Yes, But is it a Salvation Issue?

STUDY GUIDE | FAITH, GRACE AND OBEDIENCE

Finding the Ancient Path | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OrNujKoO6E

Teaching Purpose

Examine the question "Is it a salvation issue?" and the speaker's call to regard God's instruction as a welcome response to salvation in Yeshua. Study the relationship between grace, faith, obedience, legalism, human tradition, the heart and accountability, while comparing each argument with its cited biblical passage.

Quick Answer

The Teaching argues that salvation is received through faith in Yeshua, not earned by works, and that love and gratitude should lead believers to obey rather than seek the minimum requirement. The speaker warns that knowingly rejecting God's instructions may have serious spiritual consequences. Other Christian traditions differ about which Torah commands apply under the New Covenant and about the interpretation of Hebrews 10.

Core Distinction

Faith and grace are presented as the foundation of salvation; obedience is described as the fruit of that relationship. The speaker applies this principle to Sabbath observance, food instructions and the appointed times, and interprets "under grace" as freedom from condemnation rather than from lawful authority. These specific applications should be studied against the full context of Scripture; the Teaching does not give humans authority to determine another person's final judgment.

Teaching Outline and Key Takeaways

The minimalist faith

The speaker asks what people mean by "Is it a salvation issue?" and defines a minimalist approach as seeking only what seems essential to eternal life. He distinguishes receiving salvation by faith in Yeshua from responding to grace through obedience.

Addressing salvation issues

Common objections concerning Sabbath, food instructions and appointed times are introduced, including appeals to grace, freedom, legalism and a supposedly good heart. The speaker argues these questions can become excuses to avoid considering Scripture.

Delighting in God's law

Psalm 19, Psalm 25 and Psalm 40 are compared with the question of minimal obligation. Paul's statement in Romans 7 about delighting in God's law is considered alongside David's desire to walk in God's ways.

The weight of disobedience

The speaker examines Hebrews 10:26-29 and 1 John 2:3-6, arguing that deliberate rejection of known commands is spiritually serious. He explicitly says people cannot pronounce another person's final judgment; his specific application to Sabbath and food laws is his theological interpretation.

Defining legalism

The Teaching reviews the term legalism and distinguishes obeying Scripture from following man-made religious rules. Matthew 23:23-28 and Mark 7:6-13 are cited to discuss hypocrisy, neglect of mercy and justice, and substituting traditions for commandments.

Obedience vs. legalism

Matthew 16:5-12 and Mark 7 are used to examine the "leaven" or teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. The speaker emphasizes careful obedience to God rather than unquestioned loyalty to a religious system.

God's call to obedience

Deuteronomy 5, 6, 11 and 12 are brought together as examples of Scripture instructing people to obey carefully and diligently. Luke 6:46 highlights the inconsistency of calling Yeshua Lord while refusing his words.

The myth of heart-trust

The speaker examines Jeremiah 17:9-10, Hebrews 4:11-13, Proverbs 28:26 and other texts about the heart. The discussion focuses on accountability, action and the danger of treating self-assessed good intentions as an alternative to discernment.

Final judgment warnings

The speaker contrasts freedom from sin's dominion in Romans 6 with freedom to disregard God's instruction. He concludes with a warning about accountability and Galatians 6:7, emphasizing the importance of taking choices seriously.

Community reflection

Fellowship participants discuss personal spiritual change, actions accompanying faith, being set apart, teaching by example, holiness and seeking truth. The conversation ends with remarks about a future biblical calendar study and closing Shabbat greetings.

Key Scriptures — Contextual Notes

- Psalm 19:7-11 - David praises the LORD's instruction, statutes and commandments as true, valuable, life-giving and worthy of desire.
- Psalm 25:4-5 - The psalmist asks the LORD to teach him His paths and lead him in truth.
- Psalm 40:8 - The psalmist delights to do God's will and speaks of His law within the heart.
- Romans 7:22 - Paul says he delights in the law of God according to his inner person.
- Ephesians 2:8-10 - Salvation is described as God's gift by grace through faith, not a result of works; believers are created for good works.
- Hebrews 10:26-29 - The writer warns against deliberately persisting in sin after receiving knowledge of the truth and treating the covenant sacrifice with contempt.
- 1 John 2:3-6 - John connects knowing God and abiding in Messiah with keeping His commandments and walking as Yeshua walked.
- Matthew 23:23-24 - Yeshua rebukes neglect of justice, mercy and faithfulness while observing smaller matters, rather than leaving either undone.
- Mark 7:6-13 - Yeshua challenges teachings of human tradition that set aside God's commandments, including responsibilities to parents.
- Matthew 16:5-12 - Yeshua explains that the disciples should beware the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees, not literal bread.
- Isaiah 66:1-2 - God looks favorably on one who is humble, contrite in spirit and trembles at His word.
- Deuteronomy 5:32-33 - Israel is instructed to walk carefully in the way God commanded without turning aside.
- Deuteronomy 12:28 - Israel is called to observe and obey God's words and do what is good and right before Him.
- Luke 6:46 - Yeshua challenges people who call Him Lord while not doing what He says.
- Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart is described as deceitful; the LORD searches hearts and examines inner motives and actions.
- Hebrews 4:11-13 - God's word exposes thoughts and intentions, and nothing is hidden from Him.
- Proverbs 28:26 - One who trusts in his own heart is called a fool, while wisdom offers deliverance; corrected book reference from captioned "Proverbs 26".
- John 8:31-36 - Yeshua connects abiding in His word and knowing truth with freedom, and speaks of deliverance from slavery to sin.
- Romans 6:14-23 - Paul contrasts sin's rule with grace, and slavery to sin with obedience and righteousness leading to holiness.
- Galatians 6:7-8 - Paul warns that people reap what they sow and contrasts sowing to the flesh with sowing to the Spirit.
- 1 Timothy 4:16 - Timothy is told to watch his life and teaching and persevere, as discussed during fellowship.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. How does the speaker define minimalist faith, and why does the question about salvation concern him?

2. What is the relationship between grace through faith and the life of obedience described in Ephesians 2?

3. How do Psalms 19 and 40 and Romans 7 describe willing delight in God's instruction?

4. What is the immediate context of Hebrews 10:26-29, and what limits exist on judging others?

5. What do Matthew 23 and Mark 7 say about traditions, hypocrisy and weightier matters?

6. How does 1 John 2 describe abiding in Yeshua and walking as He walked?

7. How can a believer evaluate motives and actions without reducing discernment to self-assessed intentions?

8. What do John 8 and Romans 6 actually say about freedom and slavery to sin?

9. Where does the speaker's interpretation of Torah for believers differ from other theological readings?

10. Which lessons from the extended community discussion are practical and consistent with the cited texts?

Practical Study Applications

- Read Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 40:8 and Romans 7:22; write how each speaker approaches God's instruction.
- Study Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 John 2:3-6 and Romans 6:14-23 together; distinguish the basis of salvation from its results.
- Read Hebrews 10:26-29 in its chapter context and record what is explicit before applying it to specific practices.
- Compare Mark 7:6-13 and Matthew 23:23-28, identifying both the divine commands and human practices at issue.
- Read Deuteronomy 5:32-33, 6:17, 11:31-32 and 12:28; note the original audience and the speaker's contemporary application.
- Examine Jeremiah 17:9-10 and Proverbs 28:26 (the correct reference) and consider the importance of accountability.
- Compare John 8:31-36 with Romans 6:14-23 to identify the freedom described in each text.
- Discuss the fellowship's examples of visible conduct, holiness and gentleness; plan a concrete next step consistent with your study.