

February 21, 2017

## The Place of Good Works

Shalom,

The Torah portion for this week is called “**Mishpatim**” and is found in **Exodus 21:1—24:18**. The word, “Mishpat” is translated judgement, rule, law, instruction or ordinance. The International Children’s Bible translates Exodus 21:1 “*Then God said to Moses, “These are **the laws for living that you will give to the Israelites.**”* God had spoken the “Ten Words” or commandments to the children of Israel as recorded in Exodus 20, and followed with specific instructions for living. If we meditate on His Words, we will recognize that God is **relating His attitudes, or His way of doing things**, and is **instructing His people on how to walk in His ways**.

We know that none could attain righteousness through keeping these instructions for it is written in Psalms 53:3, “*there is none that doeth good, no, not one,*” and in Romans 3:23 “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” We must recognize that **the only way to attain righteousness is receiving the free gift of God through trusting in Messiah Yeshua** as it is stated in Isaiah 53:6 “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*” Also we find this truth in Romans 10:4 “*For Christ is **the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.***”

**Does the fact that righteousness can only be received through trusting mean, then, that there is no further need to keep the Father’s instructions, or His laws for living? Absolutely not! In fact, the only hope anyone has of maintaining this level of obedience is through faith, or trust in God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

*Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

It is clearly stated in Scripture that there is only one way to please God, and attempted obedience in the flesh, will bring about certain failure, but it is **by believing and abiding in Him**, the life giving Vine of God, that **the fruit of good works will manifest through us**, just as the branches of a natural vine receive life from the vine to manifest fruit.

*Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.***

## **Salvation is by Faith Alone—Obedience brings Blessing**

We all know that rewards, or blessings follow those who adhere to the teaching and instruction of God, **but it is trust in God that brings about the new birth that positions us in the**

**relationship known as “In Christ,”** and it is this relationship which brings forth the power of the blessing within us to be fruitful and multiply, and to fill the earth with blessing.

*Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

*Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.*

**As a new creation in the Messiah, filled with His Word, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to fulfill His laws for living.** No matter what circumstances we face, nor the challenges of every new day, we are more than conquerors drawing upon His power and ability that resides in us. We are enabled to walk in His ways and receive the benefits that He has already given, which are, exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask, or think **through His power that works in us.**

We must consistently fill ourselves with the Word of God to confess and affirm our relationship with God and His way of doing things through Yeshua, By trusting, everything He promises to those who love Him is ours, including the ability to speak His Word, walk in His statutes, keep His judgments, and do them, for **it is in Him that all of His promises will be realized and the fruit of His kingdom blessing will be made manifest.**

*Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

We have been given great authority as believers in Messiah. On Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby, come learn to walk in His authority.

Fruitful in His way of doing things,  
Terry