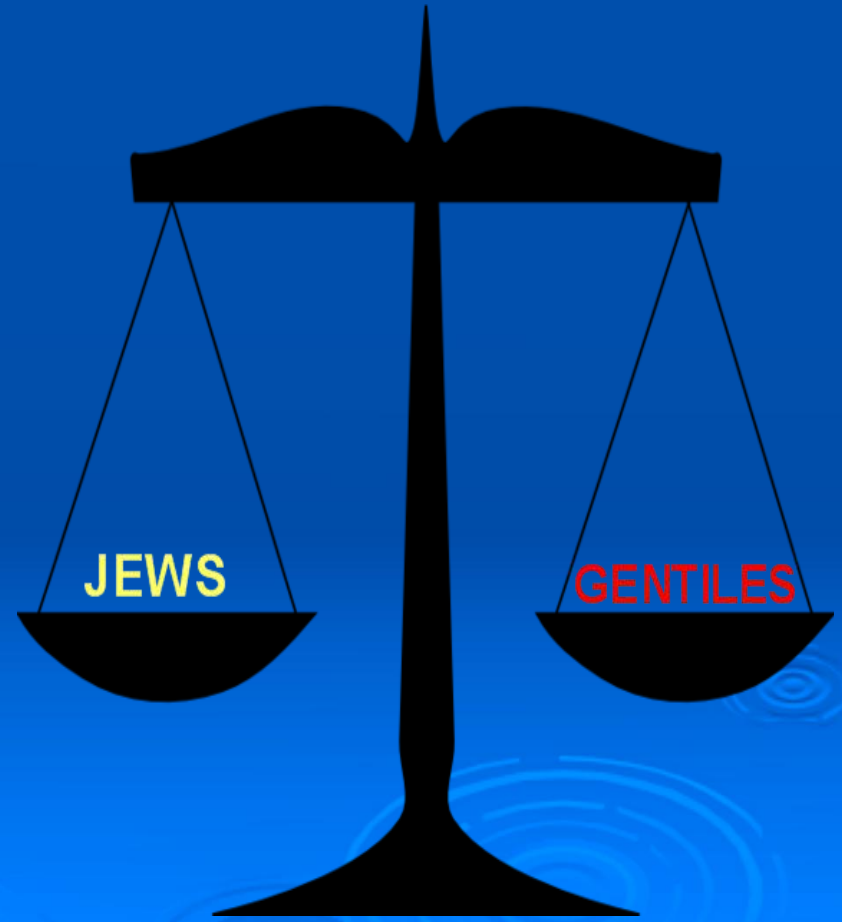


# ROMANS 3: EQUALITY ?

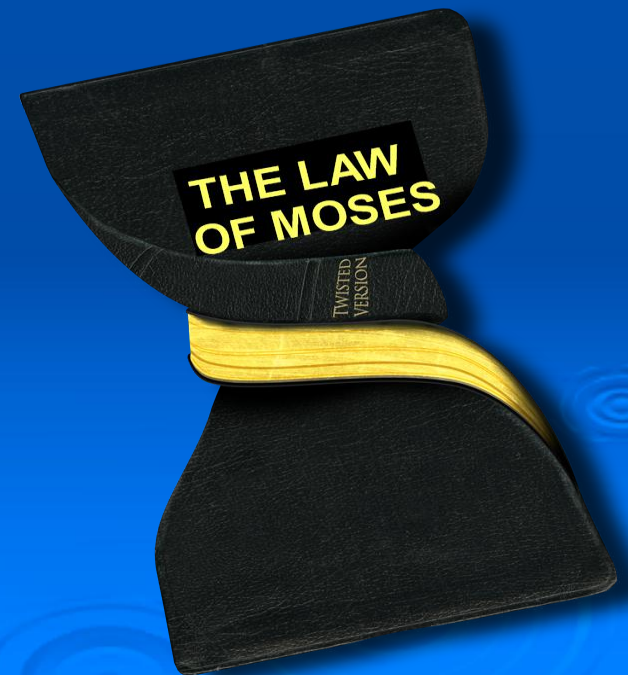
- Paul defends Israel's election as God's chosen
- Rom.3:1 ***"Then what advantage has the Jew?"***
- Jews and gentiles share a kind of equality, yet Israel stands as special before God
- Jews and gentiles both liable to sin and wrath
- Paul's struggle to define the place and purpose of the Law in Believers' lives is due to the mixing of Tradition with Scripture



# RECOVERING THE MEANING OF THE LAW



- Sermon on the Mount was not to reform the Law itself
- It was to reform Judaism
- Law had become diluted, subverted and twisted with manmade traditions
- Matthew 15:7-9
- Christianity in the same place
- Much to un-learn before God can give us illumination





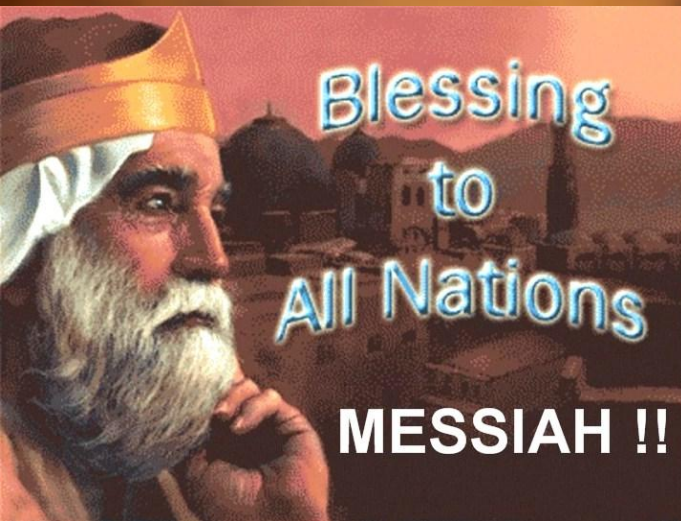
# PAUL THE RABBI



- Paul's method: present a problem, argue against a previous ruling, arrive at the correct solution
- The “Jewish advantage” stems from a God established pre-eminence
- They have received God's Word, and no other nation has
- All does not mean 100% in the Bible
- Verse 3 directly relates to Replacement Theology



# GOD IS FAITHFUL



- Unfaithfulness of Jews doesn't change the faithfulness of God
- Faithfulness of God = faithful to His covenants and to Israel
- Gentiles have NOT superseded Jews as God's covenant people
- Heaven forbid = *me genoito* = let it not be!
- Translates Hebrew *chalilah* = a curse on it!



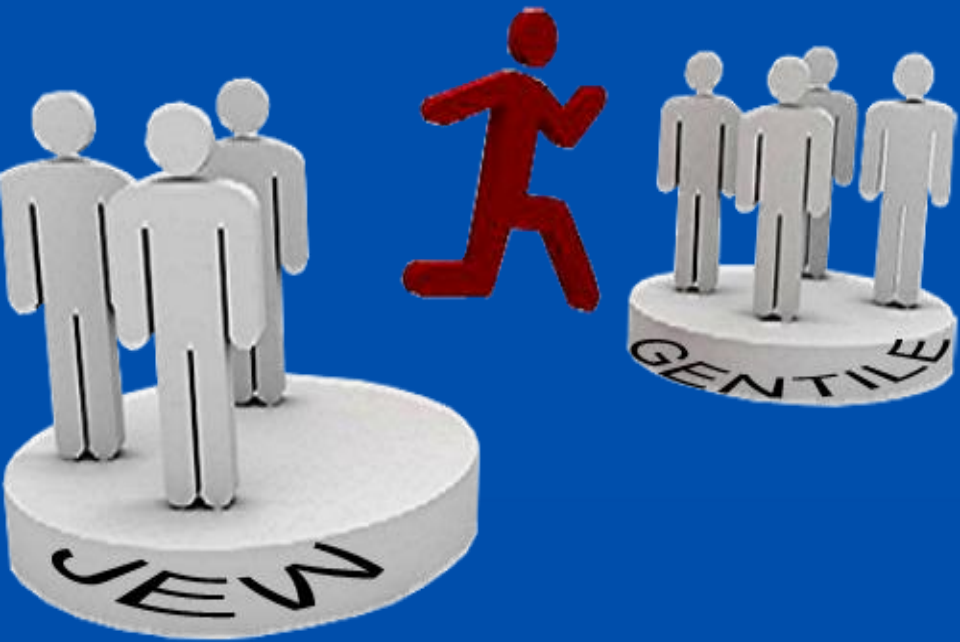
# VERSE 5: A THEOLOGICAL WHIRLPOOL

- *“If our unrighteousness highlights God’s righteousness, what should we say?”*
- Most Theologians say that this means that humanity’s lack of righteousness demonstrates God’s profound righteousness
- Essentially, God’s righteousness is measured relative to man’s unrighteousness
- To this line of thinking Paul says “Heaven forbid!!”

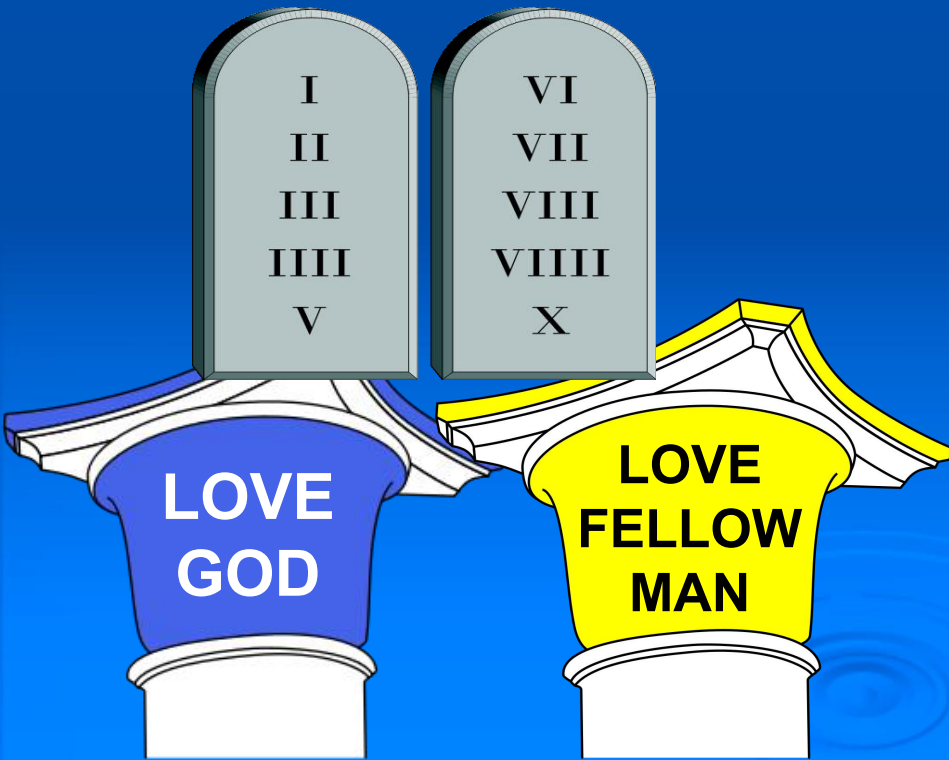




# “We Jews....”

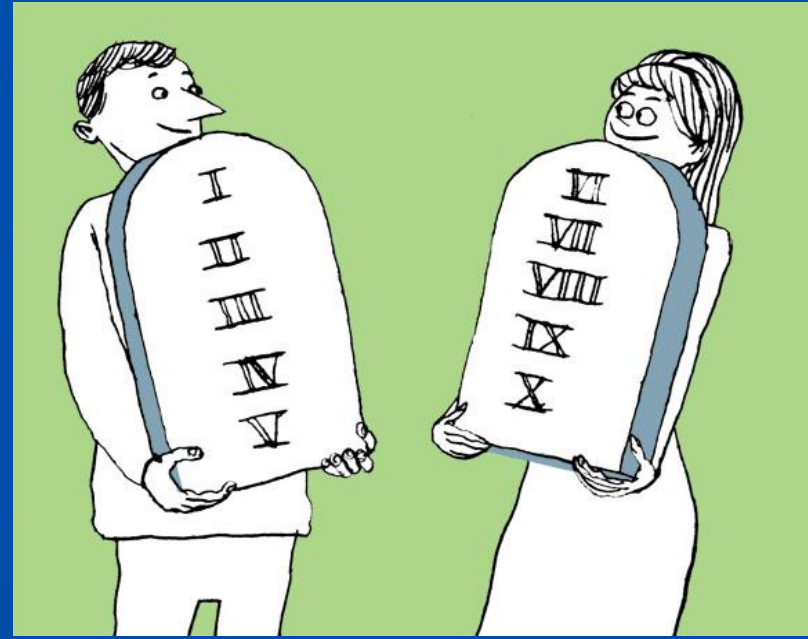


- Our doctrines are important to how we are perceived by the world
- How we are perceived reflects upon God
- “Are Jews better off?”
- Paul says: “*not entirely*”
- The Law does NOT have the power to break the stranglehold of sin
- Series of OT quotes proves no one is righteous, and no one is kind
- Violates the 2 pillars that holds up all the Law



# WE CAN OBEY GOD'S MORAL LAWS

- All have succumbed to one sin or another
- Humanity's problem is that our evil inclinations are powerful
- Deut. 30:11-14 *"...it is not too hard for you....you can do it.."*
- "Every mouth being stopped" means we are guilty and have nothing left to plead our case
- The gentile who believes he lives a good life, and the Jew who believes that being a Jew saves him from wrath, are both in the greatest danger





# POWERFUL VERSE 20

- No one will be righteous-ed by obeying the Law
- Why do the Law? Law shows us the standard
- Psalm 143:1, 2
- Only ONE way to become righteous.....we must be righteous-ed by God!
- To do that we must trust Messiah Yeshua
- It is NOT our faith, it is our **trust** in the faithfulness of Christ!
- Yeshua's faithfulness was perfect.....our faith will never be perfect



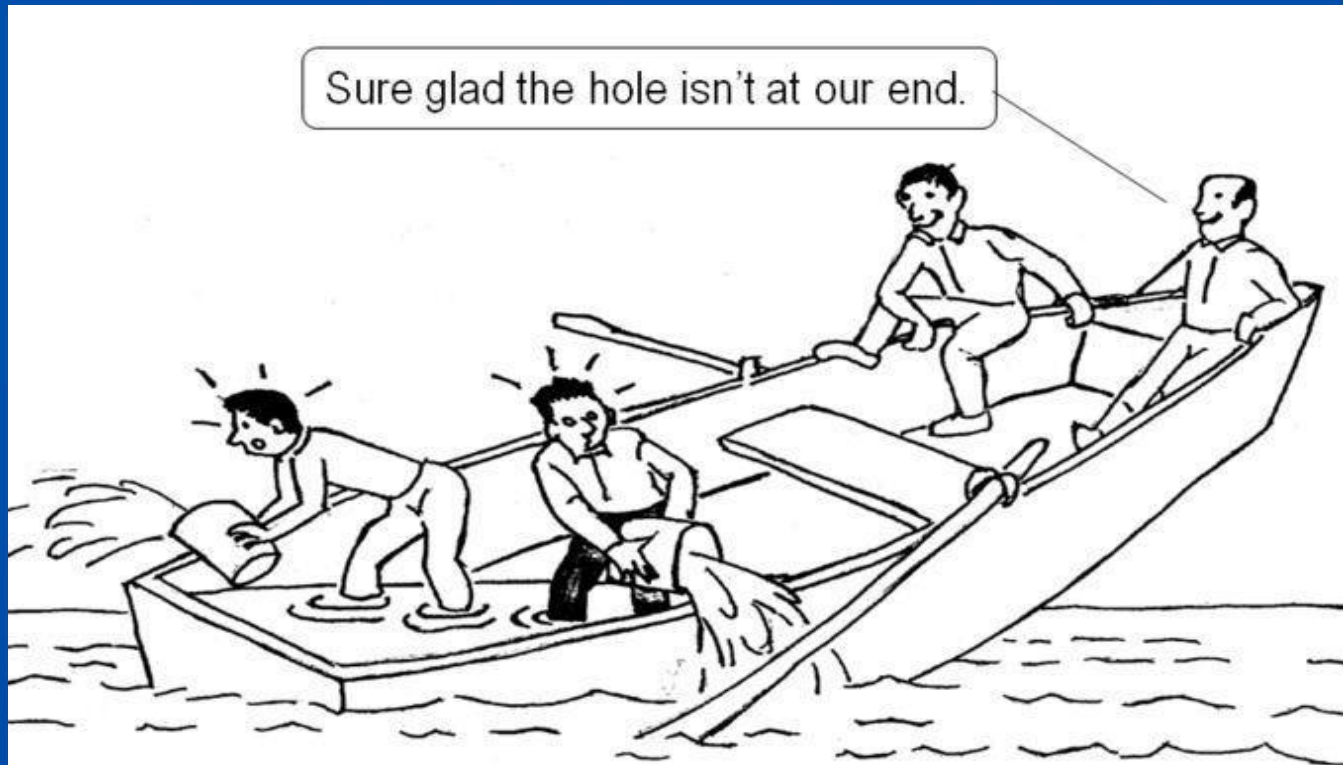


# THE MEANING OF *TELOS*

- Romans 10:4
- Idea is that we transition from trust in the Law, to trust in Christ
- Telos = a purpose, a goal. Aims, purposes, intentions
- ***“For Christ is the purpose (the goal) of the Law for righteousness to every one who believes....”***
- Does NOT mean Christ did away with the Law!



# A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY



- Torah does NOT provide a saving righteousness, but it is a witness to it
- Jeremiah 23:5, 6
- Vs. 24 Righteousness comes from God...FREELY!
- Dead Sea Scrolls, Community Document 1QS