

2014-11-15

## **Israel-Messiancs-law #1**

Hi all,

When Barb and I were first married an old T-shirt came with me into the marriage. I had bought it while in college, it was reversible and double layered so it could be worn on colder days, and I loved it. It had HPER emblazoned across the front on both sides: **H**Health, **P**Physical **E**ducation, **R**Recreation. HPER

Barb just thought I was announcing to the world I was hyper.

She hated that shirt because it was ugly and worn out and she made me promise never to wear it in public. It became my 'go to' shirt I would put on to wear around the house, but one day I noticed she began casting sideways glances at it like a lioness might look at a wounded gazelle, waiting for the right time to pounce.

She would say things like, 'You know, one day you may come home to find that shirt missing', testing the waters. I told her not to even joke about it. But Barb loves order with everything in its place, and to her that shirt ruined her sense of all that was right and orderly in her world, which somehow included my dresser drawer. At that early stage of marriage she was still under the mistaken impression many young brides make; 'I'll change him', and 'I'll dress him' - she saw the fact that I would actually like that shirt as a character flaw in me she had to correct.

### **One day it happened**

To Barb, the shirt had to go to restore order to her universe. To me, if that shirt were to disappear, there would be a Big Bang in her universe.

I came home from work one day, went to my drawer for my shirt, and couldn't find it. At first she shrugged her shoulders, hoping I'd give up the hunt and wear something else. But she had that guilty lioness look in her eye, like she'd killed a gazelle and hidden it from everyone else. Once she admitted she had thrown it out I blew up. We had made a rule when we were dating that once we got married we'd never allow the "D" word (divorce) to enter our thoughts nor conversation, but I came close to breaking that promise that day.

I behaved very badly, ranting and yelling at decibels approaching that of a jet taking off, like she had just ripped a rib out of my side, and emotionally it was like that. I didn't even get to say goodbye to it as the trash truck carried it away. She said it was so ugly the poor would not have wanted it, which was a huge statement since we WERE the poor! Then she admitted if she gave it to the poor she was afraid I'd track it down and rescue it, and she knew the trash truck was final.

She apologized and I made her promise never, ever, ever, ever again throw out my clothes without my agreement. She agreed and I also apologized for blowing up like Vesuvius, and proof she has stuck to her promise is over 36 years of marriage and 2 ugly, hole plagued T-shirts in my drawer.

My HPER shirt was comfortable, fit perfectly, was great in all seasons, and close to my heart. So also are cherished traditions and beliefs of many Christians, and to even talk about them makes those who hold them dear think I am threatening to throw them away. Specifically, I want to talk about the Messianic movement within Christianity, the role of modern Israel versus spiritual Israel, and the place of the Old Testament law in our New Testament times.

So don't let the discussion of these be the equivalent of a beloved shirt being tossed; Allow me to examine scripture, culture, history, and logic.

### **A counter-culture is the opposite of the culture in which they live**

The New Testament church was a counter-culture movement. A counter-culture rejects or opposes the predominant values and culture around it. An example is the culture of Israel in gospel times was to let the widows with no family beg on the streets for food. The church was counter to that, providing food and shelter as seen in Acts 2-6.

The culture of the time was to have each person and family care for their own, with small offerings made to the temple at certain times. The counterculture church was opposite that, with individuals networking, sharing resources, skills, and money as needs arose, bound together in strong relationships.

A subculture is a group within a culture that sets itself off from the rest, noted by distinct behaviors, language, and often styles. Today, church culture is largely a subculture with smaller subcultures within it.

### **Subcultures are irrelevant to the society and culture around them**

Counter cultures affect society and culture and are outward looking. Subcultures are largely irrelevant to society because they are inward looking. Subcultures are seen by culture as weird, strange, foolish, and aren't taken seriously.

Subcultures have their own language, understood only by those within the subculture. In the 1950's the beatniks were a subculture and provide good examples of their language: *Noodle it out*, meaning think it through. *Off the cob*, meant corny or old fashioned. *Lead sled*, was a classic car, often dad's old car. If you were outside that culture however, you didn't understand them and thought they were weird.

### **Are you part of a subculture, or are you part of a counter culture in your faith?**

Do you speak Christian-ese, or can others outside your subculture understand you perfectly?

Do you know these phrases unique to various subcultures (streams) in the faith: Open heaven, open a portal, plead the blood, glory bumps, clap/praise offering to the Lord, stand on the Word, I don't feel led, ask Jesus into your heart, armor bearer, covet your prayers, travel mercies, put out a fleece. If you used any of these to someone not raised around church and not born again, would you have to explain what you meant in normal terms? (Then why speak Christianese?)

Are you part of a subculture that doesn't get depressed, it gets a 'spirit of heaviness'?

Are you part of a subculture that doesn't get stressed, but just needs to 'let go and let God'?

Are you part of a subculture that never gets rude, but just 'speaks the truth in love'?

Are you part of a subculture that never makes decisions on their own, but is only 'led of the Lord'?

Are you part of a subculture that never says 'I'm sorry, but just says 'I'm not perfect, just forgiven.'?

Is your first language English and you were born non-Jewish, but you have become part of a subculture that calls Jesus, Yeshua? Are you part of a subculture that picks and chooses what scriptures it believes, explaining away selected verses or passages of Paul and John especially?

### **The culture of the kingdom is a counterculture to society -**

Do you think you've been in the counterculture of the kingdom only to discover you've somehow become part of a subculture, no matter the stream of the faith? Countercultures want to change their world by living lives before others, within the larger culture thus relevant, while pointing the way to a higher way of thinking and a higher way of life, as they did in Acts. This series will help if you've discovered you've been part of a subculture while your heart cries out to be part of the kingdom counterculture.

More next week about the cultures of the Messianic, Israel, and Gentile disciples within Christianity. Blessings,

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2014-11-22

### **Israel-Messianics-law #2**

Hi all,

**Moving day** - In Exodus 19 the Lord came out of eternity to meet with Moses on Mt. Sinai. One of the instructions was to build a portable tabernacle where He could dwell, which included a gold covered box called the Ark of the Covenant which was topped with gold covered figures of 2 cherubs - those multi-winged angels seen only around the throne\* - and He would be between their wings and talk to Moses there\*. (Exodus 25:21-22, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, Revelation 4).

Some 400 years later David knew Him as the 'Lord of hosts who lives between the cherubs\*', and when Solomon built the temple he moved the Ark of the Covenant into the temple, and the Lord also came to dwell right between the cherubs\* as He had been since Moses. (II Samuel 6:2, II Chronicles 5:7-14)

Even in the time of Jesus, if you wanted to be near the God of Israel (aside from Him of course) you had to go to the temple in Jerusalem, though no one was allowed to approach the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies but for the High Priest once a year\* - it had been that way for centuries. (Hebrews 9:7)

### **People have become the temples of God**

But on the day of Pentecost something amazing happened - the God of Israel who had met Moses on the mountain, the one David knew as the One who lived between the cherubs, the God whose presence was so strong when He moved into Solomon's temple that the priests could not even stand up - now moved from between the cherubs in the temple **into people**\*. (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Colossians 1:26)

People now became living temples of God. What an amazingly confusing time those first couple of years after Pentecost for the disciples in Acts 2 through Acts 7. They had grown up learning all the stories about the God of the Old Testament, and now He lived in them. Try to wrap your mind around that!

### **Buildings now irrelevant and they became a counter-culture movement**

When people became individual temples it made the temple building irrelevant to them, yet it was still the dominating force in Jewish culture. What a treasure they held in their hearts as they watched pious Jews do their best to obey all 613 Laws of Moses plus all the additional laws of the Pharisees, while they were in the process of adjusting their thinking to the reality that each disciple of Jesus was God's temple.

Instead of bringing tithes and offerings to a temple building, Acts 2 through 6 records they continued to give, but they gave to the living temples they were in relationship with. Instead of letting the temple priesthood take responsibility for caring for the poor and needy, they realized each disciple of Jesus is a priest and therefore responsible to care for the poor and those in need.

Perhaps the biggest counter-culture reality was they no longer needed the priests in the temple building. Instead they realized they are all priests, just with different functions within the body of Christ. The Temple priesthood was losing the people they had controlled to their own enrichment for generations, and they persecuted this new Way as a result. The apostles and leaders received enough of the offerings for their living as they were included in the giving, but each person could now also give to one another as needed, and this was taking money away from the Temple priesthood.

After Steven was killed in Acts 7, Acts 8:1 says the persecution was SO severe that EVERY disciple left Jerusalem except the apostles, moving outside the city to the country sides of Judea and Samaria. Everywhere they went they shared with other Jewish people that Christ could live in them, making them living temples of God, and the people responded. The 'revival' in Samaria with Philip in Acts 8 is a direct result.

### **Gentiles believe**

But Acts 11:19-30 tells us when everyone left Jerusalem in Acts 8:1, some went beyond Judea and Samaria all the way to Phoenicia which consisted of coastal cities in modern Lebanon and Syria, Cyprus which is an island in the Mediterranean, and Antioch which is in modern Turkey. There they told Greeks about Jesus Christ, and how they could become living temples of Almighty God - no longer having to go to pagan temples to make sacrifices to the gods, they could now become living temples of God Almighty! What amazing news!

These Greek believers became counter-culture to their Greek culture, just as the Jews who had told them about Jesus had become counter to their culture. But the addition of Gentile people to the Lord caused a problem to the Jewish body of Christ. Could a Greek be born again by believing in the Jewish Messiah? And if so, did they have to adhere to any part of the laws of Moses? Jewish men were circumcised to show their covenant with God, Greek men, not being part of the covenant by birth, were not. Now that they believed, did they need to be circumcised? Wasn't it the act of circumcision that set apart Jews from Greeks, covenant people from non-covenant people? Or was it the circumcision of the heart, the new birth that set them apart?

### **Enter Paul**

The Lord appeared to Paul, then Saul of Tarsus, and told him "I have appeared to you for this purpose...delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, unto whom I now send you, to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the authority of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:16-18

Paul was accused of heresy because he didn't require Gentiles who believed in the Lord to be circumcised nor obey the law of Moses, and the whole question was brought before the leaders in Acts 15.

Peter defended Paul, recounting his experience in Cornelius' house, a Roman, during which the moment Peter taught how Jesus was raised from the dead the Holy Spirit came on them all and they began speaking in unknown languages. (Acts 10:44) Peter said:

"God made the choice to make me first to preach to Gentiles who then believed. And God who knows the hearts, bore them witness and gave them the Holy Spirit even as He did to us, making no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why are you tempting God to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples (the law of Moses) which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15: 7-11

The determination was that Gentile believers would not have to obey Moses, but they asked they be sensitive to the Jewish population around them so as not to offend them, and to be morally pure.

Even some 10 years later when Paul returns to Jerusalem, the apostles make note of the freedom of the Gentiles while also noting most Jewish believers remain Jewish: "You see brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who believe; and they are all zealous for the law...As touching Gentiles who believe, we have written and concluded they observe no such thing, only to keep themselves from offerings to idols, and from blood and things strangled (dietary sensitivity to the Jewish population in their midst) and from sexual sin." Acts 21: 20, 25

So we see a growing gap by this time, around the year 60 AD, in which thousands of Jewish believers in Jesus were zealous to obey the law, while Gentile believers were free to not follow it - or to follow it if they wanted. And that leaves us with today's issues - what is the role of the law in a believer's life, the Messianic movement in the church, and what role the nation of Israel? That is where I pick it up next week, blessings,

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2014-11-29

### **Israel-Messiancs-law #3**

Hi all,

I have a confession to make. It isn't a pretty story and rather embarrassing but I'd like to share it.

Coming off a 1 day fast I was hungry for hot dogs - I eat Hebrew National (Kosher) all beef hot dogs, and while we rarely eat potato chips, there was something about those cheddar chips that had been sitting in the pantry weeks too long for their own good.

I cooked the whole package of 6 (bun length) hot dogs in a skillet, rolling them around as they browned for that grilled flavor, thinking I'd eat 3...I thought I was really stretching it to eat 3 at one sitting. Should I do a Chicago dog, with small peppers, relish, and mustard? The last of the sauerkraut had been used months ago the last time I'd eaten hot dogs so I couldn't do a Kraut dog. Maybe the All American with relish, onions, mustard or ketchup? Hmmmm....so many possibilities, so little room in my stomach!

I settled on relish and mustard and a few sprinkles of hot sauce...and 3 of them, I thought that should do me. But you know they looked so good and if I put 4 on a plate I could make a square of them end to end and put a portion of chips in the middle, so that's what I did...and they were delicious! When finished I didn't feel like I'd eaten anything. The remaining 2 were still in the skillet, still warm, calling to me...

They can be dessert I said to myself...and just like that the final 2 were gone. Good dessert I thought...now I was full, not stuffed, just comfortably full...it had been so long since I'd had hot dogs...

But you know, I love dark chocolate covered cherries, and on a whim I had bought a package for myself when Chris and I were at the store last week...So I thought, just 1 or 2 of those dark chocolate covered cherries wouldn't hurt to top off the meal....and somehow before I knew it 6 of them had disappeared along with a glass of ice cold milk!

They say your stomach is actually full 10 minutes before the signal reaches the brain to tell you that you are full. Usually when eating I mentally project ahead 10 minutes and stop there, but it had been SO long since I'd had hot dogs and chocolate covered cherries, and dark chocolate ones are so hard to find!

About 10 minutes later I felt like a bloated pig and was asking myself how in the world I could eat 6 hot dogs and as many chocolate covered cherries, especially after a fast. It had been a slippery slope with each step greased by my own rationalizations and flawed logic that explained this or that away to justify pigging out.

### **Looking for balance**

And so it was I sat across the table from a man who had been deeply involved in a Messianic congregation, and was now horribly afraid for his salvation, and confused. Like me eating way too much while intending just to eat a moderate meal, he had experienced a spiritual slippery slope when he started simply learning about the Biblical festivals, but ended up afraid if he broke any of the Laws of Moses he would be doomed to hell.

He was asking what a balanced walk that included elements of Jewish roots looked like to a born again Gentile?

### **Why the law?**

Up until Moses, the nations had their own laws they had observed, but at no time had God given mankind His own law. Mankind was ignorant of what God expected, which is noted twice in Acts:

"God...who in times past allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He didn't leave Himself without a witness in that He did good and gave us rain from heaven, and good harvests, filling our hearts with food and gladness." and "...we ought not to think that the Godhead is like gold, silver or stone, created by art and man's workmanship. And the times of this ignorance God overlooked..." (14:15-17, 17:29-30)

But when He gave His Word to Moses, mankind received a revelation: They were sinners. The law was given for that very reason:

"...that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by doing the law no person can be justified, for the law brought the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:19-20

This is why Paul said, "The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for unholy and profane..." and "...if there could have been a law given that would have given Life, then truly righteousness would have come by the law." Galatians 3:21, 1 Timothy 1:9

### **The law was a teacher, to teach us we (were) sinners**

"Before faith came we were kept under the law, hemmed in until faith came which would be revealed in its proper time. Therefore the law was our schoolmaster, our tutor, to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. So after faith has come, we are no longer under the schoolmaster. For you are all now the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:22-26

The Father's goal was to adopt us, to make us His own children. He didn't merely want to tell mankind we were sinners, He wanted to solve that sin problem so He could make us His children:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...who has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world...to be adopted by Him through Jesus Christ to Himself, which was according to the good pleasure of His will..." Ephesians 1:3-5

Jesus willingly became the adoption agency through His sacrifice on the cross, that blood being the currency used to buy our adoption into the Father's family. That adoption also included something no earth adoption could: Our 'spiritual DNA' was changed - our spirit was born again, having changed from the family of death to the family of God. We are both adopted **and** born into the Father's family!

"Giving thanks to the Father...who has translated us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son." Colossians 1:12-13

### **The slippery slope to 6 hot dogs: Why the law for Gentile 'Messianics'?**

When the apostles determined in Acts 15 and 10 years later reaffirmed it in Acts 21:25, "...there are many thousands of believing Jews zealous for the law, but Gentiles need not observe any such thing", they confirmed that observing the Mosaic law is purely voluntary.

"Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it to the cross. In view of these tremendous facts, don't let anyone worry you by criticizing what you eat or drink, or what holy days you ought to observe, or bothering you over new moons or Sabbaths." Paul continues:

"All these things have at most only a symbolic value: **The solid fact is Christ**...I know that these regulations look wise with their self-inspired efforts at worship, their policy of self-humbling, and their studied neglect of the body. But in actual practice they do honor not to God, but to man's own pride." Colossians 2:14-23 (J. B. Phillip's Translation)

Note he said they look wise - and no one can fault a brother or sister who wants to learn more of the law - but Paul said the end result is they honor man's pride and not God, because God has provided Jesus.

If I observe the law I do so by choice, not religious compulsion. I eat Kosher hot dogs by choice, not religion. When I fast I do so that I may become more sensitive to the Father, not to get something from Him or thinking I must punish myself to show Him how sincere I am. I'm His kid!

If I wish to observe Friday (night) Shabbat, Passover, Yom Kippur, or not eat shellfish or pork, I do so by my choice and wouldn't dream of imposing my choice on others nor claim it is a higher and better way. It is a choice. There is wisdom in the law, don't get me wrong. There is higher wisdom in the fullness of Christ.

Can anything we do approach equality with the fact Christ lives in us? That is Paul's point - there is nothing the Mosaic Law nor man can do to even approach what Christ did, so the key is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...to be more like Him....

More next week, blessings!

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2014-12-06

#### **Israel-Messiancs-law #4**

Hi all,

To understand what most 'Messianic' disciples believe we need to understand that the Mosaic law consisted of 3 parts: Worship/God, health, and moral laws.

The worship/God laws included the 7 Biblical festivals (6 feasts and 1 fast), as well as the sacrificing of animals. The health laws included such things as not eating scavenger animals and washing your hands. The moral law included things like assigning responsibility if your cow injured my cow and repayment of debt.

#### **All 3 parts of the law (God/health/moral) are found in and summarized in the 10 Commandments.**

For instance, if you are having a friend over for dinner you won't serve an unclean animal (health), as honoring your neighbor (moral) who is made in the image of God. (God). Therefore all 3 parts (God/health/moral) are summarized in the 10 Commandments.

Paul's wrote of these 3 elements of the law in Romans 14 when he noted some choose to honor Sabbath days and some do not (God), that some eat only herbs, some eat all things, some drink wine and some don't (health), and he brought it all together by saying what each person does they do so unto the Lord, so walk in love towards one another and don't argue about it. (moral) Thus once again we see, walking in love fulfills the whole law because love includes all 3 parts of the law.

#### **What is a Judaizer?**

There were some in Paul's day who said the work of Jesus wasn't enough, and walking in love towards God and man doesn't fulfill the law. They believed we are made 'more complete' by obeying the 613 specific laws of Moses, or at least selective ones that applied.

Today when we talk of 'Messianic' believers, many of them follow in this same spirit. They believe just walking in love towards God and man isn't enough, we must also walk in the health and the part of the worship law that can be observed. Thus they often observe the 7 Biblical festivals, gather for worship on Friday night or Saturday, and often follow some of the dietary laws in addition to walking in love. (There is no Biblical command to worship each Friday night or Saturday, it is a man-made tradition created by the Pharisees roughly 200 BC. See Exodus 20:8-11 for the Sabbath command)

They fail to recognize what the founding apostles believed and taught as I pointed out above: All 3 parts of the Mosaic law are found within the 2 Royal laws: Love the Lord with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself, which as Paul said, fulfills the whole law.

To teach that disciples are not complete or may become 'more complete' or 'please God more' if they specifically follow each Old Testament law, is wrong, possibly out of ignorance (though zealous) and more than that, heresy and rather a slap in the face of Jesus and His work on the cross. But many think they are walking in higher truth, though living in fear and bondage which is plain for all to see.

My experience has been in interacting with many is that fear is often the common denominator: Fear of displeasing God, fear for their health, fear of 'missing it' spiritually therefore following the OT law is known and can't be missing it because God Himself gave the law - so if they've missed it in the past in the crazy Charismatic world, at least they won't following the Mosaic law.

The word 'Judaizer' is found in Galatians 2:14 when Peter felt pressure from Jewish believers to eat with them, separating himself from Gentile believers. His action was hypocritical as Paul pointed out :

"You being a Jew live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, so why are you now compelling the Gentiles to \*live like the Jews?" (Greek literal: \*live according to Jewish customs, or in English: Judaizer).

These Judaizers are the ones who pressured Paul and others to (selectively) observe all 3 parts of the laws of Moses. So if a believer pressures others to obey the worship/health laws of Moses, they aren't the modern term 'Messianic', but rather as scripture says, a Judaizer.

But for us "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe" and "Love does no wrong to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." (Galatians 3:25-26, Romans 7:7, 10:4, 13:8-10)

### **Now...what about Israel?**

The common teaching is that spiritual Israel (believers in Jesus) have replaced natural Israel. It is built around natural Israel rejected their Messiah so God turned to the Gentiles, who have been grafted in (along with some believing Jews) and have become the 'real' Israel. Therefore to some, natural Israel means nothing.

This argument is blind to the larger purpose of the Lord, who says to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 of their covenant: "...and in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed", showing God's covenant with Abraham would include all nations, not just for his descendants that became the nation of Israel.

### **There would come a time when the Lord would stop referring to Jew and Gentile**

By including 'all nations' it meant there would come a time when God would end making a distinction between Jew and Gentile because His larger purpose was for all nations to be in Him.

That time was Christ, which Paul understood: "...For you are all the children of God through faith in Christ Jesus...there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you are in Christ you are a descendant of Abraham and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29

The work of Jesus means in God's eyes only 2 types of people exist: Those who know Him and those who don't know Him. And those who do know Him have become a descendant of Abraham by that covenant.

Some believers who follow the law of Moses believe only spiritual Israel counts, again, not seeing the larger picture. Because the Father's larger plan was to include people of all nations, it is understood that Israel is included in 'all nations'.

### **We charismatic's take this verse out of context**

We often use the verse 'The gifts and calling of God are without repentance' to give comfort to a friend who has perhaps missed God, and we encourage them that the Lord STILL has a plan and they haven't missed it beyond the point of no return.

But the context is actually about unbelieving Israel - the natural Israel. "From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy, so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown you they may now also be shown mercy. For God has shut up all of us in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all." Romans 11:28-32

Whatever way you've applied the gifts and calling of God are without repentance to yourself or a friend, it was actually written about unbelieving Israel, so apply it accordingly.

To this Paul continues: "I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery brethren, so you won't be wise in your own self, that a partial hardening (blindness) has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved exactly as it is written: The deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob (Israel), This is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins."



So natural Israel matters both to world and to spiritual Israel.

If some reading this have specific questions I'm of course happy to answer specific questions, just email me at the email listed below. The fact is the Jewish and Gentile believers of the New Testament were overwhelmed by the new creation realities that Christ lived in them by virtue of the new birth.

Paul said in II Corinthians 5:16-17, "From this point on I know no person by natural standards (race, wealth, social class) for if a person is in Christ he is a new creature, old things have passed away and behold; All things have become new."

Paul measured people as God the Father now does, who no longer recognizes Jew nor Gentile, but only if they are His kids or not. What rule, what fast or feast, what formula could add to that miracle of being re-born into the Royal family of the Father God?

New subject next week, until then, blessings,

John Fenn

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