

Study of Philippians 3

by Marc Gravelle

marc@bondservantsofyeshua.ca

I Finally, my brethren, rejoice in Yahweh.

Have you ever asked yourself, what it means **to rejoice in Yahweh**? Well, I believe that it means that we are to **rejoice** in the **FACT**, that Yahweh, in His infinite wisdom and love for His creation, has given us the path, the road map, if you will, that leads all people, who willingly and lovingly choose to, follow Yahweh's designated path, unto everlasting Life, in the Father's everlasting kingdom, here on earth. And in doing so, I believe that He has given all people, a purpose in life, a reason to live, by giving us something to look forward to, if and when we willingly and lovingly choose to believe, follow and obey all the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, with loving surrendered contrite and obedient hearts, as Messiah did and taught us to do, for that Path, **IS** the one and only Path that leads to everlasting Life, in the kingdom of our heavenly Father.

Yahweh has given us the Words of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, **AND**, He also made it quite clear, in Scripture, to each and every individual, who willingly and lovingly chooses to follow the Words of the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, that they will have joy and blessings in this life and experience eternal joy in the afterlife as the bride of Messiah, for eternity. I know, that not everyone is blessed with a great imagination, but I want you to try and get a mental picture of our Creator, who created all things including all the universes, in your mind right now, and, however He appears to you, in your mind, picture Him, being at your side as your intimate loving partner for eternity; **THAT** is what Paul means when he says **rejoice in Yahweh, for Yahweh IS Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, and He wants to be your bridegroom.**

Although we only have one letter to the Philippians recorded in the Holy Scriptures, we can be assured that Paul wrote to them on many occasions, and he says that it was a **labour of love** and that his letters were his way of keeping them on the right track and keeping them safe from the enemy.

*To write the same things to you, to me indeed is **NOT GRIEVOUS**, **BUT** for you it is safe.*

Next, Paul warns the Philippians to beware of the enemy entering the camp, disguised as one of their own people. Paul calls them **dogs, workers of evil, Judaizers, false teachers** (concion), who espoused, and still espouse, false man made doctrines, false teachings, including things such as: a person needed to be circumcised to be saved, or that the Torah has somehow changed or that it is partially or totally done away with, *verse 2 Beware of **dogs**, beware of **evil workers**, beware of the **concion** (false teachers).*

Next Paul explains to the believers **WHO** they are, and, **WHO** they are to worship.

*Verse 3 For we **ARE the circumcison**, which worship Elohim **in the Spirit**, and rejoice in Messiah Yeshua (the Words of the Living Torah made flesh), and have **no confidence in the flesh.***

In this *verse*, Paul says, that we, meaning him, Paul, the Apostles and all of us, who willingly and

lovingly choose to follow them, as they follow Messiah, **ARE** the **CIRCUMCISION** that worships Yahweh in the Spirit, and rejoice in Messiah Yeshua (the Words of the Living Torah made flesh), and furthermore, Paul says: we are to have **NO** confidence in the flesh, **NO** confidence in our fleshly desires, because, if we rely on our fleshly desires to lead us, we will be lead right into oblivion, and be lost for eternity.

In order to fully understand Paul's message, we have to, first of all, determine what it means to worship Elohim **IN THE SPIRIT**. To get the answer to that question, we have to go to *Ezekiel 36:26-27* **A New or Renewed heart also will I give you, and a New or Renewed Spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a HEART OF FLESH. 27 And I will put My Holy Spirit within you, AND CAUSE you, to walk in My Statutes, and you SHALL KEEP My Judgments, (the Words of My Torah of Life) and DO them.**

We have to understand that because of His great love for us, our heavenly Father has **NOT** left us alone to find our own way through life, He has given every believer, every willing surrendered obedient heart, His Holy Spirit, who in turn is instructed by Yahweh, to **CAUSE** every willing surrendered contrite obedient heart, that will allow Him, to **Walk Out** and **Obey** all the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

Therefore, the Scriptures make it **VERY CLEAR, WHAT worshipping Elohim in the Spirit means;** it means, that we are to willingly and lovingly **ALLOW** our heavenly Father's Holy Spirit, to **CAUSE** us to **KEEP, FOLLOW and OBEY** all the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, as He has instructed us to do, and in doing so, **we show our love for our heavenly Father and our Messiah.**

Exodus 20:6 **And showing mercy unto thousands of them that LOVE Me, and Keep My Commandments.**

John 14:15 Messiah, the living Word of Elohim, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions **MADE FLESH** said the very same thing: *If you love Me, KEEP My Commandments,* and He has made it perfectly clear throughout the Apostolic Scripture, that His Commandments are **identical** to the Father's Commandments, for the Father and the Son are Echad, they are **ONE**.

In these next *verses* Paul admonishes us **NOT** to trust, nor to put confidence **in our own flesh**. We are **NOT** to depend on our feelings, as so many of the people who profess to be part of the houses of the Elohim of Abraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov, often do today. Many of those people actually believe, that **IF** they **FEEL** the Holy Spirit, it means that He is active in their lives, and **IF** they **DO NOT FEEL** the Holy Spirit, then, according to their understanding, it simply means that Holy Spirit, **IS NOT** moving nor active in their lives that day, or, in the particular circumstances that they are currently in on any given day. And, unfortunately, many so called believers, order or guide their whole lives by that premise. The enemy satan, knows that about people, and he knows, that most people are governed by their feelings, and he also knows that the easiest part of the human essence to be fooled, **IS our emotions, our feelings,** and he uses this knowledge to deceive people into believing his lies, and that is why, he is called the great deceiver. Therefore, Paul admonishes us, **NOT** to rely on our own understanding, our own feelings, and to emphasize that point, he uses his own past life, his way of life, before his encounter with Yahweh/Messiah on the road to Damascus,

to prove his point. He says if anybody **has the RIGHT to brag or DEPEND on his flesh**, or his own understanding, **it is ME**;

*Verse 4 Though I **MIGHT** also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has whereof he **MIGHT** trust in the flesh, **I MORE***

I was Circumcised the eighth day,

I am of the stock of Yisrael

I am of the tribe of Benjamin

I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews

As regards to the Jewish Law, the Talmud and the Mishnah, I am a Pharisee

*Concerning zeal towards the **oral torah**, I persecuted the Assembly of Elohim, that stood against the oral torah.*

As regards the righteousness which is in the Torah (Law), blameless

As you can see, Paul followed and obeyed the man made oral torah, the man made doctrine of Judaism, and, in his mind and heart, he truly believed that he was actually following and obeying the Torah of our heavenly Father, that Yahweh gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinay, **BUT**, what he was actually following, was the Rabbinical interpretation version, of the Torah of Mosheh, that his Rabbinical teachers, the so called great rabbis of the past, who had added to and or taken many, many things away from our heavenly Father's Torah, and Paul said: because of these things, and how zealously he obeyed them, he has more right, to claim that he is justified before Elohim than anyone else, **BUT** then, he turns around and says, **that all of these man made regulations**, the Mishnah, the Talmud, all of the obedience to the Torah of Mosheh as defined by the Rabbinical oral torah, **without a surrendered loving relationship to our heavenly Father, IS NOTHING BUT DUNG**.

It is extremely important that we understand what Paul is telling us here; Paul is saying, that any and all wisdom of man, all man made doctrines and or philosophies such as the Talmud, the Mishnah, or the Catechism of the Catholic Church or the teachings of the Christian church fathers that **contradict** in any way, any of the Words of Elohim's Torah of Life, and set themselves up as experts of the Word of Elohim, teaching what Elohim **has NOT instructed or commanded them to teach**. There are many examples of this type of situation in the Scriptures:

*Ezekiel 13:3 Thus says Adonai Yahweh; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow **their own spirit**, and have seen nothing!*

*Ezekiel 34:2 Son of man, prophesy **against the Shepherds of Yisrael**, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus says Adonai Yahweh unto the shepherds; **Woe be to the shepherds of Yisrael** that do feed themselves! Should **NOT** the shepherds feed the flocks?*

*Matthew 23:13 But **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **shut up** the kingdom of heaven against men: for you **NEITHER go in yourselves, NEITHER suffer you (or allow) them that are entering to go in**. 14 **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore you **SHALL receive** the greater damnation. 15 **Woe** unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, **YOU make him twofold more the child of HELL***

(G1067 γέεννα, Gehenna) *than yourselves. 16 Woe unto you, you **blind guides**, who say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!*

Hell, is Strongs number G1067 γέεννα, Gehenna, pronounced, Gheh'-en-nah, and it is of Hebrew origin, Strong's number H1516 and H2011; and it means, valley of the son of Hinnom; Ge-henna, or Ge-Hinnom, which is a valley of Jerusalem, used as a name for the place or state of everlasting punishment.

*Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and **HAVE OMITTED the weightier matters of the Torah (Law)**, judgment, mercy, and belief (emunah, faith): these (judgment, mercy, and belief) **ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.***

*Matthew 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, **but within they are full of extortion and excess.***

*Matthew 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed **appear beautiful outward, BUT are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness (Torahlessness).***

*Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** Because you build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, **we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.** 31 **Wherefore you are witnesses unto yourselves, that you ARE the children of them which killed the prophets.***

All of these man made teachings, doctrines and or philosophies, **ARE** nothing but **filthy rags** to our heavenly Father, and trying to keep the Torah of Mosheh without a loving surrendered and intimate relationship with the Living Word of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions made flesh, our Messiah, who said of Himself, **apart from Me you can do nothing**, is relying on one's own strength and will inevitably fail.

*Verse 7 But what things **were** gain to me (in the man made religion of Judaism), **those I counted loss for Messiah.***

Here we see that Paul gives us his current opinion of all the man made doctrines and philosophies, including the man made oral torahs of Rabbinical Judaism, and the man made teachings or doctrines of **Any and ALL** the man made religions of the world. Paul told us, that he, Paul, once followed and obeyed the man made oral torah of the Rabbis to the letter, and furthermore Paul tried to keep, what he understood at the time, to be the Torah of Mosheh, by his own strength, his own will power, rather than by the belief or faith of Messiah, and he failed miserably at it.

*Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Messiah: nevertheless I live; **YET it is NOT I that lives, BUT Messiah lives in me: and the life which I NOW live in the flesh, I live BY the belief (faith) of the Son of Elohim, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.***

Paul states that everything he did in the past, was with the mindset of a Pharisee, a mindset that emphasized that he **HAD to keep the law of his elders**, and that **he had to also KEEP and DO the Law of Mosheh by his own strength**, in the manner that his elders had taught him, and not by a

loving surrendered relationship to our heavenly Father, as Scripture teaches us. The mindset that Paul had when He was a pharisee, my friends, is still very prevalent today, and that type of mindset, still, to this day, **AFFIRMS** that we **ARE** to keep the man made doctrines of the church fathers, and or the man made doctrines of **ALL** religions. Paul tells us that **ALL** of these man made teachings **ARE DUNG**, and they are to be tossed aside for the excellency of an intimate relationship with the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our heavenly Father, which happens to the Words of His Torah of Life made flesh, our Messiah, Yeshua.

Verse 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Adonai:

Now before I can go any further with this teaching it is imperative that we understand **WHAT the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua IS**, because, **if** we don't understand that very basic principal, then we will **NOT** understand what Paul is trying to communicate to us here. Therefore, to understand what the knowledge of Messiah **IS**, we have to first understand **WHO Messiah IS**. In *John 1:1* it says: *In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with Elohim, and the **Word** was Elohim.* And in *John 1:14* we read *And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only begotten of the Father), full of **Grace** and **Truth** (and Truth is defined in Scripture, as the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, *Psalm 119:142*).*

These verses tell us that Messiah **IS** the Living **Word** of Elohim. Now let's go to *Psalm 119:160* where it says: *Your **Word** is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of Your righteous Judgments endures for ever.*

In this verse in *Psalm 119* we are told that the **Word of Elohim IS TRUTH**, and this fact is also confirmed by Messiah Himself in *John 17:17* where He says to the Father, *Sanctify them (those that you have given Me Father) through Your **TRUTH**: Your **WORD IS TRUTH**.*

Well, the Scriptures don't stop there in defining the **TRUTH** of Elohim, we are told in *Psalm 119:142* *Your **righteousness** is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Torah (Law) IS the **TRUTH**.* And then in *Psalm 119:151* we are told: *You are near, O Yahweh; and **ALL** Your Commandments are **TRUTH**.*

Therefore, based on what we have just read, we must conclude, that **NOT** only is Messiah the Living Word of Elohim, His Grace and His Truth, **BUT** He is also the Words of Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, and therefore, that means that He is, the Living Commandments of the Father in the flesh, for Scripture makes it very clear that both Father and the Son, are **ONE, and the same ENTITY**, they **ARE**, the Words, the Commandments and the Torah, they **ARE echad**, they **are ONE**. However, Scripture does **NOT** stop there, in *Ephesians 1:13*, for example, we read: *In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of **TRUTH**, the **GOSPEL** of your salvation: in whom also **AFTER that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.***

As you can see for yourself, the Gospel of Yahweh's salvation, **IS** also called the **TRUTH**.

Therefore based on these definitions we **MUST** conclude that the **KNOWLEDGE of MESSIAH IS** our heavenly Father's Inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of

Life, also called *the Word of Elohim, the Commandments of Elohim and the Gospel of Truth, Messiah*.

Verse 8 continued: for whom I, Paul, have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but DUNG, that I may win Messiah,

Paul then tells us that he has suffered the loss of **ALL** his earthly things, because he sought the knowledge of Messiah, and through these *verses*, we have discovered, that the knowledge of Messiah, **IS** the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. Therefore, it is, or should be quite evident, that Paul suffered the loss of **ALL** things, because, he willingly chose to be **obedient to, follow** and **Obey** the Words of the Torah that Yahweh gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinay, and we are to follow and obey those marvellous Words with a surrendered contrite obedient heart. Furthermore, he, Paul, counted everything else that he had ever had in his life, including his past understanding of the Scriptures, and the oral torah, the man made doctrine of his fathers, **AS DUNG**; *for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but DUNG, WHY? So that I may WIN (Get, Gain) Messiah.* The word **Win**, is Strong's number G2770 Kerdaino, κερδαίνω, kerdainō, pronounced, ker-dah'-ee-no, it is from G2771; and it means, to gain literally or figuratively, get, gain, win. When Paul says that he wants to **WIN** Messiah, he is actually saying that he wants to **WIN** the Torah, and how does one **WIN** the Torah? We win the Torah, by willingly choosing to read it, study it and internalize it, and, discarding **ALL** man made religious and or secular doctrines that we have been taught in the past.

Next, Paul says in *verse 9 I want to be found in Messiah, NOT having my own RIGHTEOUSNESS, which IS of the Law, BUT that which is through the belief (faith, Pistis) of Messiah, the righteousness which is of Elohim by belief (faith):*

We know that Messiah **IS** the Living Word of our heavenly Father, He is the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, made flesh, therefore, when Paul says that he wants to be **found** in Messiah, he means that he wants to willingly and lovingly surrender his will to our heavenly Father and begin to **FOLLOW and OBEY** all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life.

Furthermore Paul tells us that the Father's Torah (Law) **IS righteousness, BUT**, that that **righteousness**, can only be acquired by first, choosing to fully surrender our hearts, minds, souls and strength to our heavenly Father in total lovingly surrendered obedience to all the Words of His Torah of Life, and if and when we can do that, then we are told that our heavenly Father will fill us with His Holy Spirit, who in turn is **commanded** by our heavenly Father, to **CAUSE ALL PEOPLE THAT WILL ALLOW HIM, to KEEP and OBEY ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of **righteousness. NOW, IF and WHEN**, we can achieve this totally surrendered state, we will **BE LIVING BY** the belief (faith) of Messiah, who is the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of our heavenly Father **MADE FLESH**.

Paul was experienced in trying to keep Elohim's Law and his elder's man made oral torah, their man made doctrine, by his own strength, by his sheer will, and on the road to Damascus, he was made aware by Yahweh/Messiah that that does **NOT** work, and Yahweh/Messiah showed him that the only way that anyone can become **RIGHTEOUS, IS** by first choosing to surrender our hearts to Him, and enter into a close and intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, through His Holy Spirit and His Living Torah made flesh in order to **live a righteous life**.

*Verse 10 That I may know (Yada, be intimate with) Him, and the power of His resurrection, (salvation) and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being made conformable unto His death;***

Here Paul says that he has willingly and lovingly chosen to surrender his will to our heavenly Father in order that he may have ***an intimate relationship with Him and His inerrant and everlasting Word made flesh***, our Messiah, and in order that he may understand the ***power*** of His eternal salvation, and understand ***WHY*** Messiah had to suffer as He did, in order to cleanse us from our Sins, our Torah transgressions, and teach us to conform to His death, which means, that Yahweh/Messiah wants us to truly understand why He, Messiah had to die in the manner that He did in order to bring salvation to the world.

Now, as you know, I believe and teach that salvation ***IS a journey***, and that we have a very firm ***PROMISE*** of salvation from our heavenly Father through His Son, the Words of His Living Torah made flesh, that ***IF*** we persevere in keeping, doing and walking in total loving surrendered obedience the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, to the end of our lives, then at that point, according to Paul, and all of Scripture, we attain the prize, which of course ***IS***, eternal salvation.

*Verse 11 If by any means **I Paul MIGHT ATTAIN** unto the resurrection of the dead (salvation). 12 **NOT as though I Paul, HAD ALREADY ATTAINED**, either were already perfect (as though my salvation had already been completed, accomplished, or consummated): **BUT I follow after, IF that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Messiah Yeshua.***

Here, Paul affirms, that he has ***NOT YET apprehended salvation***. The word ***apprehend*** is the Greek word Katalambano, it is Strong's G2638 which means *eagerly taken hold of, seized or possessed*. This tells us that Paul had ***NOT YET attained salvation***, ***BUT*** that he was a work in progress, as all of us, ***ARE*** works in progress, and that he was eagerly taking hold of the promise of Salvation, given to us by Messiah's sacrifice on the cross.

*Verse 13 Brethren, I do **NOT** count myself to have apprehended, (katalambano) but this one thing I do, **forgetting** those things which are behind, (the old man) and reaching forth unto those things which are before (the promise of salvation), 14 **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of Elohim in Messiah Yeshua** (the Words of the Living Torah made flesh).*

Here again, Paul affirms that he has ***NOT YET attained salvation***, ***BUT***, that he has made a conscious decision to leave behind ***ALL*** of the man made doctrines that he used to believe follow and obey, which are things, that he now counts as ***DUNG***, and he says, that he is pressing towards the ***GOAL*** or the prize, of ***the high calling of Elohim in Messiah***. The high calling of Elohim in Messiah, ***IS*** a call to every believer, that they are to live their lives in such a way that they can become the bride of Messiah, to rule and reign with Him for eternity, in the kingdom of Elohim, here on earth.

If Paul ***IS pressing forward to that GOAL, THEN***, that means that he has ***NOT YET ATTAINED IT***.

*Verse 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, (as many of us who are trying to eagerly take hold of, seize or possess salvation) be thus minded: and **IF** you are otherwise minded in any thing else,*

Elohim shall reveal even this unto you.

Here, we see that Paul tells us that whatever level we are at **NOW**, that **ALL** of us are to learn to walk by the same rule, let us all learn to walk in total loving surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for Life, let us learn to **MIMIC** the totally loving surrendered Torah obedient Life that Messiah lived while He was here on earth with us, and taught us to do the same.

*Verse 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained (at whatever level you are at now), let us walk by the **same rule**, let us **mind the same thing**. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as you have us for an example.*

Throughout his epistles, Paul tells us that he is a follower of Messiah (*the Words of the Living Torah made flesh*) and that his greatest **GOAL in Life, IS** to walk exactly as Messiah walked, which **IS**, in total loving surrendered obedience to **ALL** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, and here in *verse 17* Paul admonishes us, to follow his example and make the Torah obedient Life that Messiah lived, **OUR GOAL**, as he, Paul, made it **HIS GOAL**.

*Verse 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even **weeping**, that they are the **ENEMIES of the cross of Messiah**:*

Finally, Paul closes off this chapter with very sorrowful words. Paul tells us, that there are many people that he knows of, who actually believe that they are walking with Elohim, **BUT** that instead of walking with Messiah, in total loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of the Father's Torah of Life, as He taught all people to do, they have actually become **enemies** of the Cross of Messiah; which means enemies of His selfless sacrifice on the cross, because, they do **NOT** believe that He is the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh, and that He came to teach all people that they too, **ARE** to walk as He walked, in total loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life.

Messiah Himself referred to these People in *Matthew 7:22-23* *Many will say to Me in that day, Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your Name? And in Your Name have rebuked devils? And in Your Name done many wonderful works? 23 And then, I, Messiah will profess unto them, **I NEVER KNEW YOU**: depart from me, you that work iniquity, anomia, you lawless ones, you Torahless ones.*

Paul expresses his sorrow that many of his brethren are walking in and by their man made doctrines and theologies, by their oral torah, believing that they are serving Elohim, **BUT** according to Paul, they are **ENEMIES of the Cross of Messiah**, which means that **they are enemies of our heavenly Father's plan of redemption onto salvation**, which is what the Cross of Messiah represents. To be called an **ENEMY of the Cross of Messiah IS** a very, very serious accusation, **BUT** nevertheless, **it is a TRUE description of ALL people who choose to believe that the Words of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life have somehow been partially or totally done away with**. These **ARE** indeed, as I said above, the people that Messiah **IS** talking to in *Matthew 7:23*, the people that Messiah calls **LAWLESS**, the people He calls **TORAHLESS**.

It is of paramount importance my friends, that we all understand, that Paul **IS WARNING US**, **he is warning us NOT** to do what many of his brethren have done, and what much of Christianity has done, by putting their **TRUST** in **MAN MADE DOCTRINES** and thereby knowingly or maybe unwittingly, **REJECTING** the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, rejecting Messiah and all the Words that He taught to all people.

Paul tell us what the fate of those people will be, he says: *Whose end is **destruction**, whose Elohim is their **belly**, and whose **glory is in their shame**, who mind earthly things.*

As I said, before, this is a very, very sad scenario, **BUT** we simply have to realize that Elohim **is NOT mocked**, and He has given **ALL** of us ample opportunity to believe and obey, the Words of His Torah of Life, and to **REJECT all man made doctrines and theologies**, **BUT**, unfortunately for many, whose hearts have somehow been hardened against the Father's Torah, because they believe the Lies of satan, who **IS** the one that has actually convinced them, whether they know it or not, that their man made doctrines, have somehow replaced the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father, which means, that they **will not heed the call of our heavenly Father to TURN TO OR RETURN to His ancient Paths**, return to Words of His Torah of Life, which is what **ALL** of the prophets, Messiah and all the Apostles came to teach us, and that is why Yeshua says in *Matthew 7:13-14 Enter you in at the **STRAIT (Narrow) GATE**: for **WIDE is the gate, and BROAD is THE WAY**, that **LEADS to DESTRUCTION**, and there are **MANY** that will indeed **GO IN THAT WIDE and BROAD GATE**: 14 Because **STRAIT** is the gate, and **NARROW IS THE WAY**, which leads unto life, and **FEW** there be that find it.*

*Verse 20 For our conversation **IS** in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, Adonai Yeshua our Messiah:*

Paul is telling us that we are to concentrate and or focus on heavenly things, for things of this world will perish, but the Word of Elohim **IS** eternal, and that is what we are to put our focus on, focus on the Living inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our heavenly Father, the Words of His Torah of Life, **MADE FLESH**, our Messiah, our Saviour.

Paul closes this chapter with great words of encouragement and a promise from Yahweh Himself for **ALL** who willingly choose to surrender their hearts, minds, souls and strength to our heavenly Father, through Messiah, he says: *it shall change our **vile body**, that it may be fashioned like unto His **glorious body**, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.*

Whatever is going on in your body today, whether good or bad, will not even begin to compare to the beauty of the bodies that **ALL** the people who willingly and lovingly chose to believe, follow and obey the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of life from the day of their conversion to the Truth of Scripture, to the end of their physical lives here on earth, which is what Paul's conversion on the Road to Damascus teaches us, will receive, by the grace of Elohim for eternity. Amein!

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein