

February 29, 2024

Unearned Righteousness

Shalom,

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works. (Psalms 145:8-9 KJV)

This week, the Torah portion found in **Exodus 30:11–34:35** is called **Ki Tisa, or “When You Take.”** Remember, the word, **Torah**, does not mean “**Law**,” although most people believe that it does. The Hebrew word means “**teaching**” or “**instruction**.” The **Torah** does contain laws, but God gave it to us to show us His way of doing things, and how to live in **Shalom (Nothing Missing, nothing broken)** as His treasured possession. When we really understand that God is good to all, it makes sense to align ourselves with His instructions. In this portion, the Lord shows His people about His love for everyone and that every soul is valued equally through the instruction regarding the census; and, in the incident of the golden calf, He gives us truth concerning His will that people know Him in a spiritual way that is far above just obeying His rules.

A serious problem for religious people is that they view the Word of God only as a system of law. A system that they must legalistically obey. Another way of saying it is that they follow God’s teaching as natural beings with no spiritual life and understanding. Some Christian groups, as well as the Jews, are prone to practice and teach a system of legalistic perversion that is marked by a false system of gaining merit by doing good works, but that attitude inevitably ends with sin consciousness and a defiled conscience because of the natural inability to measure up to God’s Holy standards.

God gave us His Torah to show that it is only through the Gift of Yeshua and the new birth by the Holy Spirit that we have been given a new way to a conscience cleansed of perpetual guilt. By His work of redemption, by the blood of Jesus, we are set in the freedom of knowing that His righteousness is imputed by faith. Through His wonderful work, we become an entirely new species of His creation which, instead of being a disappointment to God, are now in a position of having unearned favor in His sight and a **relationship** that is described as **knowing God**.

Moses wanted to be able to obey YHWH by having a revelation of, and in seeing spiritually, Who He is. **He recognized the futility of just keeping the rules of God without knowing the God Who made them.** Instead of blindly complying, He wanted to esteem and value the things that God, Himself, esteems, and values.

Now, please, if it is really the case that I have found favor in Your sight, **show me Your ways; so that I will understand You and continue finding favor in Your sight.**

Moreover, keep on seeing this nation as Your people. (Exodus 33:13 CJB)

But the things that used to be advantages for me, I have, because of the Messiah, come to consider a disadvantage. Not only that, but I consider everything a disadvantage in comparison with **the supreme value of knowing the Messiah Yeshua as my Lord.** It was because of Him that I gave up everything and regard it all as garbage, in order to gain the Messiah and be found in union with Him, not having any righteousness of my own based on legalism, but having that righteousness which comes through the Messiah's faithfulness, the righteousness from God based on trust. **Yes, I gave it all up in order to know Him, that is, to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings as I am being conformed to His death,** so that somehow I might arrive at being resurrected from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11 CJB)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him" — **these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9 -10 ESV)

Knowing God in this way is a way that changes us from the inside out—that full knowledge of Him and knowing His ways brings about a wonderful transformation that makes us love what God loves, choose what He has chosen, say what He says, and walk as He walks. **It is the place of victory, prosperity, and health—true shalom.**

Knowing Him,
Terry

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