

Small Group Guide for August 15

"No Longer Under the Law!?" Part 4 - A Single-minded Focus

Discussion Questions

1. Before hearing this message, how would you have answered the question "Are we still under the Law?" Has your thinking shifted at all? If so, how?
2. The pastor pointed out that the question "Are we under the Law?" really depends on what you mean by it. Why do you think this question causes so much disagreement among believers?
3. The message draws a distinction between being condemned by the Law and being guided by the Law. How does understanding that distinction change the way you think about God's commandments?
4. Hebrews 10:14 is summarized in the sermon as describing believers as those "being made holy" - an ongoing process. What does that tell us about the Christian life and our relationship to God's instructions?
5. The pastor says that the Law is how we learn about God's character and how He wants us to relate to Him and to the people around us. Can you think of a specific commandment that has taught you something about God's character?
6. The message makes the point that Yeshua said nothing new and neither did the Apostles - that the Apostolic writings are built entirely on the Hebrew Scriptures. How does that change the way you might approach reading the New Testament?

7. Paul is described as being very clear that Gentiles should not convert to become Jews, yet Gentiles are still expected to follow God's teachings. What is the difference between following the Scriptures to do what God wants and following them in order to become more Jewish?

8. The pastor describes Yeshua's "easy yoke" as what remains once all the man-made additions to the commandments are removed. Does that reframing make the idea of following God's commandments feel more approachable? Why or why not?

9. The sermon mentions that you should not commit to a commandment until you are ready to commit, because once you do, falling short becomes sin. How do you think a believer should approach taking on new areas of obedience?

10. The Jerusalem Council's instruction that Gentiles would learn more by hearing Moses taught in the synagogue on Shabbat suggests that ongoing study is essential. What does your current commitment to studying Scripture look like, and where might it need to grow?

APPLICATION

- Pick up or look up the Didache online through a university website. Read through it once and note how many of the commandments you recognize from other parts of Scripture.

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in context. Reflect on the phrase "fully equipped for every good deed" and ask yourself honestly whether you are using all of Scripture as your guide.