



# The Mystery of Iniquity

Why do so many teachings today fail to conform to what is so plainly and clearly expressed in Scripture? Key among them is the need to obey the Creator we worship, as He commands us throughout His Word.

Very early on basic tenets taught in both Old and New Testaments had become distorted and misrepresented. The term for this deviation from truth is "apostasy," and it was alive and active even while the Apostle Paul was

carrying out his ministry. The Apostle warned the Thessalonians that the "mystery of iniquity was already at work" in his day (2Thes. 2:7). Iniquity is lawlessness, and many were believing that the law was made irrelevant by Yahshua the Messiah's death, in direct violation of Matthew 5:17.

Today's nearly universal belief that Yahweh's law is unnecessary and even contrary to salvation was already gaining ground in Paul's day. It taught that since only faith is necessary for salvation that one is totally free from any obligation of the law. But it did more. It actively promoted lawlessness, saying that because grace abounds, the more we sin the more grace we receive.

Such delusions greatly weakened the foundational underpinnings of the truth taught in the New Testament. And they continue a barrage against the Believer's true walk today. Paul meets the sacrilege head-on in Romans 6:15, when he asks: "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law but under grace? Yahweh forbid." In 3:31 he concluded, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Elohim forbid: yea, we establish the law."

Other apostles, too, were battling this false doctrine.

A surprisingly candid admission in a highly respected reference says, "Antinomianism, i.e. faith without works, is one of the forms of error against which the Epistle of James is directed, showing

that even in the apostolic age it had made its appearance...In short, its whole tendency is to produce an impression on the sinner's mind that, if he is not saved, it is not his fault but [Yahweh's]; that, if he is condemned, it is more for the glory of the Divine Sovereignty than as the punishment for his guilt" (*Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, vol. 1, p. 264-5).

### Reformation Misguidance

We see a remarkable infusion of the "mystery of iniquity" in the writings of Martin Luther centuries later. Luther wrote, "'Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works.' And what makes a man good? Faith in G-d and Chr-st. How does a man come to such saving faith? Not through his merits, but as a divine gift granted, regardless of merits, to those whom G-d has chosen to save...By divine predestination the elect are chosen for eternal happiness, the rest are left

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### Moed Calendar of 2008

The sacred calendar for this year is somewhat difficult to project, as a possibility exists that the green barley of Abib may be seen early.

We will not know for sure until the new moon of March 8 whether Passover will be in March or April.

If it falls in March, these are the estimated holy days (provided the new moons are seen as anticipated):

**Passover day March 22; Feast of Unleavened Bread, March 23-29; Pentecost May 18; Trumpets, Sept. 2; Atonement Sept. 11; Feast of Tabernacles/Last Great Day Sept. 16-23.**

If the barley is Abib in April, these are the projected holy days: **Passover April 20; Unleavened Bread April 21-27; Pentecost June 15; Trumpets Oct. 1; Atonement Oct. 10; Tabernacles and Last Great Day, Oct. 15-22.**

We will publish an official calendar in March. New and exciting activities are planned for the spring Feast. Join us!

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**L**ong before Rick Warren, preachers in-the-know were preaching about life-purpose. The following verse from Romans reveals that our purpose is to develop the Messiah's character. "For whom he foreknew, he also did predestine to be conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren," Romans 8:29.

The fear of repentance reveals a natural, inner awareness of just how difficult the overcomer's path to Messianic character will be. In this article we will explore ways to neutralize that fear.

### Fear of Repentance

We sin because we're afraid of death. And we refuse to repent because we're afraid of death. Surprised? Read what Hebrews 2:14-15 says:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also, himself, likewise took part of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

People do crazy things because they know they will die someday. The heart cries: "I've only got so long to live. I'm going to grab all I can NOW." People sin if they think they are going to miss out on something. In a mad, desperate rush to seek fulfillment and accomplishment in this life, sacred duty is forgotten.

Reconciliation with Yahweh is the answer. It changes everything to know that you are going to live forever. Even temptation loses its edge.

The fear of death speaks to Yahshua's principle of forsaking all. The average believer's life is filled with trials that ask, "Have you forsaken this as well?" The path of life will affect everything. Lifestyle, habits, loved ones, social approval, career, you name it.

"If any man will come unto me, let him deny himself, and take up his gallows, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life will lose it: and whosoever will

lose his life for my sake will find it," Matthew 16:24-25.

This is the fear of repentance: The fear that some part of us must die. How can we beat this?

I have identified four obstacles to repentance. See how many fit you.

- Feeling that your sin is too great.
- Feeling that your sin is too

faithful and just to forgive me if I repented. The problem is that when I'm backslidden, I forget all about His mercy. The guilt is so strong that I'm too ashamed to face Him in repentance. Therefore I know that if I start drinking again, I may never come out of it alive!"

Yes, playing with Yahweh's mercy is like playing with fire. Sin is bad, but



insignificant.

- Fear that you will not be able to follow through with righteous living after forgiveness.

- The unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Spirit, and other conditions in which we are unforgivable.

In each of these cases we shall examine the pride, fear, and (yes!) the overcoming that is within reach.

### "My Sin Is too Great"

Some people feel more comfortable with guilt, fear of punishment, and depression than they feel with the humiliation of repentance. Perhaps they think that if they can torture their souls enough with the guilt trip, it will somehow atone for the sin.

Actually, feeling that way is a sin in itself, for it seeks to make a liar out of Him and His Word: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," 1John 1:9

Funny thing about sin, especially big sin; even though prior to sin we have confidence that we can be forgiven, that faith in His goodness seems to vanish once we wander from His side. The phrase "deceitfulness of sin" comes to mind (Hebrews 3:13).

A reformed alcoholic once explained: "I know that I am alive by His mercy. And if I backslide, He would be

failing to appeal to His mercy is even worse. As a sign of your desire to change, sin, no matter how big, should be repented of at once. The longer the delay the harder the heart becomes. A spirit of guilt pours words of defeat into your mind. This is not the healthy kind of guilt which leads to repentance, but the self-destructive guilt that says 'I will always be a sinner. I'm not worthy of forgiveness.' Result: sin continues.

Yahshua is your only chance (John 14:6). All sin is His specialty. The big ones are no problem. The problem lies with us. Are we willing to die a little at the throne of grace?

HalleluYah, there is a benefit waiting. John 14:23. "If a man will love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Psalm 16:11 reads, "You will show me the path of life: in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore."

We should lunge for such reconciliation.

### "My Sin Is So Small"

Those supposedly insignificant things that crowd our conscience are like an alarm clock buzzing in our heads. Whenever I delude myself into believing that a particular bit of sin is insignificant, I find on closer inspection that it is

actually major, sometimes a violation of one of the Ten Commandments!

The same feelings mentioned earlier come into play. Fear of humiliating ourselves before the throne of grace. Fear we'll have to admit error and thus put an end to questionable things in our lives. In short: fear of death.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us," 1 John 1:9-10.

Why did Yahshua associate the unrepentant leaders of His time with Cain? (Matt. 23:13-39). Why is Abel

called "righteous"?

In Genesis 4:3-5, Abel offered an animal sacrifice, an open admission of guilt. Cain offered up vegetable food, the work of his own hands. Abel's animal sacrifice was a call for forgiveness. The sacrifice of Cain was a thanksgiving offering with the implied denial of guilt. Abel's sacrifice was accepted, Cain's was spurned.

Abel is called righteous in Matthew 23:35 because he understood that the humble acknowledgement of sin must be expressed before Yahweh's throne with the remembrance of a blood sacrifice. In Abel's time it was an animal from the flock he tended. For us it is Yahshua the

perfect sacrifice.

Once you're on the road that leads to eternal life, you may find a lot of little things inside of you that need cleaning out. By denying guilt on something supposedly small, we create a thorn bush of defensiveness, which can ultimately strangle spiritual growth and possibly reverse it, as happened with Cain.

Is there some supposedly petty matter in your life now which begs for reconciliation? Reconcile it now! Delay only makes it worse. □

-by **Michael A. Banak**

Next issue: We look at the remaining two obstacles to repentance and examine sins for which there is no forgiveness.

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graceless and damned to everlasting hell," Luther, *Works*, II, p. 331; *De servo arbitrio*, in Lecky, *Rationalism*, I, 140.

### A Mark of Worthiness

According to these heresies, our salvation hinges on whim – divine caprice – and not because Yahweh expects something of us like repentance and obedience. The truth is we **are** saved by grace, yet that's only half the story. Yahweh will not save sinners – meaning those who have not repented of sin. Scripture is jam-packed with teachings that obedience is a prerequisite for everlasting life (see Ezek. 18:21-24, 30; Matt. 5:21; 1Cor. 6:9; Heb. 5:9; 1Pet. 4:18; Rev. 14:12; 21:7-8). It is our obedience that renders our worthiness for consideration for the greatest gift on earth – everlasting life, Matthew 22:8; Colossians 1:10.

These early delusions that infiltrated Christianity and continue today also completely ignore the Covenants requiring obedience that Yahweh made with Ancient Israel and with His people in the New Covenant (Testament). They discard the fact that we are to be a separated people who "touch not the unclean thing" in order to be received of Yahweh. They negate such passages as Philippians 2:12: "Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not

as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

These errors from paganism totally dispense with the hundreds of other commands in which Yahweh expects His people to walk on the higher ground of loving obedience and righteousness, 2Corinthians 6:17. They make the commandments of none effect. They render Yahshua's words about living by every word of Yahweh a falsehood, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4. They ignore the fact that the bride must make herself ready, Revelation 19:17.

Paul realized the damning nature of such dogma. He was distressed, knowing that teachings against Yahweh's truth would greatly magnify and increase once he was gone: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). Here was an apostle who cared deeply about the Body of Messiah, even what it would become after he was gone.

The Apostle John voiced his concerns as well about destructive heresies spreading through various assemblies in his day. "These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you," he wrote in 1John 2:26. By seduce, John

meant to lead one to apostatize (Greek *planao*: "to go astray, deceive, err, be out of the way, wander"). John's admonition followed his statements that made clear that he wrote no other commandment but the "old commandment that we had from the beginning," 2:7, 24. That which the followers of Yahshua had "from the beginning" was the Old Testament's moral and spiritual laws.

Yet, here were impostors going around countering the Apostles' teachings by saying that one need not obey Yahweh. There were other major dissensions as well, based on the preeminence of man over the sovereignty of Almighty Yahweh. These dogmas have survived and prospered to our day, becoming firmly entrenched and not so thinly veiled in mainstream teaching.

### The Circle Is Becoming Complete

In the dual heresies of noncompliance with the One we worship and the supremacy of the worshiper, we have come full circle with the most destructive blasphemy in history. It began in the garden when Satan told Eve that she could be her own mighty one and that she didn't need to obey Yahweh.

This will be the very sin of the Antimesiah, who will usurp the proper place of Yahshua, demanding all worship and obedience go to himself.

Such is the spirit of Antimesiah that we see everywhere in our world. □

## The Virtuous Woman



There is a growing interest in self-sufficiency these days. Many people want to acquaint or reacquaint themselves with former tried-and-true ways of living, especially if it relates to the natural world.

How often do you hear the word “organic” to describe everything from apples to music? We’re discovering that Grandma’s methods for running her home, raising her kids and preparing nutritious meals weren’t so old-fashioned after all. In fact, they made a lot of sense.

While some may label these bygone abilities as just country crafts or hobbies, others see them as survival skills - information necessary to be used in times of crisis. In reality, though, they are probably all of the above.

The purpose of this column will be to delve into some of these helpful and wholesome activities for those wanting to become more self-reliant or just savor some of the pleasures that domestic life has to offer.

**Twenty years ago** our family left the suburban environment for the country and, while we had to endure many comments from friends and relatives relating to “hillbillies” and “boonies”, a fresh, new life opened up for us.



There were woods to explore, creeks to wade, ponds to fish, butterflies to follow, and wildflowers to smell. We

**Readers: The Virtuous Woman is a new feature of The News, written by women for women. We invite your articles about faith, home, marriage, child-rearing, recipes, and anything of interest to women in the Faith.**

learned to identify trees by their leaves or bark, determined when the summer birds left and the winter birds arrived, and observed the seasonal positions of the constellations. There were wild berries to pick, insects to collect, animal tracks to follow, and, best of all, time to just do nothing but sit on the hillside and watch the constantly changing shapes of the clouds.

Time has passed, the children are now grown, and civilization is encroaching more and more into our area as others pursue their dreams of living in the country. With the new families come more houses, more cars, more lights and more noise. Like a cancer, civilization enters and spreads quickly into formerly untouched areas until the farm-dotted countryside becomes suburbia, crowded with subdivisions and strip malls.

One of the principal ways we perceive the existence, power, and glory of Yahweh is through His creation. But truly appreciating the peace and beauty of the natural world around us is often difficult in our busy lives. Highways with traffic jams, parking lots with few spaces left, lines at the grocery store, the noise of sirens and CD players, smells of stale exhaust systems, innumerable nighttime lights erasing the starry skies, and many other man-made distractions vie for our attention

and serve to separate us from His world. **Ever since Adam and Eve** lost Paradise, the world of mankind has been

in direct conflict with Yahweh’s world. No longer are we easily able to gather and eat what He has provided. We must now toil for our food. No longer are we protected from the elements. We must now build for protection. Our population increases and our communities become crowded. We spread out and destroy much of nature in the process.

Although we no longer have Paradise, Yahweh has still provided the materials to meet our needs while surrounding us with exquisite beauty. It is important to competently and frugally manage what we have been given and not to squander what He has so mercifully and bountifully provided. There are many ways in which each of us can help protect and care for the earth, and ourselves at the same time, no matter where we live.

The availability and quality of the world’s food supply and the impact food production has upon the environment is a growing concern. What can we do to help the situation?

In contrast to the huge agri-corporations, which may sometimes use questionable methods for the sake of corporate profits, we can support the family farm by shopping at local farmers’ markets. Instead of buying produce that was shipped long distances, wasting precious fuel and requiring expensive refrigeration, we can meet most of our dietary needs by buying locally or, at least, nationally grown produce.

**But, the best way** of obtaining the freshest and least expensive food is to grow it ourselves. While grazing cattle or housing chickens may be out of the question for most, one doesn’t need a very large space to grow enough fruits and vegetables to supplement what is bought at the grocery store. Even an apartment dweller can use containers placed strategically on a balcony or in front of windows to grow some edibles.

When I was a child I was often told

to eat my vegetables. However, our daily vegetables came mostly from cans and were not my favorite things to eat. They were mushy and, for the most part, tasteless. During the summer months, though, some generous neighbor or relative would give us fresh tomatoes or green beans. The difference was astounding and I eagerly ate every morsel! Nothing compares with the taste of freshly picked and prepared vegetables.



Gardening is a satisfying way to obtain high quality food and, after the initial outlay cost, save money at the same time.

Each of us should also be concerned with additives found in store-bought foods. Our family has learned to carefully read labels on packaged, processed foods and shun many.

Those perfectly shaped, fresh-looking fruits and vegetables in the produce department often come that way due to the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides. Even those labeled “organic” may not always be additive free, just additive limited. By growing your own fruits and vegetables, you can control just how much of these unwanted substances you ingest.

There are other benefits to digging around in the dirt as well. Gardening provides exercise outside in the fresh air. Instead of hunkering down on the couch in front of the television or, for those with more ambition, driving to the nearest gym, there is plenty of physical activity to be had creating and maintaining a garden – no fees attached. Best of all, though, the whole family can work together for a common goal. Even the youngest child is able to plant a seed and experience the miracle of Yahweh’s abundance.

**On a more sobering note,** it is important to ready ourselves in the event of scarcity in the world food supply. With the dwindling of grain reserves, record drought, and the cost and disruption

caused by wars around the globe, one should never take food for granted. Just because ours has always been a well-fed nation doesn’t mean it will always be so.

Our grandparents endured rationing and shortages during WWII and they responded by planting “victory” gardens. I would hope that we could be just as resilient and industrious as they were in

the face of unforeseen events.

So, in the cold, icy depths of winter, I am already planning my spring garden. This is the perfect time to analyze last summer’s produce, noting which crops did well, which didn’t, and how to improve the quality and yield of each. I will begin planting in March. What will you be doing? – by *Debbie Reed*

## CLEAN FOOD RECIPES

The earth is filled with good things to eat. However, Yahweh has made it clear in scriptures that certain foods are “unclean” and we should not consume them. The recipes we share are made only from clean foods.

According to statistics, soup-eaters usually have twenty percent less body fat than people who rarely eat soup. I eat soup regularly, not so much to keep fit but just because I find it delicious and satisfying, especially on these cold winter days. Soup is filling, relatively low in calories, and a good way to pack in those daily vegetable requirements. Following is a favorite soup recipe I found many years ago in a “Country Woman” magazine. -*Debbie Reed*

### CHICKEN-BARLEY SOUP

- 1 broiler/fryer chicken (2 to 3 pounds), cut up
- 2 ½ quarts water
- 1 ½ cups diced carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- \*½ cup barley (if using quick cooking variety, add during last fifteen minutes of cooking)
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- ½ teaspoon poultry seasoning
- ½ teaspoon dried sage
- ½ teaspoon salt, optional
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- \* rice may be substituted for the barley

In a large kettle, cook chicken in water until tender. Cool broth and skim off fat. Bone the chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces, and put aside. Add all of the remaining ingredients to the broth. Simmer, covered, for at least one hour or until vegetables and barley are tender. Add the cooked chicken pieces and heat through. Remove bay leaves, if desired.



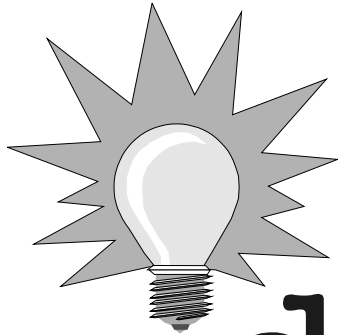
Nothing goes better with soup than homemade bread. Following is a fairly quick, no-knead bread. This bread tastes especially good toasted.

### ENGLISH MUFFIN BREAD

- 6 cups all-purpose flour, *divided*
- 2 packages active dry yeast
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups warm milk (120 to 130 degrees F)
- ½ cup warm water (120 to 130 degrees F)
- Cornmeal



In a bowl, combine 3 cups flour, yeast, sugar, salt and baking soda. Stir in the warm milk and water; mix well. Stir in the remaining flour (batter will be soft and sticky). Do NOT knead. Spray three 13-oz coffee cans or 8 ½-in x 4-in x 2-in loaf pans with nonstick cooking spray (I wipe with vegetable oil, instead). Sprinkle with cornmeal. Spoon batter evenly into pans; sprinkle cornmeal on top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 45 minutes. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to cool on wire racks. This bread freezes well.



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## Preparing for Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread Watch Those Leavening Agents

A **leavening agent** (sometimes called just **leavening** or **leaven**) is a substance used in doughs and batters that causes them to rise through chemical action. In the presence of moisture, heat, acidity, or other triggers the leavening agent reacts to produce gas (often carbon dioxide) that becomes trapped as bubbles within the dough. When a dough or batter is baked, it "sets" and the holes left by the gas bubbles remain. This is what gives breads, cakes, and other baked goods their soft, sponge-like, puffy textures.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Yahweh commands that no leavening be eaten or found on our premises: "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread," Exodus 12:19-20. Below we list leavening agents found in a variety of foods that must be used up or removed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Incidentally, it is not acceptable to remove leavening from your property only to bring it back once the Feast is over. The lesson is to remove leavening entirely from our lives, which represents that which feeds corruption. To bring it back at the end of the Feast subverts the whole purpose of the lesson.

### Commonly used leavening agents:

yeast	ammonium carbonate
baker's yeast	ammonium bicarbonate
baking powder	potassium carbonate
baking soda	potassium bicarbonate
cream of tartar	dipotassium carbonate
sourdough	

### Don't forget the hidden leavening:

beer/wine/alcohol made with yeast  
preparation H (has yeast)  
cat and dog foods with yeast  
toothpastes with baking soda

### False Leaven

Here are foods or ingredients not leavened, although some have mistaken them for leavening or leavened food. They pose no problem for the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

**Puffed cereals** Some food products are "puffed up" by mechanical means but cannot be used as a contact spreading agent. They are just puffed up by air and are not chemically leavened. They include: popcorn, beaten eggs, and air-puffed cereal like puffed rice or wheat.

**Brewer's yeast** (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) is the yeast remaining after beer making. It's an inactive yeast, meaning the yeasts have been killed and have no leavening power. Used as a nutrient supplement to increase the intake of B vitamins, brewer's yeast comes powdered (the most potent form), in flakes (best for health shakes), and in tablets.

**Yeast extract, autolyzed yeast extract** When yeast cells die, they break up, a process called autolysis. Digestive enzymes break their proteins down into simpler compounds. What remains is a collection of protein, fats, vitamins, minerals, and monosodium glutamate (MSG), a flavor enhancer.

**Soda pop** Although its name says "soda," soda pop is not leavened as it with bicarbonate of "soda." It is made with water that has been infused with carbon dioxide in a non-chemical, physical process.



### Saved for Eternity?

*"A friend told me that John 11:26 proves that when a person accepts Yahshua, he is saved for eternity. Is this true?" – NP, MT*

John 11:26 says, "Whoever **lives** and believes in me shall never die." This speaks of those faithful who are alive at His Second Coming. Notice the word "lives." These saints are changed in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump from mortal flesh to spirit, by-passing death. This fact is supported by verse 25 of the same chapter, which speaks of the resurrection at the last day. Verse 25 speaks of those believers who die before the last day, "though he were dead, yet shall he live." Verse 26 completes the thought.

Yahshua taught plainly in His parables that some who think they are His sheep will discover themselves to be rejected goats, Matt. 25:41-46; 7:21-23; Luke 13:25-30.

Many believe that no matter how often they willfully sin, that they will ultimately be saved anyway. Hebrews 6:4 tells us that it is impossible for those whose eyes have been opened and who have tasted of the good Word of Yahweh and of the powers (Holy Spirit) of the world to come, to renew them unto repentance if they fall away. Sobering words. If one completely rejects the Truth Yahweh offers, once having known it and understood it, that person is forever lost. Is that fair of Yahweh? Absolutely! He didn't fall away, the goats did. Notice:

"For we know him that has said, Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense, saith Yahweh. And again, Yahweh shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim," Hebrews 10:30-31.

### What's Wrong with Independent Worship?

*"Why must a believer be part of a group? Why not worship independently?" – JG, MN*

Everything about the New Testament shows organized worship. Yahshua even commanded it. On Himself as the Rock, Yahshua Himself established His Assembly as an organized body, Matthew 16:18. In that spirit, Paul went out to the Gentiles and made assemblies wherever he went. The majority of the New Testament is composed of his letters to these various organized bodies, dealing with their problems

armed with the one, true doctrine they were all to follow. Acts 16:4-5 shows the Jerusalem apostles and elders making judgments for the assemblies that Paul and others had established in various cities. The gifts of the spirit in 1Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 are given to perfect the saints and for the work of the ministry. They are to be used for the benefit of the entire Body, not for just one or two people off by themselves. Notice: "And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of the Messiah: Till we all come into the unity of the faith..."

Each of these offices (all masculine in the Greek), is to be used in an organized way so that all may benefit from each. Paul talks about this further in 1Corinthians 12. He writes: "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...For the body is not one member but many. If the foot shall say, 'Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?...But now has Elohim set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body."

In a body each part works together for the benefit of the whole. A hand cannot exist by itself detached from the body. Neither can the eye, brain, or toe. That is precisely why Paul used this analogy. If you seek fellowship you will not find a finer group of dedicated believers than at Yahweh's Restoration Ministry.

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A donation to cover costs appreciated

## Should Women Wear Trousers?

*"I know today they make pants specifically for women, but it is right for women to wear pants?" – JJ, TX*

The Scriptural injunction against women wearing men's clothing (Deut. 22:5) doesn't make sense when applied without context, as both men and women wore robes when this was written. If Yahweh's intent was simply to stop confusion in dress, then logically and fairly we should also see an injunction against men wearing women's clothing like skirts, as in the Scottish kilt. But of course kilts were not worn then, either, and neither did women wear skirts at the time.

This passage is a warning against transvestism and likely refers to a particularly idolatrous custom in the worship of Venus. There, women appeared in a male soldier's armor and men in women's clothes; this, as with other such superstitious usages, is said to be an abomination to Yahweh. It also is an injunction about confusing the roles of the sexes, where men must not be effeminate and do women's activities, nor must women assume to teach, or usurp a man's authority, 1 Timothy 2:11, 12. A confusion of garments had also been used as an opportunity of committing uncleanness, and therefore was forbidden; those that would be kept from sin must keep themselves from all occasions of it and approaches to it.

Is the 'J' Hebraic?

*"I was told that the letter j has always been in the Hebrew language. Is that true?" -Chris, email*

The letter J was the last to be added to any language – in the 16th century. There is still no J in the Hebrew, which you can confirm by looking at the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet and their sounds. No J or J sound exists.

## Sister's Prayers Answered

*"We've been believers for a couple of years now and your ministry has been so very helpful to us. I've been talking to my sister for a while trying to get her to start following also. She told me today that she had been sincerely praying for a sign as to what the truth is. The next day she received some literature and a CD from you that I had sent to her. It convinced her and she is convinced that it is the right path to follow. Your materials were an answered prayer for her.*

*"Thank you so much for your ministry and your time. They have made such an impact on our families' lives." - NJ, OK*



## Which Bible Do You Use?

*"I've read over some of your online brochures, such as the one on Christmas and the Trinity. Very good work! I'm wondering which Bible you use and how I can go about getting one?"*

We use the King James Version and other versions when necessary to make the text clearer. – ED

## Yes, We can Email the Newsletter

*"I wanted to thank you for posting all the MP3 sermons on the internet. It's a real blessing. My wife and I surely appreciate all those great messages. A few years ago I translated an article into French. I would be more than happy to translate other articles, if you think it's appropriate. So please don't hesitate to ask me. Thank you again for all the messages. I strongly recommend them to the people I know who are walking with Yahweh. Please say thank you to Randy, Jose and Norm, who are also a source of inspiration to me.*

*"Would it be possible to receive your newsletter via e-mail?"* – GF, Germany

Yes, we can email you the newsletter as a .pdf attachment. If others would like to receive an electronic version as well, please let us know. You can request to join the e-newsletter list by emailing Elder Alan Mansager at: [amansage@hotmail.com](mailto:amansage@hotmail.com) – ED

## Eager for Sermons on DVD

*"I spoke to your secretary the other day and was wanting to know why you don't have a DVD one could watch instead of just listening to the CDs. She told me you were working on that and it would be a while yet. Hoping it will come to pass, enclosed is a small offering to help. I pray Yahweh will multiply it." - MD, email*

You can download some of our video sermons from our Website. The holdup in making them on DVD and available by mail is that we need a duplicator to make mass-copies for distribution. We know that Yahweh will bless this goal and will put it in the hearts of others to help make it happen. Thanks for your donation. – ED

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