



Bo

(go)

Shemot [Exodus] 10:1-13:16



HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Romans 6:15-23

We have selected this passage, because it reminds us of our past bondage in Egypt, which is a type of bondage to sin, which is what this portion deals with.

Grace Does Not Legitimize Sin

Romans 6:15

15 What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? Elohim forbid.

Shaul asks and answers a very good question. He is asking if grace allows one to live in sin. His answer is, "Elohim forbid!" That is a pretty strong answer. Too bad that those that have come to Messiah in the last two thousand years have not clearly understood this simple, yet profound truth!

You see, here is the truth: it is not "Law or Grace" as many wrongly believe; but rather, it is "Law and Grace". Many make the mistake of thinking that the law came before grace (faith). However, when we look into the Scriptural record we can see that this is simply not the case at all.

Let us take, for example, our father Avraham. He received grace (faith) because he believed and acted upon the belief, that the promise given to him by YHWH was true. After Avraham had received the grace, then he was given the commandment to circumcise. You see, it has always been that faith (grace)

comes before the keeping of the commandment. It is when the attempt to reverse these two is made, that one's walk becomes legalistic, cold, and not pleasing to YHWH.

However, when we have properly received His grace through Yeshua our Mashiach, we then have the wherewithal to obey His commandments, and not one second before!

Romans 6:16

16 Do you not know, that to whom you present yourselves as servants to obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

This seems pretty straightforward and simple. If one sins, then he is a slave to sin. If one obeys YHWH, then he is His servant. One can be a slave to sin, which leads to death. Or, one can be a slave to YHWH, which leads to righteousness and life. There is no other option available, this is an either – or choice!

Those who do not wish to make this choice, attempt to make all sorts of gray areas between these two choices. What those who attempt to do this do not realize, is that doing such a thing is actually choosing sin. Sin is the default choice. Sin is what one chooses by not choosing.

If a person is going to choose to be obedient to YHWH and His commandments, it is not going to happen by accident! Each one of us must choose to obey Him, or else by default, we are choosing to sin (disobey Him).

Are you beginning to see that it is not a matter of either grace or law, but both?

Romans 6:17-18

17 But thanks be to Elohim, that, whereas you were servants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were delivered;

18 and being made free from sin, you became servants of righteousness.

What is righteousness? Not man's definition, because man's definition counts for nothing! We need to know what YHWH's definition of righteousness is.

Ya'aqov [James] 2:23

and the scripture was fulfilled which says,

***“And Avraham believed Elohim, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness;”
and he was called the friend of Elohim.***

The key in understanding this passage is for us to back up a couple of verses to understand what it was that Avraham believed in this instance.

Ya'aqov [James] 2:21

Wasn't father Avraham declared righteous because of actions when he offered up his son Yitz'chak on the altar?

Notice that it is not just what Avraham *believed* that mattered. Rather it was what he *did*. In this case, Elohim commanded him to go and offer up his only son Yitzchak as a burnt offering. Avraham believed this commandment and went and obeyed it. It was the obedience that caused this to be counted to him as righteousness.

So, YHWH defines righteousness as when we not only believe His commandments, but more importantly, when we obey them. Then it will be counted as righteousness towards us. Not that we earn this righteousness, because we do not have the strength and wisdom to do this on our own, but only when His Spirit lives in us and it is by His Spirit that we obey His commandments. This is why it will always and ever be grace and law (Torah)!

Romans 6:19

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as you presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as servants to righteousness resulting in sanctification.

Shaul is admonishing us to present our bodies to obedience for righteousness in the same way that we had presented them to lawlessness in the past. We could say it this way:

As you had presented your bodies to lawlessness in the past, which resulted in more lawlessness, instead now present your bodies to lawfulness which will result in a more lawful life.

Do you see the parallel that Shaul is drawing between these two alternatives? He is setting before us the way of life or the way of death.

Romans 6:20

20 For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard of righteousness.

This simply means, that when we were obedient to the lusts of the flesh, and lived how we wanted, and did what we desired, we had absolutely no regard for the way of YHWH! These two ways are mutually exclusive of one another.

Romans 6:21

21 What fruit did you have at that time in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

Have you ever heard someone give their testimony or speak of their past, in such a way that it was so much fun to do all the sinful things that they did? Does this bother you? It does me. Why? Because where is the shame that this passage speaks of above? I do not often speak of my past. I do not like my

past or many of the things in my past. If I speak of my past it is for the purpose of instructing those I am speaking to. It may be to relate an example. It may be to show that I understand what they are experiencing. But it is always to show His grace and mercy in my life; and that same grace and mercy He has bestowed in abundance upon me is also available to all who will but ask Him.

Let us take the admonition of Shaul to heart, and forget what lies behind us and press on towards the high calling of Yeshua. Each and every one of us had things in our past that are shameful. Let us not focus upon those things, but rather upon His mercy and compassion, and what He is doing in our lives right now, today!

Romans 6:22

22 But now being made free from sin and become servants to Elohim, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end eternal life.

Notice the parallel once again that Shaul is drawing for us. A person can have a sinful life which leads to death. Or, we can be the servants of Elohim and have eternal life.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of Elohim is eternal life in Mashiach Yeshua our Master.

Shaul now boils his argument down to one sentence. We can have wages or we can have a free gift. However, accepting the free gift does not mean, as many wrongly suppose, that one can just go and live his life in the manner that he wants. As he begins this paragraph in verse fifteen above, he states concerning the continuation in sin as: "Elohim forbid!"

One is either a slave to sin; or, he is His servant by virtue of the free gift of life that He has given to him. The gift is free. However, what one does with that free gift will determine what ultimately becomes of it. Let us illustrate.

Let's suppose that today you received a brand new Rolls Royce. It is given to you to do with as you will. But the giver of the Rolls asks that you use it for good, if you would, please. In fact, many people you know receive one. Some park their new Rolls Royce in the garage and polish it and when company comes over they take their company into the garage to show them the beautiful car that they own. Others mistreat their new Rolls Royce by going for joy rides and partying, and before long it is a wreck. Parts are falling off of it and it is barely recognizable as a car, let alone as a Rolls Royce. Still others take good care of their car, driving it every day. They use it to help other people, taking them to the places they need to go, doing other errands, and just getting the most out of this very wonderful gift.

Those who park their car in the garage and leave it there, can be compared to the man who hid his talent in the ground. It was of no use to him or anyone else, and he ends up being assigned a place with the wicked. Those who mistreat their car can be compared to the man who set his hand to the plow and

looks back; he is not worthy of the Kingdom. These received the gift, but continued to live in sin. Like the first, his gift did not do him or anyone else any good. However, those that received their gift with joy and set out to use the car for good in helping others, can be compared to the "good Samaritan", willing to share their gift with those in need.

Likewise, when we receive the gift of life from Him, we have a choice to make. We can spend it upon ourselves and throw it away. Or, we can return it to Him who gave it to us and ask Him to teach us to live the life He has given to us with His wisdom and strength. It is our choice alone to make.

ABBA YHWH, we surrender to You the life that You have blessed us with in Mashiach. Teach us to live that life so that Yeshua is always reflected in all that we do; in His blessed Name we pray, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

zerubbabel@onetorahforall.org

www.onetorahforall.org