

The Torah & The Apostolic Scriptures, part 7c

“you are not under law but under grace”

Only 6% of Christians believe that God’s Word is true

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Refer to the last page: “How to Interpret Scripture”

Your notes:

Only 6% of Christians believe that God’s Word is true

The majority of my Christian friends find it shocking that only 6% of Christians today believe that God’s Word is true. Yes, only 6% believe God’s Word is true!

To learn more about this shocking study, I recommend reading George Barna’s book *American Worldview Inventory 2022-23* (Arizona Christian University Press. 1 Firestorm Way. Glendale, AZ 85306. ISBN 978-1-7357763-8-5. Printed in the USA.)

His survey included questions which referred to beliefs currently held by American Christians. The result was that only 6% of Christians today believe that God’s Word is true!

How can it be that only 6% actually believe that God’s Word is true... especially after 2000 years of Christian teaching! Truly Satan & his cohorts must be thrilled with this lack of belief among today’s American Christians.

What exactly is “church” doctrine advocating. Is it that all you need to do is be born again? Is it that YHVH’s instructions are no longer pertinent to today?

We all ought to be concerned with this level of disbelief... deep disbelief. The magnitude of this disbelief has been brewing in me for years, especially when *even* the Gospel of our LORD is not being taught accurately according to Scripture.

Because much Christian theology and beliefs have become distorted and are filled with paganism is the reason many believers today are jumping off the Christian bandwagon.

We see that today, church attendance is at an all-time low. Denominations are experiencing record numbers of losses in membership. Many local churches are breaking away from their denominations. Why? Because believers are beginning to hunger for God’s Word, His true Word and just not feel-good messages.

Countless actual followers of Yeshua are leaving the church. They are desiring to understand more of His Word, what it means to believe in His Word ... all of His Word.

Even though, we see a rise in people's wanting more truth of God's Word, why then is it that **only 6% of American Christians actually believe that God's Word is true!!??!!** *This is very troubling.*

Contributing factors

What could the main issue be?

First, the average Christian doesn't read nor study the Word. Their Bible understanding comes from what is taught from the pulpit or online, which unfortunately these preachers often have learned from seminary professors and not from their actual study of the Word of God in its entirety.

Solution:

We, as Bible-Believing Believers, need to read ALL of Yeshua's Word. Not part of it, AND ALL of Yeshua's Word in Context! We do not want to settle for someone else's hand-me-down interpretation. We don't want someone else telling us what to think! Our LORD said we can understand His Word for ourselves. When we really dig into God's Word, we can each begin to understand it, because Yeshua will communicate with us. Yeshua repeatedly said, "you have heard that it was said" (Matthew 5:21...) "*but I say unto you.*" He is explain that He is giving the true interpretation. Just because we have read the Word of God once or even a few times does not mean we know & understand it.

In summation, we need to read His Word, study it, meditate on it, and then go do it! This needs to become our way of life.

Another contributing factor to the 6%

Secondly, because of a lack of in-depth Bible study, Scripture is often taken out of context and is not read literally.

Solution:

We, as Bible-Believing Believers need to read the Bible in context. What does this mean? We need to not just read one verse or one passage, but we must read the entire chapter, the entire book. To get a true understanding of a passage, we must understand that passage within the chapter, within the book, within the entire Bible.

We must also learn the historical context. When was the passage written? What was happening during that time: were they in Babylon, for example?

And we must read the word text literally. We must remember these three points:

1. Yeshua does not change.
2. We are not to add nor subtract from His Word.
3. Yeshua does not lie.

Let us read Yeshua's Word in Context

Start with Hebrews 5:7:

⁷ “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸ Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered

⁹ and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him

¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.” [Hebrews 5:7-10, NIV]

I believe that we all agree that Yeshua our Messiah “learned obedience from what He suffered” and that “He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him” Notice that “He is the source of eternal salvation **for all who obey Him**”. Without obedience to all of His Words, then we have broken His Words. We setting ourselves up as gods.

The “elementary truths of God’s Word”

Continuing with Hebrews 5:11...

¹¹ “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you **because you no longer try to understand**. [Heb 5:11, NIV]

Notice that he is accusing the new believer of no longer trying to understand, understand what? Understanding that Yeshua became the High Priest, and that Yeshua Himself learned obedience from what He suffered. It was also stated that He became the **source** of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. If we don’t obey Him how can we learn?

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the **elementary truths** of God's word all over again. [Heb 5:12, NIV]

Yes, at one point, everyone of His followers understood; but because they are not walking in these truths and teaching others, they have lost what they have learned.

On a personal level, have we also lost what we learned? Are we treating the study of God's Word as a hobby? Are we really committed to God's Word.

This passage in the book of Hebrews chapter 5 is saying there is a need to start over with the basics, and not to wander around with personal stories but to stick to the basics of elementary truths of God's word because of a lack of commitment, Otherwise, they are referred to as infants, unable to grow.

Here we see there is another stage of growth

We need milk, not solid food!

¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, [Heb 5:13, NIV]

Here the individual is not able to digest God's Word beyond the elementary truths. Therefore he is unable to grasp the teaching about Yeshua's righteousness. He is not acquainted with the **teaching about righteousness**.

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." [Heb 5:14, NIV]

Here the writer states that the teaching about righteousness is solid food, reserved for the mature, for those who are taking the responsibility of studying. Maturity comes by the constant use of having trained oneself in God's Word. Notice these individuals are hungry for God's Word; they are self-motivated by training themselves. In doing so, Yeshua is with them. This constant use, in Yeshua's Word, gives the ability to distinguish good from evil.

The boundaries of life itself are comprised in **all** the Words of Yeshua and the Father. Nothing can be added nor subtracted. Yeshua stated this:

⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So, whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say. [John 12:49-50 NIV]

Likewise, we should be in total agreement, believing Yeshua and the Father's words, making them our own words by applying them to our lives.

¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see.

Through hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“ ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding.

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people's heart has become calloused.

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise, they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.’ [Matthew 13:13-15

quoting Isaiah 6:9,10 NIV]

The above verses apply to us today in addition to Israel in the past! Some think they have already arrived with Yeshua based on their own personal understanding. Others think that they are acceptable with Yeshua because they are “born again.”

As Bible Believers we need to apply these principles to our daily life:

1. To study God's Word in context within the whole Bible
2. To study God's Word within its historical setting
3. To read God's Word literally

As we apply these principles with an underlying belief in the truth of God's Word AND we need to teach these truths to others, then we will be helping raise the 6% to a higher percentage.

“How to Interpret Scripture”

Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.

The character of Yeshua according to His Word:

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]

Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible

Matt 28:18-20 – this is after His resurrection.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt 28:18-20

Acts 1:6-8 – after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord [YHVH], will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8

John 3:36 – John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1John 2:3-6

[Note: Yeshua perfectly kept (obeyed & followed) every word in the Torah; we also need to do the same. And, therefore, we need to stop sinning.]

Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision & Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oral Law ○ Customs of Moses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews</u> <i>only</i> who came up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years after Pentecost ○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles</u> <i>only</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years after Acts 10 ○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation & circumcision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the auspices of Constantine ○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend
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