

Dear Family, Friends, and Fellow Believers:

It has long been my desire to walk in alignment with the Scriptures. Since my childhood I have consistently read my Bible and spent time in prayer. As a youth I was active in ministry and eventually attended Bible school. As an adult I have been active in teaching and church leadership. Then, in 2005, I began a remarkable journey that has revolutionized my walk. It is my hope that the following Scriptures will challenge you to examine your walk in light of His Word.

Let's begin by reading Mark 7:1-13. In this passage Jesus/Yeshua (His Hebrew name) is contending with religious leaders who in HIS opinion have placed the dogma of men above the commands of God. My favorite definition of dogma is a religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof. Could this generation be guilty of the same thing?

Consider the following statements from the Messiah:

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:23-24 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me." John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. John 15:14 "You are My friends if you do what I command you." Luke 11:28 "...blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

How do we distinguish between His commands and dogma? Our answer is found in 1 John 2:3-6. Please focus on verse six. It tells us that the one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked. So let's examine how He walked and compare it to what we are doing today.

What day did the Messiah worship? Mark 1:21, Luke 4:16, Luke 6:6 Seventh day worship was established at creation (Genesis 2:3). You will see the seriousness placed on obeying the Sabbath when you read Exodus 31:13-18. People often confuse the dialog taking place in Mark 7 as the Messiah breaking the Sabbath, when in fact he is attacking the rules of men. It is not wrong for the hungry to eat on the Sabbath, nor are there any commandments in the written Scripture regarding the proper way of washing ones hands.

It's DOGMA that the Messiah is attacking, not the commands He spoke on Mount Sinai.

The Sabbath is also for the Gentile as you read in Isaiah 56:6-7. So where did "Sun" day worship come from? The following web site http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus can shed some light on the answer to that question.

Next let's examine which Feasts He celebrated. Since He is the Messiah, He had to obey the instructions given in the first five books of Scripture. Leviticus 23 tells us about the appointed times of God. These are His appointed times. Many have accepted the dogma that these are Jewish holidays that have nothing to do with a Gentile believer. The point to consider is this, if you serve the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you (the wild olive tree) have been grafted into Israel (the cultivated olive tree) according to the writings of Paul as found in Romans 11:16-21. Therefore, we are Israel and the Scripture is VERY clear that our Heavenly Father only has one Law for mankind

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(Exodus 12:49, Leviticus 24:22, Numbers 15:15-16). Can you find Scriptural proof that Jesus/Yeshua celebrated Christmas? Check out the history of Christmas for yourself. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturnalia> . Then we come to Easter. Here is a link to assist you in your study <http://www.historychannel.com/easter/?page=pagan>. The word "Easter" is derived from the name "Eostre" or "Eastre." Eastre is none other than Astarte or Ashtoreth. You find her mentioned in Judges 10:6. Ashtoreth is the "Queen of Heaven" (Jeremiah 44:17) to whom the Canaanites had burned incense and poured libations. So do you really think the Messiah followed this dogma?

It is critical that we heed the warning of Jesus/Yeshua pronounced in Mark 7:6-13 and remember that Messiah said the religious do many things such as this. The only way you will be able to determine fact from fiction is to personally open your Bible and study. We need to be diligent in our efforts to rightly divide the Scripture according to what is written and not just according to our traditions. Why don't we emulate the wisdom recorded in Joshua 1:8, Deuteronomy 6, or Psalms 119? Why don't we hear sermons from Jeremiah 6:16-19, or is this a generation that also refuses to listen?

Probably the most frightening passage for a believer is found in Matthew 7:21-27. Here we are told that MANY who have performed signs and prophesied will be denied entry into the kingdom. Why? They are those "who practice lawlessness." How does one become lawless? Simply keep reading. In verse 24 Jesus/Yeshua says, "Therefore, whoever hears these words of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who builds his house on the rock."

Then in verse 26 He says, "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

If you jump ahead to Matthew 25 you will read the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Remember, the Messiah has already defined the terms wise and foolish. It is imperative that you be one who believes and obeys the commands of our Father. The foolish will find out too late that they will not enter the kingdom.

For those who are rejecting the Law as being nailed to the cross, you had better read John 5:45-47. The Messiah tells us, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" NASB

As I bring this letter to a close, I would like to encourage you to read the following verses out of the Book of Revelation: Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and Revelation 22:14 which says, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city." NKJV