

BIBLE & BAGEL

Romans – Our Common Faith

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One thing we must be aware of when we study the Bible is that when the writers; whether Moses or the prophets or Paul or Peter or any other writers wrote, they did not write in chapters and verses. The chapter and verse references were added by Stephen Langton around 1227 AD. It made it easier to find passages of scripture for instance it is easier to find John 3:16 rather than to try to look for “for God so loved the world”. Whilst the chapter and verse references are very helpful they can also break the writer’s chain of thought. In our study of Romans for instance we would end chapter 7 with Apostle Paul saying he thanks God for Messiah Yeshua and telling us that while he desires to do the will of God his flesh fights against it and wants his to sin. He actually does not stop there, his discussion carries on into chapter 8.

Rom 7:24-8:11

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Free from Indwelling Sin

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,* who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Apostle Paul spoke about the conflict we all have between the mind and the flesh while the mind wants to follow God the flesh wants to satisfy its desire for sin, but in Messiah there is no condemnation for those who are in faith. The law of sin and death refers to the principle that says “the soul who sins must die”¹. Those of us who are in Messiah by faith have been freed not from the Torah but from the condemnation of Torah because Yeshua became sin for us and we have accepted his atoning work by faith.

He then speaks of those whose thoughts are controlled by the flesh, who think according to the natural instincts of man, but we who are in Messiah must think according to the Spirit i.e. the Holy Spirit. Our human thought patterns controlled by our human desires are at odds with the Spirit of God because it desires to satisfy our desires but the mind set on the Spirit desires to do what God wants us to do. If we live according to our human nature we cannot please God.

We must accept Yeshua’s atoning work for us, this is not a new idea, the Jewish people had to accept by faith that their sins were forgiven after the High Priest had made the sacrifice on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). There was never any other way. After accepting Yeshua’s sacrifice by faith we must submit our thoughts to the Spirit, only the Holy Spirit can help change our thought patterns so that we live by faith. One thing we also need to be able to



walk by faith is to know the Scriptures because the Holy Spirit leads us by reminding us of God's Wordⁱⁱ.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. NKJV

The Apostle reminds us of our present status; not ruled by the flesh but by the Spirit. The Spirit of God in us is the spirit of sonship and affirms to us that we belong to Christ. Our flesh is dead because of sin but the Spirit gives us life because it is the same Spirit that raised Yeshua from the dead, this Spirit lives in us.

We are children of God, He has given us the spirit of sonshipⁱⁱⁱ. We have been set free by Messiah but in setting us free He bought us and we belong to Him, He must rule our lives and we must live in obedience to His Spirit. We must daily submit our flesh to God and ask His Spirit to take hold of us; fill ourselves with the Word of God so that the Spirit will remind us of what the Word says in the different situations that we face everyday.

ⁱ Ezekiel 18:4

ⁱⁱ John 14:26

ⁱⁱⁱ 1 Corinthians 2:12, Galatians 4:4-7

