



Will The Real Paul Please Stand Up?

The Gospel of Rav Shaul

Part 8

Paul In His Own Words



Romans 1

1 From: Sha'ul, **A SLAVE** [δουλος/doulos – bound together in subjection to] the Messiah Yeshua, **AN EMISSARY** [ἀπόστολος/apostolos – set apart as ambassador] because I was called and set apart for the **GOOD NEWS** of God.

Paul & Heuristics



Romans 1

5 Through him we received grace and were given
the work of being **an emissary on his behalf**
PROMOTING TRUST-GROUNDED [pistis –
faithful] OBEDIENCE among all the Gentiles, 6
including you, who have been called by Yeshua the
Messiah.

Paul & Heuristics



“FAITH”

Gr. Pistis – πίστις
translates the Hebrew word
Emunah – אמונה

FAITHFULNESS

“Will you stay steady and firm, reliably committed to obedience – to God and His Torah – and will you do it over time, especially if it costs you something, or even...everything?”

The Gospel of Rav Sha'ul



*Paul is presenting and reinforcing to the Gentile world the **Good News of REPENTANCE FROM SIN** leading to **redemption and faithful obedience**...and escape from utter destruction.

Romans 2



13 For it is not merely the **HEARERS OF TORAH** whom God considers righteous; rather, **IT IS THE DOERS OF WHAT TORAH SAYS WHO WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT.**

What is a “hearer” of Torah?

Literally, one who listens to the reading of something

What is a “doer” of what Torah says?

The act of performing; literally, a performer or actor

Romans 2



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Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” gospel?

Romans 2



Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” gospel?

1. Earning Salvation: Trying to put God in your debt by doing enough good things that will require God to “save” you.
2. Self-Reliance: Believing human effort alone can fix the evil heart and evil inclination and thus heal the broken intimacy with God.
3. Pride: The assumption that personal moral success makes a person better or more deserving than others.

Romans 2



Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” gospel?

1. Earning Salvation: Trying to put God in your debt by doing enough good things that will require God to “save” you.

Does Paul believe obeying the Torah – the “Law” – was
EVER the MEANS to “salvation”?

Is Paul even trying to differentiate works-righteousness
from grace in this portion of his letter?

Paul & Heuristics



Romans 1

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PROMOTING TRUST-GROUNDED

OBEDIENCE

among all the Gentiles, 6 including you, who have been called by Yeshua the Messiah.

Romans 2



Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” gospel?

2. Self-Reliance: Believing human effort alone can fix the evil heart and evil inclination and thus heal the broken intimacy with God.

What is the difference between this concept of “human effort” and God’s concept of “obedience”?

Romans 2



Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” gospel?

3. Pride: The assumption that personal moral success makes a person better or more deserving than others.

If we assume obedience is different than legalism, does obedience make you “better” or “more deserving” than others?

Revelation 22



11 “Whoever keeps acting wickedly, let him go on acting wickedly; whoever is filthy, let him go on being made filthy. “Also, whoever is righteous, let him go on **DOING WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS**; and whoever is holy, let him go on **BEING MADE HOLY**.”

Revelation 22



12 “Pay attention!” [says Yeshua,] “I am coming soon, and **MY REWARDS ARE WITH ME TO GIVE TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE.**”

Revelation 22



13 I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." 14 How blessed are those **WHO WASH THEIR ROBES**, so that they **HAVE THE RIGHT** to eat from the Tree of Life and go through the gates into the city!

Romans 2



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Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” based gospel?

Can obedience “fix” the evil heart or suppress the evil inclination?

Romans 2



13 For it is not merely the **HEARERS OF TORAH** whom God considers righteous; rather, **IT IS THE DOERS OF WHAT TORAH SAYS WHO WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT.**

Is Paul preaching a “works-righteousness” based gospel?

NO...PAUL IS PREACHING A REPENTANCE-BASED GOSPEL!

Romans 2:15



For **THEIR LIVES SHOW** that **THE CONDUCT** the **TORAH DICTATES**
[nomos ergon – Torah's deeds] is written in
their hearts.

Romans 2:15



Their consciences also bear witness to this,
**FOR THEIR CONFLICTING THOUGHTS
SOMETIMES ACCUSE THEM AND
SOMETIMES DEFEND THEM.**

Cheshbon HaNefesh
“An accounting of the soul”
THE REPENTANT LIFE

The Repentant Life



1. Torah Obedience

- Goal — living & doing the word

2. Cheshbon Hanefesh

- Diagnostic — searching the heart

3. Teshuvah

- The bridge — turning / returning

	Tanakh	B'rit Chadashah
DIAGNOSTIC Cheshbon Hanefesh Searching the heart	Lamentations 3:40 — “Let us examine and test our ways and return to Adonai.” Psalm 4:4 — “You can be angry, but do not sin! Think about this as you lie in bed, and calm down.” Psalm 139:23-24 — “Examine me, God, and know my heart; test me, and know my thoughts. See if there is in me any hurtful way, and lead me along the eternal way.” Haggai 1:5, 7 — “Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot says: ‘Think about your life!’” Proverbs 20:27 — “The human spirit is a lamp of Adonai; it searches one's inmost being.”	2 Corinthians 13:5 — “Examine yourselves to see whether you are living the life of trust. Test yourselves.” 1 Corinthians 11:28 — “Let a person examine himself first, and then he may eat of the bread and drink from the cup.” 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 — “Pain handled in God's way produces a turning from sin to God which leads to salvation... what earnest diligence, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what readiness to put things right!” Hebrews 4:12 — “The Word of God is alive!... it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart.”
GOAL Torah Obedience Living/doing the word	Deuteronomy 30:11-14 — “This mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach... the word is very close to you — in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!” Psalm 119:11 — “I treasure your word in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.” Psalm 19:7-8 — “The Torah of Adonai is perfect, restoring the inner person. The instruction of Adonai is sure, making wise the thoughtless.” Ezekiel 18:21, 27-28 — “If the wicked person repents of all the sins he committed, keeps my laws and does what is lawful and right, he will certainly live... when the wicked person turns away from all the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he will save his life.”	James 1:22-25 — “Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!... becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work it requires, then he will be blessed in what he does.” Matthew 7:21-27 — “Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on bedrock.” (houses on rock and sand) Romans 2:13 — “It is not merely the hearers of Torah whom God considers righteous; rather, it is the doers of what Torah says who will be made righteous.” Acts 26:20 — “They should turn from their sins to God and then do deeds consistent with that repentance.”
BRIDGE Teshuvah Turning/returning	Deuteronomy 30:1-10 — “You will start thinking about what has happened to you; and you will return to Adonai your God... you will return and pay attention to what Adonai says and obey all his mitzvot which I am giving you today.” (turning leads to obedience) Isaiah 55:6-7 — “Seek Adonai while he is available, call on him while he is still nearby. Let the wicked person abandon his way... let him return to Adonai, and he will have mercy on him.” Ezekiel 33:11 — “I take no pleasure in having the wicked person die, but in having the wicked person turn from his way and live. So repent! Turn from your evil ways!” Hosea 14:1-2 — “Return, Isra'el, to Adonai your God, for your guilt has made you stumble. Take words with you, and return to Adonai; say to him, ‘Forgive all guilt, and accept what is good.’” Joel 2:12-13 — “Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting... Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to Adonai your God.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 — “If my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.” Jeremiah 3:12-14, 22 — “Return, backsliding Isra'el... Return, backsliding children... Return, backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding.”	Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8-14 — “If you have really turned from your sins to God, produce fruit that will prove it!” (John's ethical instructions to the crowds, tax-collectors, and soldiers) Acts 3:19 — “Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be erased.” Acts 26:20 — “Turn from their sins to God and then do deeds consistent with that repentance.” (gate opening onto the cure) 2 Corinthians 7:10 — “Pain handled in God's way produces a turning from sin to God which leads to salvation, and there is nothing to regret in that!”

Romans 2



16 on a day when God passes judgment on people's inmost secrets. (According to the Good News as I proclaim it, **he does this through the Messiah Yeshua.**)

Would you rather consistently and faithfully take inventory of your heart, comparing it to the Torah's requirements and bridge the gap through repentance? Or would you prefer God passing judgment because you refused the process of becoming holy?

1 Corinthians 11



31 If we would examine ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined, so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Would you rather consistently and faithfully take inventory of your heart, comparing it to the Torah's requirements and bridge the gap through repentance? Or would you prefer God passing judgment because you refused the process of becoming holy?

The Gospel of Rav Sha'ul



He is also exposing:

The hypocrisy of elitist Jews who live as though sitting in synagogue and being part of the community gives them a pass from obeying Torah...

And, the compromised Hellenist Jews who reject Messiah and Messianic believers to avoid physical and social persecution.

Romans 2



17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rest on Torah and boast about God 18 and know his will and give your approval to what is right, **because you have been instructed** from the Torah;

Romans 2



19 and if you have **persuaded yourself** that you are a guide to the blind, a light in the darkness, 20 an instructor for the spiritually unaware and a teacher of children, since in the Torah you have the embodiment of knowledge and truth; 21 **then, you who teach others, don't you teach yourself?**

Romans 2



Preaching, “Thou shalt not steal,” do you steal? 22 Saying, “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? Detesting idols, do you commit idolatrous acts?

23 You who **take such pride in Torah**, do you, by disobeying the Torah, dishonor God? — 24 as it says in the Tanakh, **“For it is because of you that God’s name is blasphemed by the Goyim.”**

Romans 2



25 For circumcision is indeed of value **IF YOU**
DO WHAT TORAH SAYS. But **IF YOU**
ARE A TRANSGRESSOR OF TORAH, your
circumcision has become uncircumcision!

Romans 2



26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the Torah, won't his uncircumcision **BE COUNTED AS** circumcision?

X
γίνομαι – ginomai
To become:
moving into a new state or
condition

λογίζομαι – logizomai
To be inventoried as:
to keep a ledger; to be
reasoned as something
without actually becoming it

Romans 2



27 Indeed, the man who is physically uncircumcised
BUT OBEYS THE TORAH will stand as a judgment
ON YOU WHO HAVE HAD A B'RIT-MILAH
(circumcision) and have Torah written out **BUT**
VIOLATE IT!

Romans 2



28 For the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly:
true circumcision is **NOT ONLY EXTERNAL**
AND PHYSICAL.

Romans 2



29 On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; **SO THAT HIS PRAISE COMES NOT FROM OTHER PEOPLE BUT FROM GOD.**

Romans 2



What is Paul saying?

1. You don't have to keep Torah if you're a gentile
2. You only must keep Torah if you're Jewish
3. Keeping Torah is impossible, so whether you're gentile or Jewish, stop trying
4. All of the Above
5. None of the Above

Romans 2



What is Paul saying?

Whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, if you want to receive God's praise, if you want to be a faithful child of The Most High, if you want to be counted as a faithful believer by living a holy life, the measure of your holiness is obedience to the truth of Torah.

1 John 2



3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

1 John 2



5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Philippians 2



12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...

Hebrews 5



11 We have much to say about this subject, but it is hard to explain, because you have become sluggish in understanding. 12 For although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the very first principles of God's Word all over again! You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who has to drink milk is still a baby, without experience in applying the Word about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by continuous exercise to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5



11 We have much to say about this subject, but it is hard to explain, **because you have become SLUGGISH in UNDERSTANDING.**

Νωθρός – nōthros

Lazy

Root nothos =
illegitimate

ἀκοή – akoē

Reputation, report

Root akouo = having
heard

Hebrews 5



12 For although by this time **YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS**, you need someone **TO TEACH YOU** the very **FIRST PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD** all over again! You need milk, not solid food!

Acts 7:38

[Moses] is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness, accompanied by the angel that had spoken to him at Mount Sinai and by our fathers, the man who was given **LIVING WORDS** to pass on to us.

Hebrews 5



13 Anyone who has to drink milk is still a baby,

**WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING THE
WORD ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Hebrews 5



13 Anyone who has to drink milk is still a baby, **WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING THE WORD ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS**. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by continuous exercise to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5



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