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Apostolic Epistle

SPIRIT OF THE LAW
The Balance of Divine Justice

In the Name of Almighty YAH our Father, and Messiah Yahushua our Redeemer, Shal'm.

Beloved brethren, the ongoing debate among the Hebrew Yisraelite aware over the purpose of the Law, brings to mind a parable of great wisdom I often share:

"One Tuesday afternoon, a certain wise man was taking his customary daily walk, and as usual, came upon the local public swimming pool. As he was strolling by, he heard the sound of a young man crying out for help. As he turned to look, he saw that the young man was drowning. But at the same time, he also saw the familiar sign that said, 'No Swimming on Tuesdays.'

Now, it being a Tuesday, the man was faced with a real dilemma. He quickly realized: There were only two courses of action he could take. He could 'obey the law' and let the man drown, or he could violate the law and save him…

But being a man of wisdom, he also realized that even though the letter of the law said, "No Swimming on Tuesdays," the ***spirit*** *of the law added, '...under ordinary circumstances.' In other words, no* ***recreational*** *swimming on Tuesdays! So he quickly jumped into the pool, "violating the law" himself, and saved the drowning man's life.*

The wise man understood that the sign was directed toward the ***lawless****; to those who would dare to go swimming while the pool is officially closed! He knew that the rule was never intended for*

one who would reach out to save his brother from peril; even if that brother's own violation of the law is what imperiled him."

Brethren, the Law is a sure guide. But it must be understood and fulfilled in *love.* Not with justice only – but with mercy and humility as well… We must never be so zealous of the Law, that we seek to keep it to the perishing of those for whom Christ died. Is this not what Paul, as Sha'ul of Tarsus, was guilty of?

[As for keeping the Law: Even as the tablets of stone were placed *inside* the Ark of the Covenant, with the Torah scrolls placed *beside* it; the Ten Commandments have been written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit; that we may be able to comprehend, and outwardly follow the Torah (His instructions) unto everlasting life. And in fact, many Messianic-Christian groups have now begun to fully recognize the Torah-based connection and divine balance between law and grace.]

As it is written, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the Commandments of YAHUWAH *and* the faith of Yahushua" (Rev. 14:12). Indeed.

Beloved saints: Surely, we must now advance to the higher spiritual ground the apostle Paul came to occupy; remembering, as he wrote to the Corinthians*, "**Love never fails**: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away"* (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

And of course, we must turn to the One who *is* the Word for the *final* Word!

When asked what the greatest Commandment in the Law is, Yahushua said, "You shall love YHWH Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two Commandments hang all the Law and the prophets" (Matt. 23:37-40).

And He also gave us a *new* Law: The Third Great Commandment, if you will, that establishes the first two, saying: *"A New Commandment I give unto you, that you love one another **as I have loved you,** that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another"* (Jn. 13:34-35). As it is written, ***"Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the Law of Christ"*** (Gal. 6:2).

And yet, all too often, we fail to consider that *taking up our crosses* is not just about forbearance on behalf of our fellow saints – but also, about longsuffering without retaliation, and without bitterness, at the hands of traitorous "family" members, "friends," co-workers and false brethren. Sélah.

Finally, saints, we must begin to hold our Messiah's Three Great Commandments as the greatest of all laws; bearing in mind this one thing: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Matt. 15:13). This is the third Great Commandment; another deeper, self-crucifying love that completes the first two. For behold, "a three-fold cord is not easily broken."

Surely, His Three Great Commandments are the real sum and substance of the Law. For example, when He was rebuked by the religious hirelings of His day, for allowing His disciples to pluck ears of corn on Shabbat, His revolutionary response was on this wise:

"Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and they that were with him; how he entered into the house of YAH, and did eat the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are blameless?" (Matt. 12:3-5). Sélah.

Hear, O Yisrael: These are the words of Ha Mashiach Himself! In truth, the very manner of words that led to His rejection, condemnation and crucifixion… As it is written, let us also partake of those same sufferings; that when His glory shall appear, we shall not be ashamed, but we shall be glad even as He shall be, with exceeding joy!

My Fellow Countrymen, it is written, "GOD is love" – not GOD is law.

Behold: The Law was made for Love. Love was not made for the Law. And surely, while we *must* walk in the Spirit of the Law, we must never place the Law of YAH above the *Love* of YAH! And above all, let YAH our Father, and Yahushua our Redeemer, be Loved, and Praised Forevermore!

YAH Khai v'HalleluYAH!

May the Grace, Mercy and Completeness of Abba YAH be with you all.

IT'S KINGDOM TIME.

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