

THE TRAFFIC LIGHT

Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Adonai is eternal life in Yeshua Hamashiach our Messiah.*

This is another example of one of the most misused passages in the Book of Romans. We have to take time here to go in depth into the full meaning of these verses and those closely related to them.

We are now slaves of freedom, righteousness, resulting in sanctification. **Sin is simply, "lawlessness"**, as clearly explained in the Bible. **1John 3:4** *"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."* This is simply Paul quoting Moses. **Deut. 11:26-28** (Almighty speaking) *"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of Yahveh your Elohim, which I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of Yahveh your Elohim, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other Gods which you have not known."* Moses was telling the people this before they entered into the Promised land. **Deut. 28:15** (Almighty speaking) *"But it shall come about, if you do not obey Yahveh your Elohim, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deut. 28:19 "Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out."*

When Paul says in Rom 6:23 "the wages of sin is death". Paul is saying that the curse for transgressing Yah's law is death. Yeshua became that curse so that we could live, but that doesn't mean we can now ignore the law. **Rom. 6:15-16** *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!"* followed close behind by verse 16 *"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone {as} slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"* Paul is saying: is it ok to sin and transgress the law knowing that we won't be punished for it. "May it never be" or "God forbid", is the answer. We are saved by His grace, no question, but the law still applies today as it always has.



If you are driving and go threw a red light, and a policeman pulls you over, you are under the law. You will be punished under the law, according to the law, and there is no escaping it. The judicial system will have you on record and until you redeem yourself by paying the penalty for your breaking the law, you will always have this offence (curse) hanging over your head, until you succumb to the law and pay the penalty. In court you must admit you are guilty, the judge sentences you to a fine, and you must pay the courthouse for that fine. Once your fine has been paid, you are no longer under the law. You are dead to the law. What it means is because you paid the penalty for the law you broke, the law has no more power over you, you are set free from the law. It's the punishment of the law that you are freed from, not the law itself. Those traffic laws were put in place to bless you if you follow them, or curse you when you don't. If one is disobedient to that red light law enough you can be 100% sure some day you will be in a serious accident. As you lay in your hospital bed, you may ask yourself if you have been blessed or cursed; the answer is obvious.

2Pet. 3:16-17 *"as also in all {his} letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as {they do} also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, When Peter is*

talking about "they", Peter is talking about those who have not yet learned the foundation of scriptures, the torah.

We cannot proclaim to love Adonai and not follow His instructions. These instructions are called the Torah; which includes celebrating the Feasts of Yahveh as per (Lev.23), the dietary instructions of Adonai (Lev. 11), the Ten Commandments of (Exod. 20), and all the other instructions of the Torah, other than those pertaining to the Levitical priesthood and Temple. If we refuse to follow His Torah we are sinning, and the word of Yahveh tells us clearly the results of such action.

Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death". We can go one notch further by getting Yah's opinion about those who proclaim to be Believers and continue to sin on purpose. **1John 2:4-6 "The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of Yahveh has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."**

Those who proclaim to know Abba Father must walk as He walked (follow Him). Sin is not from Yahveh, but clarified by Yahveh. **1John 3:8 "the one who practices sin is of the devil;"** Our Father in Heaven tells us clearly: "if you truly love me then show me so by following my commandments" (paraphrase), as per **John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."** and our Father again tells us clearly, that, as a reward, He will reveal Himself to those who follow His commandments. Not those who talk about His commandments.

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." **James 1:15 "Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."** Here we see Yacov connecting lust with sin and death. You will find sin and death, be it spiritual or physical, connected in various scriptures.

The big question is "are you willing to follow the Commandments and have Yah reveal Himself to you, or are you willing to follow a church, or mankind? Many of our churches today have torn so many pages out of the Bible because they don't like them, that their Bible looks more like a tract. Every SUNDAY many of these proclaimed holy churches blaspheme Yahveh, and yet proclaim to love and honor Him; what a joke! The choice is ours, individually, and it's obvious as to the answer.

What death is in the law (instructions)?

Let's have a close look at what Sha'ul said in Ephesians and see if we can get an understanding of the death of the law. Let us look at what the enmity spoken of there really means.

Eph. 2:14-16 "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity." First off let's define what "enmity" is. Enmity is someone, something that is opposed to you.

Moses brought down the things written as the Ten Commandments. After Moses gave the Ten Commandments he spoke the ordinances of the law. These ordinances contain a curse of death for those who do not obey them. For example; "the soul that sins, dies". If you transgress the commandments of Adonai, you die. The threat of death is against you.

What is the enmity in the law of the commandments and contained in ordinances?

There is a curse in the law, in the ordinances, death. What Paul is saying is that when the Messiah came and did the work of redemption He did away with the enmity against us in Yah's law. Yeshua answered that enmity is such a way so that we all have the same solution. Whether you understand or know of the Ten Commandments matters not, the curse attached to them for disobedience was removed by Yeshua on the stake. He broke down the precepts of men by breaking down the dividing wall and taking us back to what Yah actually spoke compared to what men have spoken and added to. He stripped away the religiosity of men.

Romans 6 is a parallel scripture that is thematically connected to Ephesians. Paul is teaching the law has become a law of sin and death. He was saying that if you don't have the Messiah in your heart, you are still under the law and the curses it contains. When we sin we are subject to the penalty of death under the law. Because of what Yeshua has done on the stake, He has lifted it up so that we are no longer under the curse of the law of death. The law has been satisfied. The law has been accomplished. We no longer have a death penalty over us.

Paul teaches the exact same thing in Galatians. 2. The messiah took all the ordinances of the law, all the curses that were against us specified in the law for sin, and took them to the stake. Yeshua paid the price for our death penalty, if we have His torah now written on our heart and are obedient to it. He was the substitute, the sacrifice for us which was acceptable for Yah for all those sins. He didn't come to make all the law and ordinances go away. They are still in effect and will always be in affect. Those who have not accepted Yeshua are subject to the law and the penalty of sin, which is death. They will be judged accordingly.

Born again people have confidence that the Messiah has done all of this for us, and all of those

ordinances and decrees that are against us, when we were under the law, are no longer there. We are no longer subject to that death penalty. We can and will have eternal life. The curses of those laws have no more jurisdiction on us because it has been answered.

For example: Let's say you were caught stealing. The officers charge you theft. You can't afford to pay the penalty so it is inevitable that you will be placed in jail for a period of time. Your friend comes along and says I will pay the penalty (the fine) for you stealing. The fact that your penalty was paid by your friend does not mean the law of stealing is made null and void, it just means that you have been found guilty and someone has covered the penalty for you. Once your friend pays your fine you are no longer subject to that law. The law still stands. The system, the court, and the government enforcers have been satisfied because your penalty has been paid. Your friend has not made the law of theft go away. If you continue to steal you will be placed in jail. The penalty in the case of sin is death. If you don't have a friend in your life like Yeshua to pay the fine, you are subject to death when the final judgement comes. As it is, you will not die but have eternal life, because you have Yeshua and have in faith been obedient to His instructions (laws). You will have eternal life because He paid your penalty. Yah's grace has made it possible for our sins to be covered for us but that doesn't mean we get to go and sin whenever we wish to. In fact the scriptures say "may it never be". The law is still in place and always will be.

The emphasis in Ephesians is that something else very wonderful has taken place. Paul is telling the people that "there was a time when you didn't know the Messiah, they knew nothing about Yah, and they lived in sin. They were outside the grace of Yah. They had no hope whatsoever, but now they were different, you've learned about the Messiah, about the promises, the hope, the good news, all of what Yah has done for those who love him and obey His word. You are no longer separate from Him, you are part of His family, the family He established with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We are all part of that house, no more separation anymore between Jew and Gentile any longer.

Paul was trying to tell them to stop thinking that because you act in a religious manner, that that is a substitute for believing in the promises of Yah. The promises of Yah that you believe in separates you from religious people.

When we become "saved" we are actually saved from "the curse of eternal death", because the wages of sin are death. We do not die and have eternal death when we are born again, we have a chance at eternal life. When we are forgiven for our sins we are "alive in Yeshua" and have a spiritual eternity available to us.

Our being saved is the ultimate form of assurance that we are kept away from eternal hell. Assurance is freedom from doubt.

Our insurance is: doing what Yahveh told us to do in His word. Keeping His laws (instructions), and constantly following Yeshua and the word of Yahveh from our heart. That is how we maintain the premium for our "life insurance", by doing things, good works. **John 5:28-29** "Do not marvel at this; **for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment."** **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."** **Deut. 30:19** "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, **that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,**" Here Yahveh made it possible for the seed of mankind to have a choice to follow Him and receive the blessings, or not, and receive the curses. He set before us "LIFE" and "DEATH", our choice.

When we are saved we are free to go on doing Yah's work without any doubts about our eternity. We can go on because we are following Him and know that we are safe.

The wages of our sin must be paid. Yeshua paid our wages at Calvary. He allowed us to be justified, made righteous. In order to receive the gift of life Yeshua had to pay the wages of our sin. Yeshua took the wages that were due to us, He received them in our place, on the stake.

Hebr. 2:9 "But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, {namely,} Yeshua, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, **that by the grace of Adonai He might taste death for everyone."** (also Rom. 10:9-10) Yeshua was the last Adam, the second man, the first fruits of the new man, the head of the new race.

Freedom doesn't give us the right to do what we please, but to do what pleases Adonai.

Freedom does not give us a license to sin. Adonai has given us His Word as a standard for us to live by.

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