



Salvation & Sanctification

Understanding the difference
changes how we read the Bible

Context • Covenant • Grace •
Obedience

Why is there so much confusion?

- Why the New Testament can sound anti-Torah when passages about salvation are removed from their first-century context.
- Much of our theological confusion comes from missing context.
- Who is speaking?
- Who are they speaking to?
- What question are they answering?
- What controversy is happening?
- What did these words mean in the first century?

1st Century Beliefs Concerning Gentile Salvation

SHAMMAI: STRICTER

- Strong separation between Jew and Gentile
- More restrictive toward prospective converts
- Gentile incorporation = hard conversion into Israel
- Conversion included accepting Jewish covenant obligations, including circumcision for males
- Come under the covenant, then live as Israel (Oral Law)
- Salvation was through Conv. Circumcise. Torah+Oral

HILLEL: MORE INCLUSIVE

- More welcoming toward Gentile converts
- Willing to receive first and teach afterward
- Still expected converts to learn and follow Torah
- Did not teach “Torah doesn't matter”
- Bring them in → teach them how to walk
- Salvation was through Conv. Circumcise. Torah+Oral

SADDUCEES: LESSER KNOWN

- Temple/priesthood focused
- Rejected Pharisaic Oral Torah/traditions
- Denied resurrection and therefore did not share the Biblical concept of resurrection life
- No clear surviving doctrine explaining Gentile “salvation”
- Difficult to place directly into the Acts 15 salvation debate

APOSTLES: THE WAY

- Gentiles do not have to convert to Judaism
- Circumcision does not produce salvation
- God cleanses the Gentile's heart by faith
- Grafted into Israel, as one people
- Partakers of the Covenants of Israel
- Holy Spirit as catalyst for walk
- Salvation first → baptism → discipleship/obedience
- Acts 15 does not conclude that obedience is unnecessary

What Has Context Confusion Produced?

- Circumcision = Bad
- Baptism = Salvation
- Torah = Legalism
- Grace = No Obedience Required
- Yeshua vs. Moses
- Paul vs. Torah



- But were any of these the biblical arguments being presented in the New Testament?

The Question Behind the Question

- What were the Apostles actually arguing about?
- Can Gentiles be saved without first becoming proselytes to Judaism?

Acts 15:1 Now some men coming down from Judea were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

The Debate Was NOT:
“Is circumcision biblical?”

The Debate WAS:
“Is circumcision required for salvation?”

That distinction is foundational.

Salvation or Sanctification?

- **SALVATION**

- How am I made right with God?
- How am I redeemed?
- What gives me covenant standing?
- Grace
- Faith
- Messiah

- **SANCTIFICATION**

- How should the redeemed live?
- What does holiness look like?
- How do I walk faithfully?
- Obedience
- Transformation
- Spirit-led living

- The Bible does not teach that sanctification earns salvation. It teaches that salvation produces sanctification.

Two Opposite Errors

- **ERROR #1**

“I must obey in order to earn salvation.”

“I’m a good person”

- Legalism / Self-righteousness
- Relying on works

- **ERROR #2**

“Because obedience cannot save me, obedience does not matter.”

“Jesus & Paul were both against the Torah anyways”

- Lawlessness / Cheap grace
- Reliance on belief without action

The Narrow Path

- The Biblical path is right down the middle vs the two opposite error sides:
- Saved by grace → Transformed for obedience

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God. It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship—created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them.

Abraham Gives Us the Pattern

Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in Adonai and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

- Circumcision given afterward:

Genesis 17:10-11 This is My covenant that you must keep between Me and you and your seed after you: all your males must be circumcised. You must be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and this will become a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

- Faith as Righteousness came before circumcision.
- Paul's point in **Romans 4:1-14**:
Circumcision was a sign of covenant, not the basis of Abraham's justification. Faith into action, obedience is evidence of faith.

Israel Gives Us the Pattern

EGYPT → PASSOVER → REDEMPTION → SINAI → OBEDIENCE

Exodus 2:23-25 Now it came about over the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. Bnei-Yisrael groaned because of their slavery. They cried out and their cry from slavery went up to God. God heard their sobbing and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saw Bnei-Yisrael, and He was concerned about them.

- God did not say: “Obey Me perfectly, and then I will rescue you.”
- Instead: He redeemed them first, then taught the redeemed how to live.

Exodus 19:4-6 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you listen closely to My voice, and keep My covenant, then you will be My own treasure from among all people, for all the earth is Mine. So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you are to speak to Bnei-Yisrael.”

Grace Came Before Torah at Sinai

Grace did not begin in the New Testament. Grace exists because God's motivation is LOVE!

- **God heard Israel's cry**
- **God remembered His covenant**
- **God redeemed them**
- **God brought them to Himself**
- **Then God gave instructions**

The Torah was given to a redeemed people, not as a way to become redeemed.

Yeshua: Against Torah or Tradition?

- Was Yeshua correcting Moses? Or correcting men?

Mark 7:8-9 Having left behind the commandment of God, you hold on to the tradition of men.” He was also telling them, “You set aside the commands of God, in order that you may validate your own tradition.”

- Commandments of God vs. Traditions of Men
- Not every dispute with the Pharisees was a dispute with Torah. It was a dispute over the misinterpretation of the Torah.

“You Have Heard... But I Say...”

- Did Yeshua replace Torah?

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets...”

Hint: “*You have heard*” = tradition. “*It is written*” = Word of God

- **Matthew 5:21-26** “You have heard it was said” Anger/Hate → Heart
- **Matthew 5:27-30** “It was said” Adultery/Lust → Heart
- **Matthew 5:31-32** “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old” → Corrects a misinterpretation of the Torah.
- **Matthew 5:33-37** Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old” Swearing/Oaths → Corrects a misinterpretation of the Torah.

“You Have Heard... But I Say...”

- **Matthew 5:38-42 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ Retaliation/Justice → Corrects a misinterpretation of the Torah.**
- **Matthew 5:43-48 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ → Corrects a misinterpretation of the Torah.**
- **Yeshua did not weaken Torah. He drove it deeper, from action to heart. Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people.**

Confusion on the Sabbath

What Yeshua was accused of:

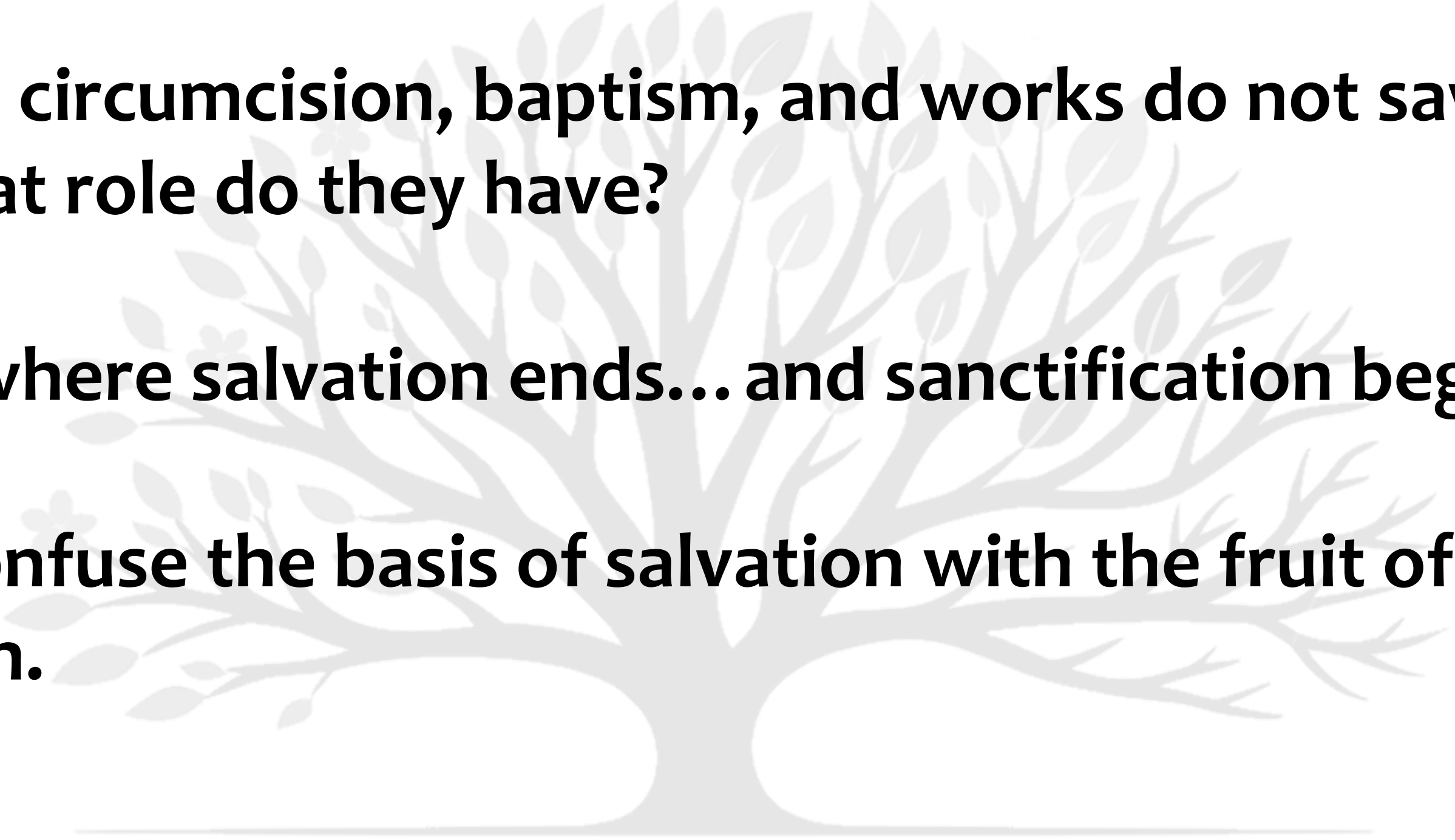
- Harvesting on Sabbath. **Matthew 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28; Luke 6:1–5**
 - Yeshua argues what constitutes work on Sabbath, David & Bread (**Deut. 23:25**)
- Healing on Sabbath 3x. **Mt 12:9–14; Mk 3:1–6; Lk 6:6–11 | Lk 13:10-17 | Lk 14:1-6**
 - “Therefore it is permitted to do good on Shabbat.” - **Matthew 12:12**
- Carrying on Sabbath. **John 5:1–18**
 - Burdens for commercial activity **Jeremiah 17:21–22**. Not Healing.
- Making mud on Sabbath. **John 9**
 - “This Man is not from God, because He doesn't keep Shabbat.” - **John 9:16**
 - “How can a sinner perform such signs?”
- The Pharisees accused Yeshua of Violating Sabbath. Many Believers reiterate that accusation. If its true, there is no salvation. Sin is violation of the Torah **1Jn 3:4**. “He committed no sin.” - **1 Peter 2:22**

Oral Law and Tradition:

1Corinthians 9:20-21 To the Jewish people I identified as a Jew, so that I might win over the Jewish people. To those under Torah I became like one under Torah (though not myself being under Torah), so that I might win over those under Torah; to those outside Torah, like one outside Torah (though not being outside God's Torah but in Messiah's Torah), so that I might win over those outside Torah.

- Paul points to this differentiation, Torah used here is the Oral Law and the man made traditions. Which he is not under. This distinction is clear, in the next breath he says that he is under Gods Torah which is the Law of Christ, Messiah's Torah.

The Question

- If Torah, circumcision, baptism, and works do not save us... what role do they have?
 - That is where salvation ends... and sanctification begins.
 - Don't confuse the basis of salvation with the fruit of salvation.
- 

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1-2 Now some men coming down from Judea were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” When Paul and Barnabas had a big argument and debate with them, the brothers appointed Paul and Barnabas with some others from among them to go up to Jerusalem to the emissaries and elders about this issue.

- The center issue is “*do you have to be circumcised to be saved*”. The Jerusalem council rules no, circumcision is not required for salvation.
- That doesn't mean its bad or outlawed or “done away with” its simply not required for salvation.
- The Jerusalem council rules against the Sadducee view, against the Pharisaic Shammai view, and is closer to the Pharisaic Hillel view, but differs on the requirement for salvation (Yeshua not circumcision).

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:15-21 The words of the Prophets agree, as it is written: ‘After this I will return and rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David. I will rebuild its ruins and I will restore it, so that the rest of humanity may seek the Lord—namely all the Gentiles who are called by My name—says Adonai, who makes these things known from of old.’ Therefore, I judge not to trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God— but to write to them to abstain from the contamination of idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from blood. **For Moses from ancient generations has had in every city those who proclaim him, since he is read in all the synagogues every Shabbat.”**

- The ruling is not to place any of the traditions on them, abstain from rebellion so they could be apart of the Body/Assembly/Kehillat/Ecclesia.
- This is the starting point as they will learn the rest of Gods Torah every shabbat in the Messianic Synagogues.

The Jerusalem Council

- In other words: The Holy Spirit will lead you in steps on a path of sanctification, one step at a time. Gradually. Not all at once.
- The councils ruling aligned with the Holy Spirit, it's God inspired:
Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Ruach ha-Kodesh and to us not to place on you any greater burden than these essentials: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. By keeping away from these things, you will do well. Shalom!

Galatians

- Paul Opposes Peter

Galatians 2:11-14 But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong—for before certain people came from Jacob, he regularly ate with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and separate himself, fearing those from the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the Good News, I said to Peter in front of everyone, “If you—being a Jew—live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

- Peter had Shammai beliefs. (Gentiles could not be saved, they are unclean, not to be associated with. (**Acts 10** makes sense).
- Live like Gentiles = Factionalism is a bad example not representative of the Good News

Galatians

- We are not Saved or Justified by the Torah. We would have to keep it perfectly to be Saved or Justified. (1 sin = curse and death).
- Instead, we are Saved and Justified by the one man who kept the Torah perfectly, Messiah Yeshua. Through Him we are both Saved and Justified.

Galatians 2:16 Yet we know that a person is set right not by deeds based on Torah, but rather through putting trust in Messiah Yeshua. So even we have put our trust in Messiah Yeshua, in order that we might be set right based on trust in Messiah and not by deeds based on Torah—because no human will be justified by deeds based on Torah.

Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on the deeds of Torah are under a curse—for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not keep doing everything written in the scroll of the Torah.”

Galatians

Galatians 5:1-5 For freedom, Messiah set us free—so stand firm, and do not be burdened by a yoke of slavery again. Listen—I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Messiah will be of no benefit to you. Again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised, that he is obligated to keep the whole Torah. You who are trying to be justified by Torah have been cut off from Messiah; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Ruach, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

- Again, Paul is not against Circumcision, he's against (as is God) Circumcision for Salvation and Justification.
- If we are to be Saved & Justified by the Torah, then we have to keep all of it perfectly or there is no Justification or Salvation.

Romans 3:1-2a Then what is the advantage of being Jewish? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Much in every way.

- Simple, yet everyone is confused.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who keeps sinning is violating Torah - indeed, sin is violation of Torah.

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? May it never be! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin rule in your mortal body so that you obey its desires.

Romans 6:15-23 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that to whatever you yield yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to what you obey—whether to sin resulting in death, or to obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching under which you were placed; and after you were set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you yielded your body parts as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness, leading to more lawlessness, so now yield your body parts as slaves to righteousness, resulting in holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. So then, what outcome did you have that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. But now, having been set free from sin and having become enslaved to God, you have your fruit resulting in holiness. And the outcome is eternal life. For sin's payment is death, but God's gracious gift is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.

JUSTIFICATION VS SANCTIFICATION

To be pardoned and declared righteous in the sight of God

Instantaneous

What God does for us

No growth or increase

Imputed righteousness

Deliverance from the penalty of sin

Accomplished by the one act of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross

Faith

The process by which God inwardly renews a person

Life-long

What God does with us

Progressive, continual

Imparted righteousness

Deliverance from the power of sin

Accomplished by the Holy Spirit's power and presence

Faithfulness

Our Relationship:

- **We have confidence that after we accept Yeshua and enter into Covenant with Him that we ARE Saved and Justified.**
- **That begins us on a journey of Sanctification. One step at a time.**
- **Hebrew “Halacha” = Walk**

What Is Sanctification?

- **Kadosh means “Set Apart”**

Leviticus 20:7-8 So consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am Adonai your God. You are to keep My statutes, and do them. I am Adonai who sanctifies you.

John 17:17 Make them holy in the truth. Your word is truth.

1Thessalonians 4:3-5 For this is the will of God—your sanctification: to abstain from sexual immorality; to know, each of you, how to gain control over his own body in holiness and honor—not in the passion of lust like the pagans who do not know God;

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue shalom with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

- **Sanctification isn't earning salvation; it's becoming increasingly set apart to God.**

The Torah and Sanctification

- If Torah doesn't save us, what is it for?

Deut. 6:24-25 Adonai commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Adonai our God—for our good always, to keep us alive, as is the case this day. It will be righteousness to us, if we take care to do all this commandment before Adonai our God, just as He has commanded us.'

Psalms 119:172 My tongue sings of Your word, for all Your mitzvot are righteous.

Romans 7:12 So then, the Torah is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

- The Torah describes the walk of God's covenant people (Righteousness) rather than functioning as a mechanism for earning redemption.

The Spirit and Sanctification

- The New Covenant promise isn't "no commandments"; it's God's Torah written upon the heart and His Spirit causing His people to walk in His ways.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. Moreover I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them.

Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people.

- See Romans 8:1–14; Galatians 5:16–25, Hebrews 8:6-13

Faith Without Works?

- Paul and James aren't enemies. Works aren't the root of salvation; they're its fruit.
Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, and drive out demons in Your name, and perform many miracles in Your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’”

Romans 3:30-31 Since God is One, He will set right the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then nullify the Torah through faithfulness? May it never be! On the contrary, we uphold the Torah.

James 2:22 You see that faith worked together with his works, and by the works his faith was made complete.

James 2:24 You see that a man is proved righteous by works and not by faith alone.
- See **Ephesians 2:8-10**

The Goal: Become Like Messiah

- Salvation has a past, present, and future dimension: redeemed, being transformed, ultimately glorified.

Rom 8:29-30 For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

1Cor 15:49 And just as we have borne the image of the one made from dust, so also shall we bear the image of the One from heaven.

1Cor 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

Php 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, and from there we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah. He will transform this humble body of ours into the likeness of His glorious body, through the power that enables Him even to put all things in subjection to Himself.

1John 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- See **Rev: 22:11-14** Evil is outside

Working Out Your Salvation

- Sanctification requires active participation while remaining something God accomplishes within us: "*for the One working in you is God.*"

Php 2:12-13 Therefore, my loved ones, just as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence—work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For the One working in you is God—both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Rom 12:1-2 I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy, acceptable to God—which is your spiritual service. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2Cor 7:1 Therefore, since we have these promises, loved ones, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2Pet 1:5-9 Now for this very reason, making every effort, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly love; and to brotherly love, love. For if these qualities are in you and increasing, they keep you from becoming idle and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. But anyone who lacks these qualities is blind—nearsighted because he has forgotten his cleansing from past sins.

Exodus Blueprint:

#	Israel's Journey	Meaning	Gospel Parallel
1.	Egypt	Bondage	Sin
2.	Passover Blood	Redemption	Messiah's Blood
3.	Red Sea	Baptism	Baptism / New Life
4.	Sinai	Covenant	Covenant / Circumcision
5.	Wilderness	Sanctification	Spirit-led Walk
6.	Promised Land	Inheritance	Resurrection / Kingdom

CORE POINT

God saves us first.

Then He teaches the redeemed how to walk in His ways.

Grace → New Life → Covenant → Obedience

HIS
PEOPLE.
HIS PLAN.
THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.

FROM REDEMPTION TO INHERITANCE

GOD SAVES. THEN HE TEACHES US HOW TO WALK.

THE SAME
FAITHFUL GOD.
ONE CONTINUING
STORY.



GOD SAVES
BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

THEN OUR WALK BEGINS
EMPOWERED BY HIS SPIRIT

"He saved us – not to leave us as we were, but to make us a people for Himself."

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 | EXODUS 19:4-6 | TITUS 3:4-7

Our Walk of Sanctification

- **Salvation through Yeshua (Grace through Faith).**

1. **Mikveh/Immersion/Baptism into forgiveness of Sins (**Mat 3:11**)**
2. **Immersion/Receive the Ruach HaKodesh (Circumcision of Heart) (**Acts 19:1-6** – Authority Chain)**
3. **Sabbath/Feasts (**Acts 15**)**
4. **Torah Walk Continues (**Acts 15**)**
5. **Circumcision of the Flesh (**Ezekiel 44:9-10**)**

Titus puts it best:

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared—not by deeds of righteousness which we had done ourselves, but because of His mercy—He saved us through the mikveh of rebirth and renewing of the Ruach ha-Kodesh, whom He abundantly poured out on us through Messiah Yeshua our Savior, so that being set right by His grace, we might become heirs with the confident hope of eternal life!

In Closing:

**1Thessalonians 4:3-5 For this is the will of God—
your sanctification: to abstain from sexual
immorality; to know, each of you, how to gain
control over his own body in holiness and honor—
not in the passion of lust like the pagans who do
not know God;**

**1Thessalonians 4:7 For God did not call us to
impurity, but in holiness.**



Salvation & Sanctification

Questions, Comments & Answers