

Perfection

Perfection is a catchy word and a favorite one included in the slogans of many businesses (e.g., Perfection Auto Repair in Gainesville). The Hebrew equivalent of perfection is *T'mimah* (תמימה), which means: whole, flawless, perfect, honest, upright, ingenuous, artless, guileless, simpleminded, cherubic, naive, childlike, unsophisticated. In Psalm 19 King David uses this very word to describe *Adonai's Torah*, the Word of God. We in *Kol Simcha*, keep (guard, *shomer*), honor, reverence and esteem Scripture, and especially His *Torah*. Why?

⁸ *The Torah of Adonai is perfect (t'mimah, תמימה) restoring the soul. The testimony (edut, עדות) of Adonai is trustworthy ne-emanah, (נאמנה), making the simple wise.* ⁹ *The precepts (statutes, pikudei, פקודי) of Adonai are right (yesharim, ישרים), giving joy to the heart. The mitzvot (commandments) of Adonai are pure (barah meirat, ברה מאירת), giving light to the eyes.* ¹⁰ *The fear (yirat, יראת) of Adonai is clean (T'hurah, טהורה), enduring forever. The judgments (mishpetei, משפטי) of Adonai are true and altogether righteous (Emet Tzadku Yachdav, אמנת צדקו יחדו).* ¹¹ *They are more desirable than gold, yes, more than much pure gold! They are sweeter than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:8-11).*

1. We keep and honor Torah because Abba and Y^eshua tell Us To.

There are 613 *mitzvot* (commandments in the *Torah*), however, there are over 1,000 in the *B'rit Chadasha*. *Y^eshua* said: ¹⁰ *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.* ¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be full.* ¹² *"This is My commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.* ¹³ *No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.* ¹⁴ *You are My friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:10-12).* In the previous chapter He had said: ¹⁵ *If you love me, you will keep my commandments...²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him" (John 14:15, 21).* A commandment is an order and a mandate – whether to not murder, or not lie, or to honor our parents, or to not eat unclean substances (what is not food), or to rejoice in *Sukkot*.

2. We keep and honor Torah because the Torah gives us definition.

The *Torah* tells us how to become a child of Abraham. Many Jewish traditions are purely cultural, but the *Torah* presents a lifestyle in holiness that transcends culture. The *Torah* is what gives the descendants of Abraham their identity. Believing in *Y^eshua* only makes that identity complete!

3. We keep and honor Torah because it is who we are.

We are new creations: ¹⁷ *Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17) and ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything – but only (being) a new creation" (Gal. 6:15).* The Word tells us we are completely made over. What is inside of us now? The answer is *Ha-Torah* (*Y^eshua*). Jeremiah said: ³¹ *"Here not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them." it is a declaration of Adonai.* ³² *"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.* ³³ *No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: 'Know Adonai,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest." it is a declaration of Adonai. "For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more" (Jer. 31:31-33). Consider the Scripture: ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the Torah, do by nature the things of the Torah, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the Torah. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the Torah is written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts switching between accusing or defending them" (Ro. 2:14-15) and this passage from Hebrews, which quotes Jer. 31:31-33: ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Adonai. I will put My Torah into their mind, and upon their hearts I will write it. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹ And no more will they teach, each one his fellow citizen and each one his brother, saying, 'Know Adonai,' because all will know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and their sins I will remember no more" (He. 8:10-12). Since the *Torah* is written in our hearts, the *Torah* is part of the BASIC MAKEUP as believers in *Y^eshua*. New creations should do what comes naturally to them – keep the *Torah* that is inscribed in their heart.*

4. We keep and honor *Torah* because it is *the Scriptural Mirror*.

Yaakov (James) said we needed to look in the mirror and see ourselves through the *Torah*: “²² *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.* ²³ *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror—*²⁴ *for once he looks at himself and goes away, he immediately forgets what sort of person he was.* ²⁵ *But the one who looks intently into the perfect Torah, the Torah that gives freedom, and continues in it, not becoming a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts—he shall be blessed in what he does”* (James 1:22-25). It is the person who sees himself in the mirror – the *Torah* – and remembers what he looks like. It is the one that is the doer of the work the Word requires. The reflection we see in the *Torah* is that of ONE WHO HAS BEEN REDEEMED. It is not merely a list of DOs and DON'TS; it is literally ‘*Yeshua inside us, the hope of Glory.*’ Unless we enter in to this relationship with *Ha-Torah*, a whole new realm of new life in Messiah is unavailable.

5. We keep and honor *Torah* because Messiah did.

Yeshua is the Word (*Torah*) made flesh. Thus we should strive to be like the old hymn we used to sing in services: “*To Be Like Jesus (Yeshua), to be like Jesus, all I ask, is to be like Him*”. *Yeshua* lives inside of us. How awesome is that! This is why Scripture states: “⁷ *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, so that the surpassing greatness of the power may be from God and not from ourselves*” (2 Cor. 4:7). Shabbat Shalom!