

Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.

Thomas Fuller

- Romans 10:1 *“.....for I can testify to their zeal for God. But it is not based on correct understanding.....”*
- **Epignosis** = precise knowledge
- The Jews have missed the bigger picture: Messiah
- How did they get it so wrong? They are pursuing the right goal (righteousness) but in the wrong way
- Every level of Jewish society is implicated



CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO

- A person or group challenging the common worldview is not welcomed
- Paul was saying: I'm right, and you are wrong
- Martin Luther
- Dr. King
- Zeal and devotion are not evidence of being right, nor is being the majority
- Correct understanding is what worshippers of God must seek and find



THE ROUTE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Who is “they” who have the “incorrect understanding”? Jews
- Paul is still aiming mostly at Jews
- The “incorrect understanding” is about the way people are seeking to be righteous
- The TYPE of righteousness they are seeking is NOT the saving type
- DANGER!! Thinking we’re right with God when we’re not



FITTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

- Tight relationship between trust in Christ and Torah observance
- Explaining it is challenging because it flies in the face of *Halakhah* for Jews, and gentiles have little Scripture knowledge
- Jews have to unlearn and relearn
- Gentiles have much to learn to gain any understanding



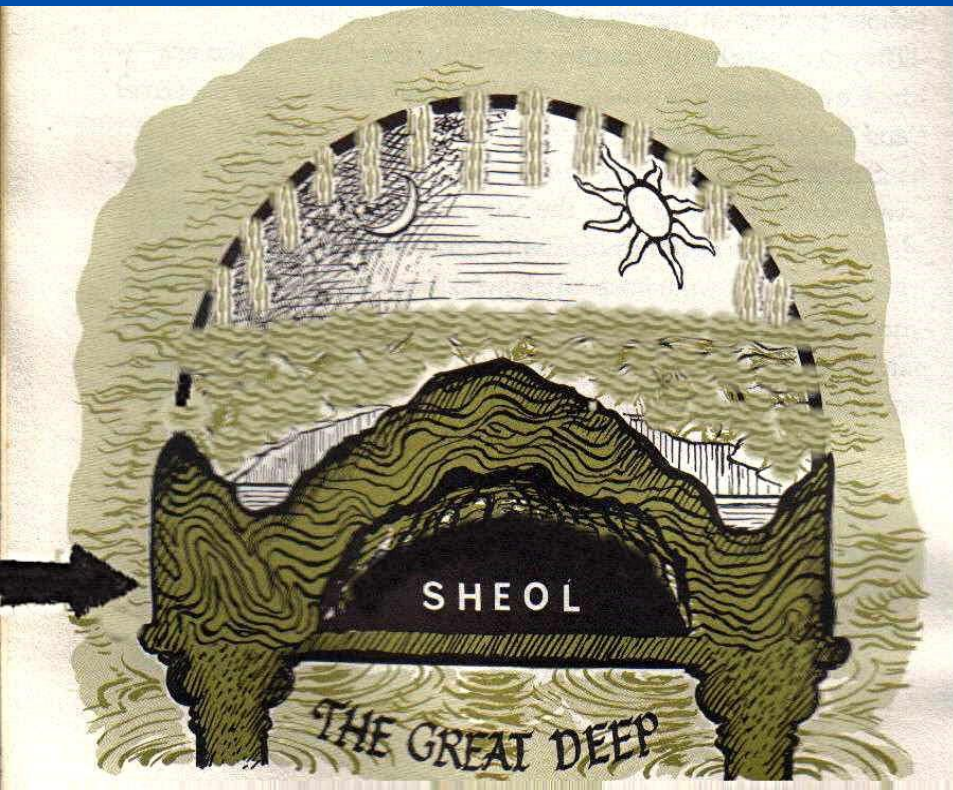
Christ is the ~~end~~ goal of the law for righteousness.....

- Romans 10:4
- **Telos** = “end” in the sense of: “The end justifies the means”
- Does NOT mean to finish, abolish, terminate
- Goal, aim, purpose, and intent are better English word choices based on modern English meaning
- The TYPE of righteousness is unique: it is a SAVING righteousness



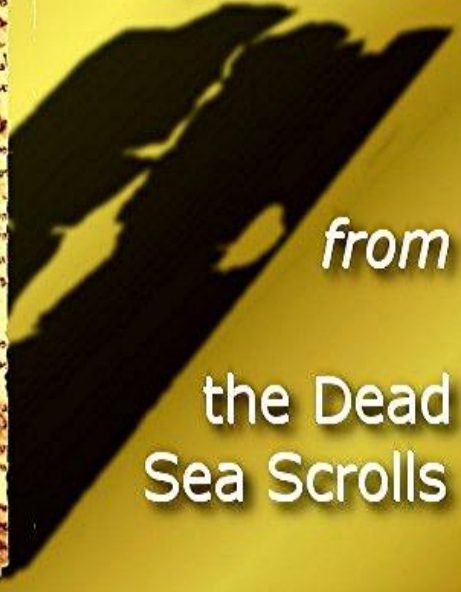
THE ISSUE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Jews and Christians have differing views on righteousness
- A righteous Jew is one with great zeal to obey The Law of Moses
- No “dying and going to Heaven”
- **Halakhah** was what the typical Jew believed and lived by
- What Paul preached was very similar to Essenes



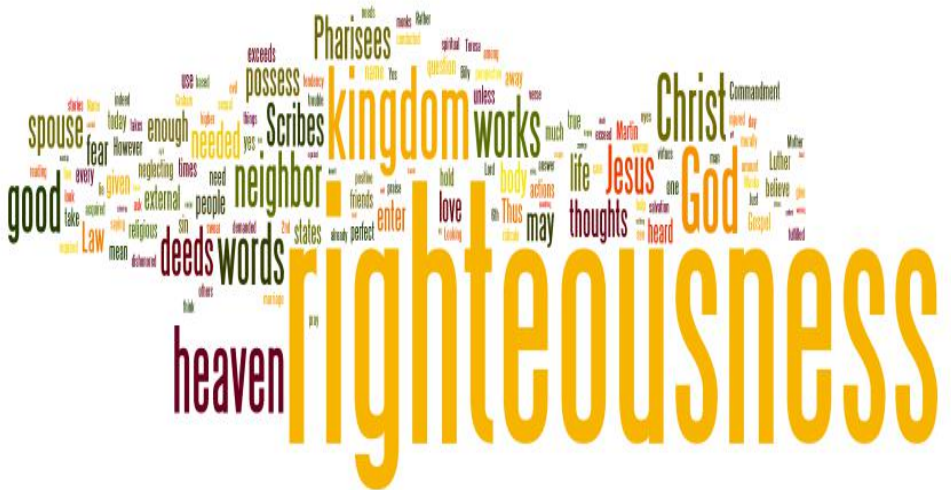


Thanksgiving Hymns



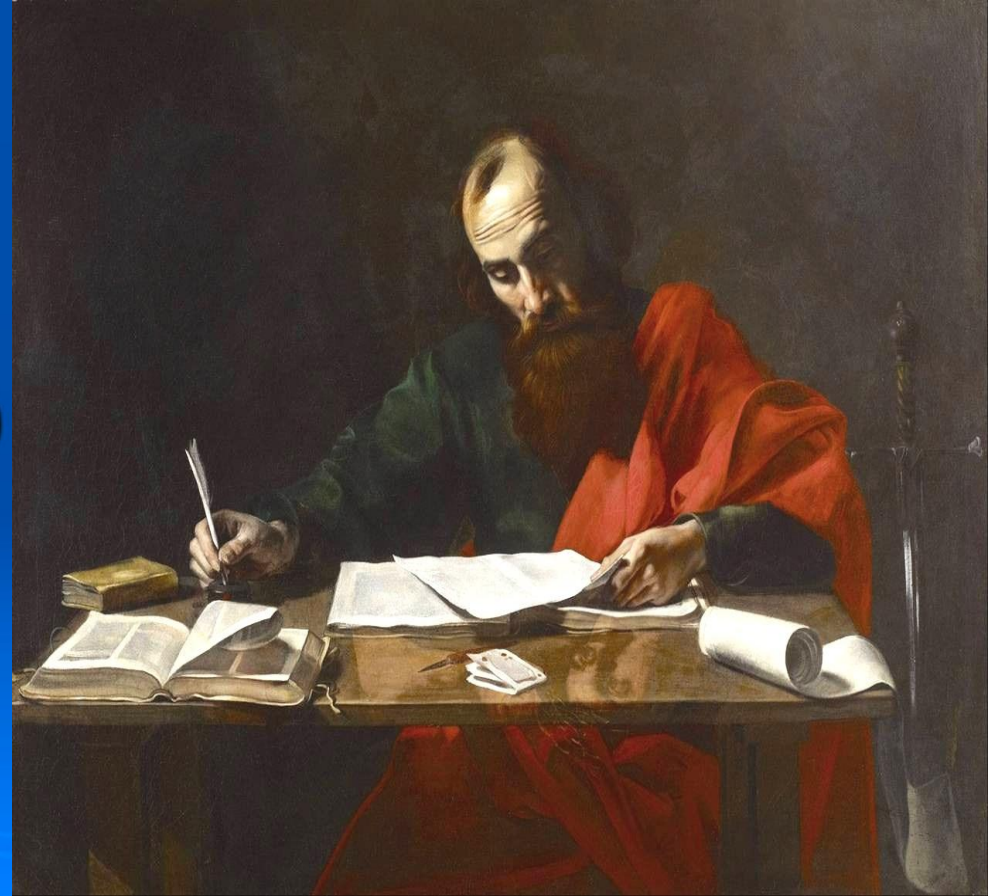
from
the Dead
Sea Scrolls

- Scroll 1QH “...I have leaned on Thy abundant mercy and on the greatness of Thy grace....”
- Essenes did NOT teach that The Law brought a saving righteousness
- In fact, we don't find Paul or Christ fighting that notion among the Jews
- Jews did not try to “work their way to Heaven”
- Phil. 3:8 – 9
- Two basic legitimate types of righteousness, but only one of them is the saving kind
- Both types are true righteousness, but each are for their own purpose



SCRIPTURE MAKES PAUL'S CASE

- Vs. 5 is a portion of Leviticus 18:5
- *“You are to observe my laws....; if a person does them, he will have life....”*
- God says that His elect ARE to obey His laws
- Is this true? Did God change His mind?
- Paul switches to Deut. 30
- Rabbi Shulam says this is a standard rabbinical technique
- Deut.30:10 – 19
- Paul is NOT disagreeing with this passage!

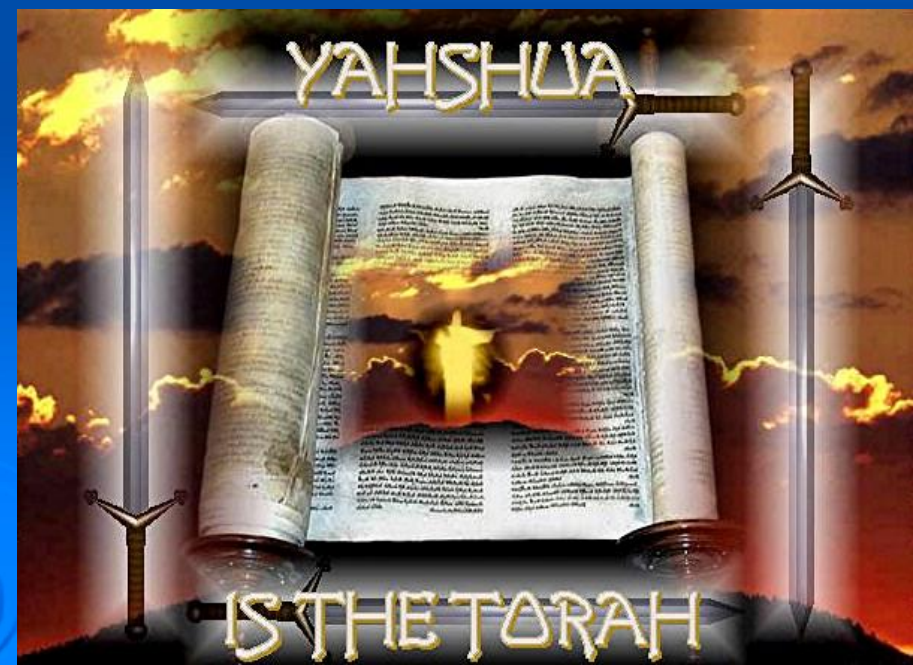


THE BLESSING AND THE CURSE

- Life = Blessing
- Death = Curse
- Curse from disobedience
- Blessing from obedience
- Paul is demonstrating the direct connection between Yeshua and the Torah
- They are NOT 2 unrelated entities!!
- Within the Law is the very essence of Christ

I HAVE SET
BEFORE YOU LIFE
AND DEATH, BLESSING
AND CURSE. THEREFORE
CHOOSE LIFE.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19





And it is with your
MOUTH
that you profess your **FAITH**



and are **Saved**

- John 5:46 – 47 *“If you believed Moses, you would believe Me.....”*
- The Torah is the foundation for what Christ proclaims
- Law of Moses requires trusting and doing
- Salvation in Christ requires trusting and doing
- Matt.7:21 – 22
- Trusting is 1) an inner belief, and 2) an outer belief confirmed with public confession