



## Today's Cafeteria Christianity

Biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high. Too many of today's Christians have replaced a comprehensive—Genesis to Revelation—in-depth study of the Scriptures with a-page-a-day reading of the New Testament. If even that! But Scripture says:

**“Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth.”**

(2 Timothy 2:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

We also want to bear in mind another thing Timothy wrote:

**“All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];”**

(2 Timothy 2:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Keep in mind here that when Timothy wrote this, the New Testament had not been written nor canonized. He used the only Bible he had at that time which was none other than the Old Testament.

Cafeteria Christianity is a term used to describe believers who treat YHWH's Word as if it were a cafeteria. They cruise the verse-line of Scripture and they select—out of context—

passages written by Paul that *seem* to promote a heretical doctrine which claims that YHWH's *Law-has-been-done-away-with*. This heresy, though epidemic today, is by no means new. Theologians long ago named it **Antinomianism**. This Anglicized term combines the Greek word **nomianism**, defined as "belief in the law" with the prefix **anti**, which means *averse to or against*.

Meriam Webster Dictionary defines ANTINOMIAN this way: "One who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation."

At its heart this heresy sets up a *false dilemma* between FAITH and LAW. And although historically there were Jews during the first century who taught that salvation came by keeping the Law, that is **NOT** what Scripture, from Genesis through Revelation, teaches. **Salvation comes through faith**. Still, it was against this particular *works doctrine* that Paul railed. But **Paul NEVER taught that the LAW was done away with!** In fact, after concluding that justification is by faith, Paul went on to ask, "**Do we then make void the law through faith?**" He answered his own question with, "**Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.**" (Romans 3:31) In Titus 2:14, Paul wrote that Yeshua "*gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every LAWLESS deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for GOOD WORKS.*"

Paul taught against the lie that unless one was *physically circumcised*, he could not be saved. Paul knew YHWH's order of doing things. He knew that circumcision of the heart, not the flesh, was the only prerequisite to salvation by faith. For without a circumcised heart, one could not love YHWH. This was the sequence YHWH set up from the beginning. And since YHWH is the One Who circumcises hearts, from the beginning it was by grace.

**"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants** [that is, He will remove the desire to sin from your heart], **so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live** [as a recipient of His blessing]."

(Deuteronomy 30:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Remember, Abraham did not circumcise his flesh until he was 99 years old, which was 24 years *after* his obedience to YHWH's instructions for him to depart Haran which was located in Turkey. In three places in the Scriptures, we find where it says because of Abraham's faith and his obedience, it was accounted to him as righteousness by YHWH.

**"For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed in** (trusted, relied on) **God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness** (right living, right standing with God)."

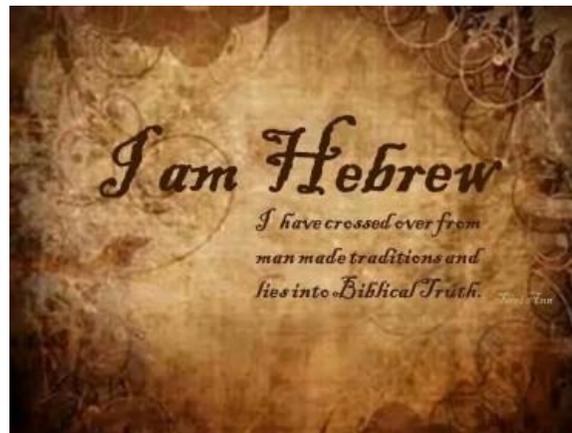
(Romans 4:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, [as conformity to God’s will and purpose—so it is with you also].”**

(Galatians 3:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and this [faith] was credited to him [by God] as righteousness and as conformity to His will,” and he was called the friend of God.”**

(James 2:23, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)



I have said all this to make it clear that those of us who are of the Hebraic Roots, for lack of a better term, **DO NOT** preach salvation by works. **We are saved by faith.** We obey YHWH’s Laws as an act of obedience because we love Yeshua/Jesus. But this *antinomian* controversy is by no means new! In fact, there was a famous trial back in 1636 C.E. that dealt with this ANTINOMIAN CONTROVERSY.

In the fall of 1636 C.E., a woman named Anne Hutchinson caused great turmoil reinterpreting the clerical doctrine of the *Covenant of Grace*, which held that the elect entered a covenant with YHWH through faith in Messiah Yeshua, after which they were to devote themselves to good works as evidence of their salvation.

Here is the account from “[Antinomian Controversy](#).” [Dictionary of American History](#). 2003. *Encyclopedia.com*. 12 Mar. 2015.

“Hutchinson declared that stating the matter in this way put too much emphasis upon works and denied the fundamental Protestant tenet of salvation by faith alone. Consequently she preached that the believer received into his soul the very substance of the Holy Ghost and that no value whatsoever adhered to conduct as a sign of justification.

This conclusion, feared the New England clergy, would hasten the decline of morality that Protestant theologians had everywhere endeavored to

resist, and it could clearly lead to disastrous social consequences. They identified in Hutchinson's teachings a form of "Antinomianism," that is, a discarding of the moral law. She made matters worse by accusing all the clergy except Cotton of preaching a covenant of works, so that, in the words of John Winthrop, the governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, it began to be as common in Massachusetts to distinguish the party of works and the party of grace "as in other countries between Protestants and papists." Thus she threatened to split the colony into factions, particularly when she was supported by her brother-in-law, the Reverend John Wheelwright, and the new young governor, Henry Vane.

The other clergy and magistrates believed that the existence of the whole colony was at stake; led by Winthrop, and employing consummately clever tactics, they regained control of the government in May 1637, then proceeded to disarm Hutchinson's partisans and suppress the movement. Hutchinson was examined by a synod of the ministers, which found her guilty of eighty erroneous opinions. John Cotton publicly repudiated her and Wheelwright was banished to New Hampshire. Hutchinson was arraigned before the general court, where she boasted of having received explicit revelations from the Holy Ghost, a possibility that no orthodox Protestant community could for a moment admit. She was excommunicated from the First Church in March 1638, John Cotton pronouncing sentence upon her, and banished from the colony by the court, whereupon she fled to Rhode Island."

Sadly, today, Anne Hutchinson's heretical *antinomian* doctrine has gone mainstream! Those of us in what has been dubbed the Hebraic Roots Movement know that Salvation is by faith through Grace. But we also know that YHWH's LAWS were *never* done away with. Yeshua himself said:

**"For I [Yeshua] assure you and most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter [jot] or stroke [tittle or of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished."**

(Matthew 5:18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

So, things like His 7th day Sabbath, His Feast Days and His dietary instructions will not pass away until Heaven and earth have passed away. At this point in time, Heaven and Earth are still here. So, gorging oneself on scavengers is still *forbidden!* YHWH has defined in His Absolute Written Word what is food and what is not food. We should pay attention to what He says is food because He created each of us and He knows what is good for us and what is not good for us to eat. We really need to keep this before us when

we eat. For a more thorough teaching on Clean and Unclean Foods, I encourage you to download the teaching titled “[Clean and Unclean Foods](#).” This is a 22 page examination on this topic. The first part looks at what the Scriptures say on this topic and then the last part focuses on the scientific part. There are many **hidden dangers** when we eat things YHWH has clearly defined as unclean foods. Those who are in-covenant with YHWH are still expected to keep HIS Commandments. Unless, of course, you want to be *least* in His Kingdom! Yeshua says:

**“So whoever breaks one of the least [important] of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever practices and teaches them, he will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”**

(Matthew 5:19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Then, by all means, continue to break what He says and teach others to break Yeshua’s Commandments and you will be counted as being **least** in His Kingdom. Every Law and Commandment that is written comes from Yeshua. We know this from...

**“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy [the one God who has the absolute power of life and death]; but who are you to [hypocritically or self-righteously] pass judgment on your neighbor?”**

(James 4:12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

When Yeshua said all the Law hangs on loving YHWH and loving man, He was simply naming the two *categories* into which all of His commandments fall. But the way in which we are to demonstrate our true love for YHWH has NEVER been subject to any individual interpretation. Yeshua said if we love Him we will keep His commandments.

**“but showing graciousness and steadfast lovingkindness to thousands [of generations] of those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

(Exodus 20:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“If you [really] love Me, you will keep and obey My commandments.”**

(John 14:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“2 By this we know [without any doubt] that we love the children of God: [expressing that love] when we love God and obey His commandments. 3 For the [true] love of God is this: that we habitually keep His commandments and remain focused on His**

precepts. And His commandments *and* His precepts are not difficult [to obey].”

(1 John 5:2-3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**And this is love: that we walk** [keep/do/obey] **in accordance with His commandments** *and* are guided continually by His precepts. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should [always] walk in love.”

(2 John 1:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Make no mistake here, those who are a part of the Hebraic Roots or better still the Ancient Paths are those who are the ones who are being moved by YHWH as prophesied:

“**whom heaven must keep until the time for the** [complete] **restoration of all things about which God promised** through the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

(Acts 3:21, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Now, let us back up a couple of verses:

“Repent ye therefore, and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

(Acts 3:19, King James Bible (KJV), emphasis added)

Now the word translated as “*be converted*” is “*epistrepho*” (Strong's #**G1994**). It is defined by Strong's dictionary as “*to revert.*” Thayer's dictionary makes the meaning even more clear. It says: “*to cause to return, to bring back to the love and obedience of God.*”

At the heart of the Hebraic Roots, it is about *repenting and reverting* - returning back to that which YHWH established from the beginning, which is His TORAH, His Instructions. But most translators have chosen to write “*convert*” which implies *turning to something new, something different*. The Apostle Paul warned us about this:

“**I know that after I am gone**, [false teachers like] **ferocious wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**”

(Acts 20:29, King James Bible (KJV), emphasis added)

This is exactly what has happened. There are many false teachers spewing out their own doctrines/teachings which do not line up with what is written in the Scriptures. Those teachings/dogmas fall into the same category as what Rabbinic Judaism has done by adding to and taking away from His Absolute Written Word. WOE be to ALL who are doing this. **Repent!!!**

YHWH warned His people *not* to add to or take away from His Word. Yet that is precisely what Rabbinic Judaism and Constantinian-Christianity have done. Rabbinical Judaism, through their *oral law* and *traditions*, in effect have *added to* YHWH's Absolute Written WORD. Starting in 324 C.E., Constantine and the Roman Catholic (Universal) Church *removed* vital parts from YHWH's Written Word when they *changed* the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. This was only the beginning. They outlawed YHWH's Appointed Times (Feast Days), and they reduced the importance of the *Old Testament*.

**“You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I am commanding you.”**

(Deuteronomy 4:2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“Everything I command you, you shall be careful to do it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”**

(Deuteronomy 12:32, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

**“I testify and warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book [its predictions, consolations, and admonitions]: if anyone adds [anything] to them, God will add to him the plagues (afflictions, calamities) which are written in this book;”**

(Revelation 22:18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Rabbinic Judaism did not officially exist prior to the destruction of the second Temple, its groundwork was laid long before. Yeshua criticized the Pharisees who rejected YHWH's commandments to observe their *oral traditions* as we see in the book of Mark:

**“He [Yeshua] was also saying to them [the Pharisees], “You are experts at setting aside and nullifying the commandment of God in order to keep your [man-made] tradition and regulations.”**

(Mark 7:9, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Later, these same Rabbinic *oral traditions* were codified and they were put into the Talmud and the Mishnah.

Rabbi Moses Maimonides, who is also known as the Rambam, taught that *rabbinic traditions* were to be followed even when they “*contradict the plain, grammatical sense of the Torah.*” Even if a prophet of YHWH had confirmed the plain and grammatical sense of what is written in the Torah was correct, Rabbinic Judaism would still consider it *less authoritative*. According to the Rambam, even a voice from Heaven could not overrule the rabbis' majority opinion.

The disastrous decisions which were enacted by the Council of Nicaea in 325 C.E. and the Council of Laodicea in 363 C.E, turned the Church *away* from the Ancient Paths, where Scripture teaches us the *Good Way* is; thus, thrusting the Church into the dark ages.

**“Thus says the Lord, “Stand by the roads and look; ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is; then walk [do] in it, And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it!’ ” ”**

(Jeremiah 6:16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The Roman Catholic Church was *drunk* with power and they had an empire to build. They began with *seizing control* over education. Backed by an imperial Roman Court, they *restricted* instructions to potential priests. Knowledge which did not serve the Church’s purpose and agenda was suppressed to the masses and access to the Scriptures, except for the clergy, was forbidden. In other words, the Roman Catholic Church prohibited the common people from having access to the Scriptures because they did not want anyone contradicting what they were teaching. They did not want the people to know what was written in the Bible. In a stark contrast to Hebraic thought, the Hebrew people encouraged literacy so *all* can study the Scriptures. Within just a few generations the Church’s pagan iconography (the visual images and symbols which are used in a work of art or the study or interpretation of these) replaced the original meaning and language of the Bible. By this time, most of the priests could not read and the world, for over a thousand years, plunged into the dark ages.

When the Reformation came, it tried to return the Scriptures back to the Church but it did not restore YHWH’s Sabbath, His Feast Days nor the TORAH which is His Instructions to the majority of the people. Only the RESTORATION of all things will accomplish this!

**“19 So repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]; 20 and that He may send [to you] Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must keep until the time for the [complete] restoration of all things about which God promised through the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”**

(Jeremiah 6:16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

YHWH is using those whom He has called back to the *Ancient Paths* as the beginning of this *restoration process*. Those of us who have *returned to the Ancient Paths where the good way is*, are doing so like Jude says:

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I was compelled to write to you [urgently] appealing that you **fight** [Literally: *contend earnestly*] **strenuously for** [the defense of] **the faith** [Ancient Paths] **which was once for all handed** [There is no “*secret knowledge*” or “*better way*” or alternative belief system which YHWH has revealed to some unique group or teacher. The truth is available to everyone.] **down to the saints** [the faith that is the sum of Christian belief that was given verbally to believers].”

(Jude 1:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is an ancient faith which does not turn the grace of YHWH into licentiousness by declaring that His TORAH (Instructions) has been done away with.

Those whom He has called back into the Ancient Paths are in the process of rebuilding the old waste places and raising the foundations of many generations according to what is written in the Scriptures. Not adding to nor taking away from His Absolute Written Word. We are the *repairers* of the breach, *restorers* of the Ancient Paths to dwell in. We have turned from doing our own pleasure on YHWH’s Holy Day, the Sabbath to doing things His Way. We now call His Sabbath a *delight*, the Holy Day of YHWH honorable.

“**12** And your people will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up *and* restore the age-old foundations [of buildings that have been laid waste]; You will be called Repairer of the Breach, Restorer of Streets with [Literally: *to dwell*] Dwellings. **13** If you turn back your foot from [unnecessary travel on: The ancient rabbis established strict limits for travel on the Sabbath, excepting unintentional violations and religious errands. This verse became a rabbinic proof text to rule on whether a person who had put one foot beyond the Sabbath limit for his city could reenter the city. But the Hebrew text may not refer to travel at all; turn back your foot from the Sabbath can be interpreted as an idiom referring to keeping oneself from violating the Sabbath in other ways.] **the Sabbath, From doing your own pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a** [spiritual] **delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable**, And honor it, not going your own way Or engaging [Literally: *finding*] in your own pleasure Or speaking your own [idle] words,”

(Isaiah 58:12-13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

We know that YHWH has renewed His Covenant by writing HIS LAW, His Ancient Instructions, on our hearts, so that we can finally obey HIM and be blessed by Him. YHWH is eternal. This will never change. He does not change. His TORAH has not

changed. Biblical Faith is not some cafeteria line where you can pick and choose what you want to believe and do and not do.

Falling into sin, which is transgression of the Law, is not the same as *deliberately* choosing to sin. YHWH knows the difference. When a person sins unintentionally, they quickly repent, and YHWH forgives them. But, how can one who disobeys YHWH's Law, claiming it's been done away with, repent when he or she does not realize that they have sinned?

For nearly 2,000 years, Satan, the Lawless One, has been *whispering* to Christians, "Hath YHWH *really* said you should keep His commandments?" Well, it is time for the Church to wake up and answer with a resounding, "Yes!" Repent and RETURN to His Ancient Paths where the Good Way is and walk in it!

I hope this study on **Cafeteria Christianity** has helped to clarify that all who truly love Him will see that they need to show Him that they love Him the way He wants His children to show their love for Him. In other words, doing things His Way over man's way. Continue to test all things and may Almighty YHWH bless all who study His Absolute Written Word.

Shalom,

I am One Crying In The Wilderness!