Not "UNDER LAW", but grace

We so often hear the following phrases: I am NOT under the law, but under GRACE! There is NO CONDEMNATION for those in "Christ" . . . Yes, but "God" knows my heart!

So many Believers have used the above words without proper knowledge and understanding from Scripture, misinterpreting what Scripture actually teaches!

This teaching aims to EXPLAIN these misinterpretations and is NOT intended to judge anyone, for it is NOT my place or intention to convict, convince or judge any person! Please UNDERSTAND that! It is merely my responsibility to SHARE or WITNESS the truth from Scripture in love and humility with all who are seeking TRUTH and is WILLING to listen to it, enabling you to have PROPER understanding of what Scriptures teach! This teaching is based on SOUND SCRIPTURAL Instruction that can be VALIDATED by Scripture! Scripture should always have the final authority in our lives, no matter what we think, feel or believe! I kindly request every person reading this to read it to the end before you erroneously judge Scripture, because what I will share is Scripture and <u>NOT</u> man-made doctrines, religion, tradition or human interpretation!

Almost all "Believers" would say that they believe in the Word of Almighty YHUH/YHWH, yet they are **SELECTIVE in what portions of Scripture they choose to believe**! The majority base their belief on two Scriptures (we will discuss this a bit later) when they are confronted with sin! Can anyone truly claim to be a Believer and follower of Messiah if they literally erase all verses from the inspired Word of Almighty YHUH/YHWH, apart from the ones that would justify their sin and ease their callous minds?

Firstly, in order for us to determine <u>WHAT sin is</u>, let's allow Scripture and <u>Scripture ALONE</u> to guide us to the answer! Please NOTE that I quote Scripture from a **RESTORED Bible** translation, correctly translated from the ROOT language of Scripture (Hebrew), removing all translation ERRORS from Scripture!

1Yohanan (John) 3:4 Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and SIN IS LAWLESSNESS.

Now let's have a look at the **DEFINITION of the word LAWLESSNESS** (or iniquity as many translations refer to it) . . . the following explanation comes from the <u>Greek Strongs</u> for the word lawlessness or iniquity!

G458 (Strongs number)

ἀνομία

anomia

an-om-ee'-ah

From <u>G459;</u> *illegality*, that is, *violation of law* or (generally) *wickedness:* - iniquity, X *transgress (-ion of) the law,* unrighteousness.

The equivalent from the <u>Hebrew Strongs</u> (AUTHENTIC LANGUAGE of Scripture) might be: H 5753

`avah aw-vaw' a primitive root;

to *crook,* literally or figuratively (as follows): -- do amiss, bow down, *make crooked,* commit iniquity, *pervert,* (do) perverse(-ly), trouble, X turn, *do wickedly, do wrong.*

So we CLEARLY see that <u>sin is lawlessness</u> and it is described as <u>WICKEDNESS</u> and <u>UNRIGHTEOUSNESS</u>!

In MattithYahu (Matthew) 7:23 we read what Messiah said to all the lawbreakers or those working lawlessness . . .

"I NEVER KNEW you, DEPART from Me"!

In order to **understand** the **term "law"** as used in Scripture, we need to have a look at **what the word actually means**:

H8451 (Hebrew Strongs)

תּרה תּורה

tôrâh tôrâh

to-raw', to-raw'

From <u>H3384</u>; a *precept* or *statute*, especially the *Decalogue* or *Pentateuch* (*referring to the FIRST 5 Books of Scripture* (*Gen to Deut*): - law.

torah: [meaning] <u>DIRECTION</u>, <u>INSTRUCTION</u>, law Original Word: תּוֹרָה Part of Speech: Noun Feminine Transliteration: torah Phonetic Spelling: (to-raw') Short Definition: law

III NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin from <u>varah</u> Definition direction, instruction, law NASB Translation custom (1), instruction (10), instructions (1), Law (1), law (188), laws (10), ruling (1), teaching (7), teachings (1).

So we CLEARLY see from Scripture that the "term law" is MUCH more than only a set of DOES and DON'TS – it's our blueprint of life, given to us to PROTECT us, NOT harm us!

The Torah is <u>NOT only given to the "Jews"</u> as many FALSELY claim!

Shemoth (Exo) 12:49 "There is <u>one Torah</u> for the native-born and for the <u>stranger</u> who sojourns among you."

Further to this, what **did Messiah say about "the law" (Torah) in Scripture** – did He come to abolish or erase it, or just complete it (fulfilling what the blood of animal sacrifices could not do)!

Let's have a look at His OWN Words . . .

MattithYahu (Matthew) 5:17-18 "Do <u>NOT THINK</u> that I came to destroy the Torah (meaning Instructions, including commands of the Almighty) or the Prophets. I did NOT come to **DESTROY but to COMPLETE.** For TRULY, I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall <u>by NO MEANS pass</u> from the Torah till all be done (till all is accomplished – and we know that has **NOT HAPPENED YET**).

Now let's have a look at the two Scriptures that Christian Believers quote to justify their lawlessness (sin)!

Remember that we have already **ESTABLISHED that sin is lawlessness** and we have also **ESTABLISHED that the DEFINITION of the word lawlessness or iniquity is WICKEDNESS** and <u>UNRIGHTEOUSNESS</u>!

Romiyim (Romans) 1:18 For the wrath of Elohim (meaning the Almighty) is revealed from heaven against all wickedness and unrighteousness (lawlessness) of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness!

Now here comes the Scripture that Christians use to justify their lawlessness!

Romiyim (Romans) 6:14 For sin shall not rule over you, for you are not under the law but under grace (correctly transliterated from the Hebrew as <u>favour</u>).

Here comes the <u>problem</u> for those who build their entire belief system on only this ONE Scripture!

Firstly, **NO Scripture EVER stands alone**; it must always be **read and used in proper context of the entire Word** of Almighty YHUH/YHWH (from beginning to end)!

Now let's have a look at this entire Passage of Scripture in Romiyim (Rom) 6! <u>How does it start?</u> In verse 1, Sha'ul (Paul) <u>asks the following question</u>! "Shall we continue in sin, to let grace (favour) increase"? Now remember – we have ALREADY ESTABLISHED from Scripture that <u>sin is</u> <u>LAWLESSNESS!</u> His <u>answer to this question</u> in verse 2 was: "Certainly NOT" So <u>what is Sha'ul (Paul) saying in these two verses?</u> Simply stated that NOBODY should CONTINUE with LAWLESSNESS in order for grace (favour) to increase!

In verses 2 to 4, he explains that those who have **died to LAWLESSNESS (sin) no longer** walks in it (meaning the opposite – they OBEY the Instructions of the Almighty (Torah))!

In verse 4, he mentions the **newness of life** for those who have <u>come-out of lawlessness</u> (<u>died to it</u>) and receives **newness of life** (choosing obedience to the Instructions/Teachings of the Almighty, leading to eternal life).

In verse 11, he states that we should **reckon ourselves to be dead indeed to sin** (lawlessness), but alive to Elohim (referring to the deity of the Almighty Creator) in Messiah, our Master.

In any particular verse or portion of Scripture, we always need to establish who the writer is referring to – those who walk in obedience (covenant) with Abbah YHUH/YHWH or those who walk in disobedience (lawlessness)!

Not being "UNDER the LAW, but UNDER GRACE (FAVOUR)" in Scripture simply refers to all <u>Born-Again Believers who guard and observe the Instructions or</u> <u>Teachings of Almighty Father YHUH/YHWH</u> (ALL of it, from beginning to end). They are NOT subject to the <u>PUNISHMENT of sin (lawlessness)</u>, which is death! They are <u>UNDER</u> <u>FAVOUR (GRACE) to receive forgiveness</u> for their sins when they confess their sins to the Father according to <u>1Yohanan (John)</u> <u>1:9</u>. This favour (grace) and forgiveness are made possible through Messiah Yahusha's (Messiah's TRUE SCRIPTURAL NAME, which was ERRONEOUSLY CHANGED in Scripture through Bible Translators) <u>perfect blood sacrifice</u> on the tree/stake when they <u>unintentionally</u> violate the Instructions of YHUH/WHWH or deviate from it! Those who intentionally and continually revert to lawlessness (sin), <u>WITHOUT</u> <u>REPENTANCE</u> have <u>NO offering for their sin</u>!

What does Scripture teach? What was "nailed" to the stake/tree? The Instructions (law) of Abbah YHUH/YHWH or the certificate of debt against us? Qolasim (Col) 2:14 having blotted out the certificate of debt against us – by the dogmas – which stood against us. And He has taken it out of the way, having <u>nailed it to the stake</u>. **Ibrim (Heb) 10:26** For if we <u>sin purposely after we have received the knowledge of the truth</u>, there <u>no longer remains</u> a slaughter <u>offering for sins.</u> [See also Heb 6:6, Heb 9:7 and Num 15:15-28].

So <u>only those that walk in Obedience to the Torah</u> (Instructions/Teachings) of Almighty Father YHUH/YHWH can CLAIM to NOT be under the Torah, but under His favour (grace), because they guard His Instructions (Torah) and do not willfully disobey His Instructions and Commands!

Scripture has <u>NEVER CHANGED or "EVOLVED"</u> to blend-in with modern traditions, religion and doctrines of man! In fact, Scripture makes it clear that we are to <u>seek</u> the <u>ancient</u> (original) <u>paths</u> (good way) and <u>walk in</u> the Almighty's Instructions and Commands (that religion, tradition and doctrines of man has twisted over the centuries to suit their own needs).

YirmeYahu (Jer) 6:16 Thus said YHUH/YHWH, "Stand in the ways and see, and <u>ask for the</u> <u>old paths</u>, where the <u>good way</u> is, and <u>walk in it</u>; and <u>find rest</u> for yourselves. But they said (protested), 'We do not walk *in it*.'

YirmeYahu (Jer) 18:15 "But My people have <u>forgotten Me</u>, they have burned incense to what is <u>false</u>, and they have <u>stumbled from their ways</u>, from the <u>ancient paths</u>, to walk in **bypaths** and not on a highway . . .

Mal'aki (Malachi) 3:6 "For I am YHUH/YHWH I shall not change . . .

YeshaYahu (Isa) 55:11 so is My Word that goes forth from My mouth – it <u>does not return to</u> <u>Me empty</u>, but shall do what I please, and shall <u>certainly accomplish</u> what I sent it for.

Qoheleth (Ecc) 1:9-10 What <u>has been is what shall be</u>, what has been done is what shall be done, and there is <u>no new matter under the sun</u>. Is there a matter of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It <u>was here already, long ago.</u>

Qoheleth (Ecc) 12:13-14 Let us hear the <u>conclusion</u> of the entire matter: <u>Fear Elohim</u> and <u>guard His commands</u>, for this <u>applies to all mankind</u>! For Elohim shall bring every work into <u>right-ruling</u>, including all that is <u>hidden</u>, whether good or whether evil.

We need to UNDERSTAND that the Torah was given to mankind to make them **aware of their** sins (lawlessness) and to guide them to righteousness . . .

Galatiyim (Galatians) 3:19a Why, then, the Torah? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed should come to whom the promise was made.

Romiyim (Rom) 2:13 For not the hearers of the Torah are righteous in the sight of Elohim, but the doers of the law shall be declared right. (See also Mat 7:21-27 and Jam 2:14-24).

Romiyim (Rom) 3:31 Do we then nullify the Torah through the belief (in Messiah and His perfect blood sacrifice)? Let it <u>NOT be!</u> On the contrary, we <u>ESTABLISH the Torah</u> (so that people can be made aware of their sins and be instructed to righteousness).

Romiyim (Rom) 7:12 So that the <u>Torah truly is set-apart</u>, and the <u>command set-apart</u>, and <u>righteous</u>, and good.

What did Sha'ul (Paul) CONFESS regarding the Instructions of the Almighty? Did he oppose it or keep it and teach it!

Ma'aseh (Acts) 24:14 "And this <u>I confess to you</u>, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohim of my fathers, <u>believing all</u> that has been written in the <u>Torah</u> and in the <u>Prophets (prophetic Books of the First Covenant/Old Testament).</u>

Romiyim (Rom) 7:25 Thanks to Elohim, through Yahusha Messiah our Master! So then, with the mind <u>I myself truly serve the Torah of Elohim</u>, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Another quote that Believers use without proper understanding ... There is NO CONDEMNATION ...

Romiyim (Rom) 8:1 There is, then, now no condemnation to those who are <u>in Messiah</u> <u>Yahusha</u>, who <u>do not walk according to the flesh</u>, but <u>according to the Spirit.</u>

From the above Scripture, we CLEARLY see that we must be <u>IN MESSIAH</u> and <u>WALK</u> <u>ACCORDING to the SPIRIT</u>! Who can claim to be in Messiah? Very simple – those who walk as He walked and guard and observe His teachings and commands – the SAME teachings that Mosheh (Moses) and all the Prophets taught in the First Covenant/Old Testament – <u>OBEDIENCE to the Instructions and Commands of Almighty YHUH/YHWH</u>! Ma'aseh (Acts) 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these matters, and so also is the Set-apart Spirit whom Elohim has given to those who obey Him.

1Yohanan (John) 2:4 The one who says, "I know Him," and <u>does not guard His commands</u>, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Another term that so many Believers use . . .

Yes, but "God" knows my heart!

Yes YHUH/YHWH does, but <u>more importantly we should ask if we know His heart</u>! How do we know His heart! By studying His word ourselves and NOT believe everything that we have been taught! If we study Scripture, we will see the heart of Almighty YHUH/YHWH and UNDERSTAND that His Word guides us to <u>walk in OBEDIENCE to His Instructions</u> for our <u>OWN SAFETY and BLESSING</u>!

1Qorin'tiyim (Corinthians) 15:34 Wake up to soberness, righteously, and do not sin (lawlessness), for some do not have the knowledge of Elohim (Almighty). I speak this to your shame.

Titos (Tit) 2:11-14 For the saving Gift of Elohim has appeared to all men, instructing us to **renounce wickedness** (lawlessness) and worldly lusts, and to **live** sensibly, **righteously**, and reverently in the present age, looking for the blessed expectation and esteemed appearance of the great Elohim and our Saviour Yahusha Messiah, who gave Himself for us, to <u>redeem us</u> <u>from all lawlessness</u> and to <u>cleanse for Himself a people, *His* own possession, ardent for good works.</u>

Debarim (Deut) 17:11 "<u>Do according to the Torah</u> in which they teach you, according to the right-ruling which they say to you. You <u>do not turn to the right or to the left</u> from the word which they declare to you.

Debarim (Deut) 27:26 <u>Cursed is he who does not establish the Words of this Torah</u>.' And all the people shall say, 'Aměin!'

Mishley (Prov) 28:9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the Torah, Even his prayer is an abomination (See also Prov 15:29, Isa 59:1-2, Jhn 9:31, 1Jhn 3:22).

Debarim (Deut) 32:46 he said to them, "Set your heart on all the words with which I warn you today, so that you <u>command your children to guard</u> to do all the Words of this Torah.

2Yohanan (John) 1:6 And <u>this is the love</u>, that we <u>walk according to His commands</u>. This is the command, that as you have heard <u>from the beginning</u>, you should <u>walk in it</u>. 1Yohanan (John) 5:3 For <u>this is the love for Elohim</u>, that we <u>guard His commands</u>, and His commands are not heavy.