

# LEGALISM (used as “upo nomo” in Greek, but should be “erga nomou”)



Legalism can be defined simply as follows:

1. Legalism is the blind adherence of man-made rules and regulations regardless of whether or not they are logical or make any sense.
2. The keeping of Yah's commandments and laws out of sheer obedience for the purpose of salvation. In other words, the belief that adherence to the Torah is a requirement for obtaining ones justification-salvation before Yah.

There are scriptures that Paul wrote concerning the observance of special days, months and seasons that cause confusion for many. Example: **Gal. 4:8-10** *“However at that time, when you did not know Yah, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know Yah, or rather to be known by Yah, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? **You observe days and months and seasons and years.**”* At first glance one would think Paul is talking about the legalism of Believers in regards to specific days, months and seasons, but this is not at all what Paul is talking about. To understand this properly one must know that the word “observer” in Hebrew meant “one who follows astrology, witchcraft, spiritism,” etc.. Paul was talking to people that were into witchcraft, astrology etc., similar to that talked about in (Lev. 19:26, Deut. 18:10-14, 2Chr. 33:6). He was not talking about believers being legalistic as some would like to have you think.

**Rom. 10:4** *“For **Messiah is the end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.”* We don't follow the law to be holy but because we are holy.

**Rom. 4:15** says *“For the Torah brings about wrath”*. We must understand the context of this verse, it is extremely important. Shaul's (Paul's) teaching in Romans, stresses that if anyone tries to use Torah to achieve justification before El Gibor, the attempt will backfire.

Those that say that we are saved only by raw belief and not by faith (obedience), accompanied by works of repentance, humility and commitment to change, are making a serious mistake. While it is true that we are saved by grace, it is also true that we are saved by grace because we have REPENTED. We are to repent and do what is right. We are to be RIGHTEOUS. The scriptures tell us that keeping the Torah/law, is righteous.

**Deut. 6:25** *“And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before Adonai, Yah, as he hath commanded us.”* Notice in this verse it says **“all the commandments”**, not just a part.

## WORKS

Our works are very important in the eyes of ADONAI. We will get what we deserve in the Kingdom to come, according to our works. **Jer. 17:10** *“I, ADONAI, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.”*



Micah, the minor prophet was speaking of what will happen in the last days. Micah speaks of us following the law in the new kingdom of Yah. **Micah 4:1-2** *“**And it will come about in the last days** That the mountain of the house of Adonai Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. And many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of Adonai And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of Adonai from Jerusalem.”* **Prov. 24:29** *“Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; **I will render to the man according to his work.**”*

Anytime we see the word “under” in regards to law of the Bible what should we automatically assume? Whenever Paul uses the word “under” in connection with the law, we can safely assume he is describing “legalism” or “works righteousness.”

(Mar 27/16) Jerry Hennig