

TORAH IS LIBERTY

Finding the Ancient Path | Study Guide

Teaching video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SD-2QJcI0E>

Teaching Overview

In this Teaching, "Torah Is Liberty," the speaker explains why he understands Yahovah's commandments as a path of freedom rather than bondage. Building on the earlier Teachings "Who Told You?" and "Babylon: Come Out of Her, My People," he challenges inherited assumptions about Torah, examines passages in Galatians often associated with bondage, and distinguishes salvation by grace through faith from the redeemed person's walk of obedience. He also warns Torah-observant believers against replacing church traditions with new human-made rules, criticizing others over personal interpretations, or treating added restrictions as holiness. The Teaching draws extensively from Psalm 119 and other passages describing the law as delight, wisdom, peace, and liberty, and concludes with a call to hold to what is written and extend grace in fellowship.

Learning Objectives

- Distinguish salvation by grace through faith from the Teaching's description of obedience.
- Examine passages used to describe law, bondage, freedom, and tradition.
- Recognize the difference between written commandments and added human rules.
- Apply humility and grace when discussing disputed practices.

Key Scriptures

- **Psalm 119:32** - The psalmist describes running in Yahovah's commandments with an enlarged heart; the Teaching connects this image with freedom rather than confinement.
- **Psalm 119:35** - The psalmist delights in walking the path of Yahovah's commandments.
- **Psalm 119:44-45** - Keeping Yahovah's law and walking in liberty appear together; this is a central passage for the Teaching.
- **Psalm 119:54** - Yahovah's statutes become songs throughout the believer's pilgrimage.
- **Psalm 119:77** - The psalmist links Yahovah's tender mercies with delight in His law.
- **Psalm 119:92** - Delight in Yahovah's law sustains the psalmist through affliction.
- **Psalm 119:97** - Love for Torah is expressed through continual meditation on it.
- **Psalm 119:127** - The psalmist values Yahovah's commandments more than fine gold.
- **Psalm 119:165** - Those who love Yahovah's law are described as having great peace; the Teaching emphasizes this promise.

- **Deuteronomy 4:1** - Israel is instructed to hear and practice Yahovah's statutes and judgments so that they may live.
- **Deuteronomy 6:24** - Yahovah's commands are described as being for His people's good and preservation.
- **Psalms 1:1-3** - The one who delights in Yahovah's law is compared with a fruitful tree planted by streams of water.
- **Proverbs 3:1-2** - Remembering instruction and keeping commandments are associated with length of days and peace.
- **Proverbs 6:20-23** - The commandment is described as a lamp and the law as light, providing direction for daily life.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** - Yeshua describes His yoke as easy and His burden as light; the speaker relates this to Torah without man-made burdens.
- **John 8:31-32** - Abiding in Yeshua's word leads to knowing the truth, and the truth makes disciples free.
- **John 8:36** - The Son makes believers free indeed; the Teaching distinguishes freedom from sin's consequences from freedom to disregard Yahovah's commands.
- **Mark 7:1-13** - Yeshua challenges traditions that displace Yahovah's commandments; the Teaching warns against adding religious requirements.
- **Galatians 2:4** - Paul describes people seeking to bring believers into bondage; the speaker discusses the controversy over imposed circumcision.
- **Galatians 4:3** - Paul refers to bondage under the elements of the world; the speaker argues that this should not automatically be equated with Torah.
- **Galatians 4:8-11** - Paul warns against returning to weak and beggarly elements; the Teaching distinguishes these from Yahovah's written instructions.
- **Galatians 4:24-26** - Paul's allegory contrasts bondage and freedom; the speaker discusses the consequences of sin rather than labeling Torah itself evil.
- **Galatians 5:1** - Paul urges believers to stand in Messiah's liberty and reject a yoke of bondage; the Teaching considers this in the context of Galatians.
- **Hebrews 2:15** - Messiah releases those held in bondage through fear of death; the speaker relates this to the consequences of sin.
- **Matthew 7:3-5** - Yeshua warns against judging another's small fault while overlooking one's own; the Teaching applies this to fault-finding in fellowship.
- **1 John 5:3** - Love for God is connected with keeping His commandments, which are described as not burdensome.

Structured Teaching Study

Purpose and central distinction

The Teaching contrasts freedom through Yahovah's written instructions with the burden of man-made religious requirements. It explicitly distinguishes salvation by grace through faith from obedience as a response to redemption.

The danger of inherited assumptions

The speaker challenges descriptions of Torah as prison, curse, or slavery and encourages testing these claims against the biblical text.

Reading Paul in context

The Teaching discusses Galatians 2:4, Galatians 4:3, Galatians 4:8-11, Galatians 4:24-26, Galatians 5:1, and Hebrews 2:15, arguing that the bondage in these passages should not automatically be equated with Torah.

Do not build new hedges

The speaker warns that Torah-observant communities can repeat the same error they rejected by turning personal interpretations into binding rules.

Yeshua and traditions of men

Mark 7 is used to show the danger of elevating traditions of the elders above Yahovah's instructions; Matthew 7 invites personal self-examination.

Scriptures of liberty

The Teaching highlights Psalm 119, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Matthew, and John to describe Torah as a source of delight, wisdom, life, peace, and liberty.

Fellowship and grace

The closing discussion emphasizes humility, learning together, extending grace, and testing claims without becoming consumed by faultfinding.

Key Takeaways

- The Teaching presents Torah as liberty and a way of life for the redeemed, not the means of earning salvation.
- Test inherited doctrines and personal traditions against what is written in Scripture.
- Distinguish the consequences of sin, coercive requirements, and human additions from Yahovah's commandments themselves.
- The speaker reads Galatians 2, 4, and 5 in context rather than assuming every reference to bondage means Torah obedience.
- Psalm 119 repeatedly connects Yahovah's law with liberty, delight, understanding, and peace.
- Adding hedges or treating human practices as binding commandments can turn a broad path into a burdensome one.
- Yeshua's confrontation with traditions in Mark 7 is used to warn against elevating human rules above Scripture.
- Finding fault in others is not the same as testing teachings biblically.
- Torah-observant believers are urged to practice humility, patience, and grace within fellowship.
- Freedom in Messiah is presented as freedom from sin's penalty and human-imposed burdens, not permission to disregard Yahovah's instructions.

Study and Discussion Questions

1. Why does the Teaching say Torah is liberty?

Scripture to examine: Psalm 119:44-45; Psalm 119:165; John 8:31-32

2. Does the Teaching say Torah obedience earns salvation?

Scripture to examine: Galatians 5:1; Deuteronomy 6:24

3. What does Psalm 119:44-45 teach about liberty?

Scripture to examine: Psalm 119:44-45

4. How can traditions make Torah observance burdensome?

Scripture to examine: Mark 7:1-13; Psalm 119:32

5. What question should believers ask when evaluating a doctrine?

Scripture to examine: Psalm 119:97; Proverbs 6:20-23

6. What bondage does the Teaching associate with Galatians 2:4?

Scripture to examine: Galatians 2:4

7. How does the Teaching interpret Galatians 4:3?

Scripture to examine: Galatians 4:3

8. What is the Teaching's reading of Galatians 4:8-11?

Scripture to examine: Galatians 4:8-11

9. How does the Teaching explain the yoke of bondage in Galatians 5:1?

Scripture to examine: Galatians 5:1; Galatians 2:4

10. Why does the Teaching discuss Hebrews 2:15?

Scripture to examine: Hebrews 2:15

11. What does Mark 7 teach about man-made traditions?

Scripture to examine: Mark 7:1-13

12. What is the difference between testing teachings and finding fault?

Scripture to examine: Matthew 7:3-5; Mark 7:1-13

13. How does Psalm 119 describe the law as delight?

Scripture to examine: Psalm 119:35; Psalm 119:54; Psalm 119:77; Psalm 119:97

14. 14. How does Psalm 119:165 connect Torah with peace?

Scripture to examine: Psalm 119:165

15. 15. What does the Teaching say about the yoke of Yeshua?

Scripture to examine: Matthew 11:28-30

16. 16. How can believers preserve liberty within fellowship?

Scripture to examine: Matthew 7:3-5; Psalm 119:44-45

17. 17. What does John 8:31-32 say about freedom?

Scripture to examine: John 8:31-32

18. 18. What does the Teaching mean by freedom in the Son?

Scripture to examine: John 8:36; Hebrews 2:15

Personal Application

- Identify one practice you follow because it is written in Scripture and one you follow primarily by tradition.
- Read Psalm 119:32, 44-45, and 165 and record what each says about obedience and liberty.
- Consider how you can disagree about a practice without binding another believer's conscience.
- Pray for humility, discernment, and a willingness to correct your own assumptions.

Closing Reflection

Where have I confused Yahovah's commandments with human expectations, and how can I better demonstrate both truth and grace?