30:6

Title:

## CIRCUMCISION REIMAGINED

- A Paper Tiger
- Circumcision of the Heart

## SEED:

“Indeed you are called a Jew, and **rest on the law**, and make your **boast in God**, and **know His will**, and **approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law**, and are confident that you yourself are **a guide to the blind**, a **light to those who are in darkness**, an **instructor of the foolish**, a **teacher of babes**, having **the form of knowledge and truth in the law**. **You**, therefore, **who teach** another, **do you not teach yourself? You** who **preach** that a man should not steal, do you steal?” Romans 2:17-21 NKJV

## FRUIT:

“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...**” Romans 2:14-15a NKJV

“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 2:28-29 NKJV

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

*Those who have been instructed from the Torah, traditionally the Jews, by inference practice what is, “the excellent and superior way of life,” and by extension say, “they know God’s will.” Someday in the millennial kingdom, Christians will rule and reign as overseers with Christ within God’s governmental system, which naturally uses His laws as the framework for a well-functioning and healthy society. So, it must stand to reason that being well-versed in the grace-empowered administration of God’s commands is necessary.*

*Presently, many who come to Y’shua from the Jewish faith should have an advantage, having been raised in a biblical law-based culture. The opportunity to become teachers and mentors to others, who have come to faith in Christ, but from a pagan world, is vast. Faithful Jews simply have the upbringing, background, and previous knowledge to do it well. Wouldn’t it be prudent to develop a duplicatable system that institutes God’s laws in a fresh new way? It must be inspired and empowered by God’s grace, not the same system that, in many ways, blinded Jews from recognizing Y’shua.*

*However, if you claim to represent God, while living in habitual disobedience, your hypocrisy can damage new converts, either by teaching them that authenticity and integrity are unnecessary, or by misrepresenting the intention and application of God’s commands, causing those weaker in the faith to stumble. What is most critical to recognize, however, is that obedience to the Law is a matter of the heart. Your motivation, intention, inspiration, and what empowers your obedience*

is what is most important. That does not discount the value of actually obeying God's commands; it just emphasizes that how and why you obey matters more.

Paul is not teaching anything that is not completely consistent with the writings of Moses. Your discipleship training is really rulership training for God's kingdom, and leadership training for your personal development. You are supposed to learn how to apply the power of God's grace toward His divine instructions: spiritual practices, lifestyle laws, and even the physical laws of the universe. To do so you should practice implementing grace-empowered obedience right now, here on earth, during this life. That is what will insert the government of heaven into everything you do; that is what will bring the kingdom of heaven to earth.

## A PAPER TIGER

### 1. The Excellence of God's Law

#### A. Proper Understanding of the Law

##### (1) Approving Excellent Things

(a) Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law...

1. "Indeed you are called a Jew, and **rest on the law**, and make your **boast in God**, and **know His will**, and **approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law**, and are confident that you yourself are **a guide to the blind**, a **light to those who are in darkness**, an **instructor of the foolish**, a **teacher of babes**, having **the form of knowledge and truth in the law**." Romans 2:17-20 NKJV
2. "***What advantage then has the Jew***, or what is the profit of circumcision? ***Much in every way!*** Chiefly because to them were committed ***the oracles of God***." Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
3. "***If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...***" I Peter 4:11a NKJV
4. "***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And **do not be conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and **perfect will of God*****." Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

#### B. Proper Application of the Law

##### (1) Words of Divine Revelation

(a) Write a copy of this law in a book...

1. "'Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And **it shall be with him**, and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may **learn to fear the Lord his God** and be **careful to observe all the words of this law** and these statutes, **that his heart may not be lifted** above his brethren, that he may **not turn aside from the commandment** to the right hand or to the left, and **that he may prolong his days** in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel." Deuteronomy 17:18-20 NKJV
2. "***...if you diligently obey*** the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments... the Lord your God will set you **high above all nations** of the earth. And **all these blessings** shall come

upon you and **overtake you, because** you obey the voice of the Lord your God:" Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV

3. **of wisdom**, And the **knowledge** of the Holy One is **understanding**." Proverbs 9:10 NKJV
4. **"Pride goes before destruction**, And a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 NKJV
5. **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."** II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV
6. **"You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord** your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that **you may prolong your days** in the land which you shall possess." Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV
7. **"You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments** which I command you today, that it may go well with you and **with your children after you**, and that you may **prolong your days** in the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time."" Deuteronomy 4:40 NKJV

### C. Proper Perspective of the Law

(1) Instead of ridiculing God's laws, magnify them!

(a) Blessed is the man delights in God's law...

1. "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**" Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV

(b) A small sample of the 176 verses of Psalm 119...

1. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, **Who walk in the law** of the Lord! Blessed are those **who keep His testimonies**, Who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; They **walk in His ways**. You have commanded us To **keep Your precepts diligently**. Oh, that my ways were directed To **keep Your statutes!** Then I would not be ashamed, **When I look into all Your commandments.**" Psalms 119:1-6 NKJV
2. **"eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;"** Romans 2:7 NKJV
3. **"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."** Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
4. **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."** II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV
5. **"Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name."** Psalms 119:132 NKJV

(c) The Apostle Paul confirms that it is through the Law that God reveals His will (which is right where we began today).

1. "Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the Law, and make your boast in God, **and know His will**, and approve the things that are excellent, **being instructed out of the Law.**" Romans 2:17-18 NKJV
2. "*Also it shall be, **when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites.*" Deuteronomy 17:18 NKJV
3. "*All Scripture **is given by inspiration of God** [Divine Revelation], and is **profitable for doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**, that **the man of God may be complete**, **thoroughly equipped for every good work.***" II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

#### D. (1)A New System of Government (for self and society)

- (1) Someday in the Millennial Kingdom, we will rule and reign with Christ inside God's governmental systems (Revelation 20:4).
  - (a) And His kingdom will never end...
    1. "**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever**; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." Psalms 45:6 NKJV
    2. "And He will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**, and of **His kingdom there will be no end.**" Luke 1:33 NKJV
- (2) One day we will be the administrators of God's Laws
  - (a) As the Body of Christ, it is our duty to establish governance using God's Law, even now!
    1. "Of the increase of His government and peace There **will be no end**, **Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom**, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, **even forever**. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:7 NKJV
- (3) Inspired and Ordered Governance
  - (a) This application of God's Word (Laws) will work for individuals, marriages, families, communities, organizations, and governments!
    1. "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith** virtue, to **virtue** knowledge, to **knowledge** self-control, to **self-control** perseverance, to **perseverance** godliness, to **godliness** brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness **love**. For if these things are yours and abound, **you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV
    2. "*having **the form of knowledge and truth in the law**.*" Romans 2:20
    3. "*For **if these things are yours and abound**, **you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***" II Peter 1:8 NKJV

#### E. Wrong Application of the Law

- (1) Are you listening to yourself? Do you hear your own words?
  - (a) A paper tiger?
    1. "**You**, therefore, **who teach** another, **do you not teach yourself?** You who **preach** that a man **should not steal**, **do you steal?**" Romans 2:21 NKJV
    2. "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea **to win one proselyte**, and **when he is won**, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*** {27} "*Woe to you, scribes and*

*Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed **appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.***" Matthew 23:15, 27 NKJV

3. "Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but not to disputes over doubtful things. **For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.** Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him." Romans 14:1-3 NKJV

(b) I hate sin, but I love my sin!

1. "**You who say, 'Do not commit adultery,'** do you commit adultery? **You who abhor idols**, do you rob temples?" Romans 2:22 NKJV
2. "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the **Gentiles who are turning to God**, but that we write to them to **abstain from things polluted by idols [Idolatry], from sexual immorality [Adultery], from things strangled, and from blood [knowing what you can eat].**" Acts 15:19-20 NKJV

(c) You claim the law is great, yet you bring dishonor to God by violating it!

1. "**You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?**" Romans 2:23 NKJV

(d) Tarnishing God's Name!

1. "For **\*'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,**" as it is written." Romans 2:24 NKJV
2. **\*'Now therefore, what have I here," says the Lord, "That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail," says the Lord, "And My name is blasphemed continually every day."** Isaiah 52:5 NKJV

## F. (2) Misrepresenting the Faith

(1) Authenticity and integrity are unnecessary! That is what you are saying when you claim to represent God, while living in habitual disobedience.

(a) Paul leaves Timothy in Ephesus to lovingly spread good doctrine and to correct bad doctrine, which is being propagated by those who have strayed from the truth!

1. "**desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.**" I Timothy 1:7 NKJV

(b) In the last days...

1. "But know this, that **in the last days** perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, {7} **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" II Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV

(c) In latter times...

1. "Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will **depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, speaking **lies** in **hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **forbidding to marry**, and **commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received** with thanksgiving **by those who believe and know the truth**. For every creature of God is **good**, and **nothing is to be refused** if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is **sanctified by the word of God and prayer**." I Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV
- (d) Hypocrisy can damage new converts. But, even worse is to misrepresent the intention and application of God's commands, and cause those weaker in the faith to stumble!
  1. "**Receive one who is weak in the faith**, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For **one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables**. Let not **him who eats** despise **him who does not eat**, and **let not him who does not eat judge him who eats**; for God has received him." Romans 14:1-3 NKJV
- (e) Am I saying that eating unclean food no longer matters?
  1. "Therefore **let us not judge one another anymore**, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way**. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that **there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean**. Yet **if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died**." Romans 14:13-15 NKJV
- (f) Don't let confusion over food wreck someone's faith.
  1. "**Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure**, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor **do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak**. Do you have faith? **Have it to yourself** before God. **Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin**." Romans 14:20-23 NKJV
- (g) Peter's Vision and Subsequent Ministry: Acts 10:9-11:18
  1. **On Simon's Rooftop in Joppa**: "But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For **I have never eaten anything common or unclean**." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "**What God has cleansed you must not call common**."" Acts 10:14-15 NKJV
  2. **In the house of Cornelius**: "Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. **But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean**." Acts 10:28 NKJV
  3. **Peter defends preaching to the Gentiles**: "But I said, 'Not so, Lord! **For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth**.' But the voice answered me again from heaven, '**What God has cleansed you must not call common**.'" Acts 11:8-9 NKJV
  4. **The vision was about men, NOT animals**: "If therefore God gave **them** the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, **who was I that I could withstand God?**"" Acts 11:17 NKJV

- (h) Eating meat sacrificed to idols: more lessons on causing your **weak** brother to stumble!
1. **"Now concerning things offered to idols:** We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. **Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing** in the world, and that there is no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many Lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. **However, there is not in everyone that knowledge;** for **some, with consciousness of the idol,** until now **eat it as a thing offered to an idol;** and **their conscience, being weak,** is defiled. But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. **But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.** For if anyone **sees you** who have knowledge **eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?** And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But **when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.** Therefore, **if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."** I Corinthians 8:1-13 NKJV

## CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

### 2. Circumcision and Uncircumcision

#### A. Circumcision is Profitable

- (1) A sign, but just one of many laws.
  - (a) Every male child shall be circumcised as a sign of the covenant!
    1. **"This is My covenant** which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: **Every male child among you shall be circumcised;** and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you."** Genesis 17:10-11 NKJV
  - (b) Circumcision is a great sign, but not if you ignore the rest of God's commands.
    1. **"For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law;** but if you are a breaker of the law, **your circumcision has become uncircumcision."** Romans 2:25 NKJV
  - (c) Uncircumcision can be counted as circumcision!
    1. **"Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?"** Romans 2:26 NKJV
    2. *"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..."* Romans 2:14-15 NKJV
  - (d) The obedient one becomes the judge, not the physically circumcised one!

1. "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?**" Romans 2:27 NKJV

## B. Circumcision of the Heart

### (1) Outward vs. Inward

#### (a) A True Jew

1. "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 2:28-29 NKJV
2. *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to FULFILL.** 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."* Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV
3. *"Therefore **circumcise the foreskin of your heart**, and be stiff-necked no longer."* Deuteronomy 10:16 NKJV
4. *"**And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, **to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.**"* Deuteronomy 30:6 NKJV
5. *"Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns. **Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your hearts.**"* Jeremiah 4:3-4 NKJV
6. *"**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you TO WALK IN MY STATUTES, AND YOU WILL KEEP MY JUDGMENTS AND DO THEM."* Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV
7. *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)

## C. Final Words on Circumcision

### (1) To circumcise or not to circumcise?

- (a) Timothy had a Jewish mother and Greek father and was not circumcised as a child. Paul had him circumcised because he was taking him into a region with Jews that knew his father was Greek.

1. "Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named **Timothy**, the son of a certain **Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek**. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. **Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.** And as they went through the cities, they **delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.** So the **churches were strengthened in the faith**, and increased in number daily." Acts 16:1-5 NKJV
2. *"And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, **Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**" Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas **had no small dissension and dispute with them**, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should **go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.**"* Acts 15:1-2 NKJV



3. *"But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, **"It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."**"* Acts 15:5 NKJV
  4. *"Therefore I judge that **we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles** who are turning to God, but that we write to them to **abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.** For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."* Acts 15:19-21 NKJV
  5. *"**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.**"* I Corinthians 7:19-20 NKJV
- (b) And yet when it came to Titus in Galatia, Paul made the opposite decision as he did with Timothy!
1. *"Yet **not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.** And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom **we did not yield submission** even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."* Galatians 2:3-5 NKJV
- (c) So therefore!
1. *"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.** For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus **neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**"* Galatians 5:1-6 NKJV
- (d) Circumcision Reimagined!
1. *"**What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way!** Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God."* Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
  2. *"**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 2:28-29 NKJV