

Foundations Class

**Truths for
Yeshua's
Disciples**

Torah Misconceptions



Select Scriptures

Honest Starting Point

Honesty of 1st Century Context

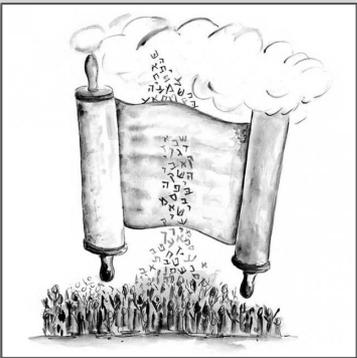
Questions to ask ourselves.

- Judaism is a recognised religion.
- Devout Jews writing to both jews and former pagans.
- There is no New Testament.
- Letters are one side of a conversation.
- Rome is polytheistic, very religious, and some Christians can be understood as 'atheists'.
- Most people are really poor.
- What do we expect to be the issues most needed for discussion given the context?
- What do we expect pagan converts to believe, read and do? How soon do we expect that to happen? How do we expect Jewish believers to react?
- How do we expect Paul to write and handle the various issues each community dealt with?
- Do we need to know more about the political and institutional setting and how this impacts new converts in particular?

Gentiles Don't Need to Keep the Torah

Select Passage: Rom 2:12-29

- ***'For all who have sinned...'*** vs 12 The only way out of the conundrum is through righteousness hence the importance of the Torah.
- ***'Without the Torah...judged by the Torah'*** means that all people (Jew and Gentile) are held accountable to do good.
- ***'Doers of the Torah will be justified'*** vs 13 being right with God requires obedience.
- ***'Do not have the Torah, by nature do the Torah...'*** or ***'Do not have the Torah by nature, do the Torah...'*** vs 14
- ***'So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the Torah...'*** vs. 26 suggests that gentiles are in view to keep the written Torah.
- ***'But a Jew is one inwardly...'*** vs 29 the covenant member right with God is the person with a circumcised heart.



Kosher and Sabbath are Matters of Conscience

Rom 14 Select Passage



- This issue is a matter of opinion **διαλογισμός** (dialogismos) vs. 1.
- Contamination from idols is a significant concern in early judaisms. Qumran was quite particular about food laws and purity. As well, the Mishnah indicates that meat which comes out from being offered to idols is prohibited. (m.AvodahZerah 2.3)
- The food issue is not about whether to eat clean or unclean - eating clean was a given. Notice that Paul doesn't say 'clean and unclean categories no longer matter'. What he says is that nothing is unclean in itself.
- Similarities to **1 Cor 10**, where the topic there is forfeiting rights for others, meat purchased in the marketplace which may have been sacrifices.
- This matter is in close proximity to drinking wine (vs. 21) and so unlikely to be speaking about biblical kosher observance.
- We read also in the Mishnah that wine which is open in the presence of a gentile is unclean if the israelite leaves. (m.AvoZerah 5.5)
- **Fasting days** were an important issue and an early document suggests believers fasted on Wed & Fri because the hypocrites fasted on Mon & Thurs (Didache 8.1). The combination of fasting and eating fits well together.



Kosher and Sabbath are Matters of Conscience

Rom 14 Select Passage

Who are the weak in faith?

1. Those who are legalistic (working for salvation) going beyond the Torah.
2. Those who took a strict view of idol offerings | going beyond Acts 15
3. Those Jewish believers who abstained from meat 'fasting in sorrow' for unbelieving Jews but requiring gentiles to join in.
4. Those pre-Gnostic persons who felt abstention from good things was necessary for spiritual awareness.
5. Those believers that thought the ceremonial Torah laws were to be kept and not to do so was sin.
6. Jewish believers who are eating this way to witness to non believing jews while maintaining fellowship with gentile believers.



Kosher and Sabbath are Matters of Conscience

Rom 14 Select Passage



Who are the weak in faith?

Those believers that thought the ‘ceremonial Torah’ laws were to be kept and not to do so was sin.

- **Kashrut is complex** and beyond the type of animal (Mark 7)
- Yeshua convinced Paul of this (vs 14) but **Yeshua doesn’t teach that** kosher is abolished.
- Yeshua does teach that **traditions are optional.** (Mark 7)
- Paul kept the so called ‘ceremonial’ Torah. (Acts 21.20ff)
- Thinking it’s right **doesn’t make it so.**
- Paul desired to keep the Torah himself (Rom 7.21-25).

