

Lesson No. 119 – Why And How Do We Study To Show Ourselves Approved?

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Happy Sabbath everyone. Last week, we discussed Lesson No. 118 – How Do I Walk As A Child? The most important scripture we read, in my mind, was the following.

- Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

WE learned that the word “be converted” is the Greek word “strepho”, which literally means “to turn to or towards someone or something”. As we studied a few examples, we ultimately learned that this conversion means that as “called-out ones”, our total attention or focus in our walks must be only on YESHUA HAMASHIAC. And each of us knows that YESHUA HAMASHIAC is the one the prophets wrote of named YAHWEH, when HE came to the earth in the flesh in the name of HIS spiritual partner, who would become HIS spiritual FATHER.

Believe it or not, the more I thought about that lesson, the more I believe it was one of the most important lessons, from beginning to end, that I have taught. Why? Well, it is because if we can all grasp the scriptures we read and commit to what they taught us, we have in fact become as little children and have but to endure until the end. Most importantly, we learned something that every member of the Household of Faith must learn. And that is this, **if we do not convert and become as a little child, we will not enter into the Kingdom of ELOHIM.**

And as such, once we are clear on how to walk as a child, we must in fact, walk as a little child. And, this is where “called-out ones” must regroup. Here in modernity, what I continue to notice are the influences of both internal and outside experts that have impacted the minds of leadership, and thus the body, so that at times our ability to walk as children is threatened. It is at those times we may forget the first principles of the oracles given to the fathers, which in simplicity, is YAHWEH/YESHUA of ELOHIM.

Tonight, we will follow-up on last week’s lesson by looking at a subject that we all may think we have mastered, which many of us may approach in a variety of ways. But is that the way ELOHIM designed it for HIS prized to walk? This is why tonight we are discussing Lesson No. 119 – Why And How Do We Study To Show Ourselves Approved?

This is an important study because many within the Household of Faith appear to actually study more outside interpretations of ELOHIM’s WORD than ELOHIM’s WORD itself. For instance, I am starting to hear a lot of chatter about the Book of Enoch, and others these days. This study will repeat a lot of scriptures we have read before, and yet, prayerfully conclude with each of us having a greater understanding of what ELOHIM’s WORD is teaching us as we walk in our lives, as instructed. With that, it seems that the most obvious place to begin tonight is with the Apostle Paul.

- 2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The Apostle Paul was arguably one of the most influential of all of the Biblical writers. He persecuted the New Covenant Church, and then, once converted, he himself was persecuted. And yet, his commission was sure – to help the elect obtain salvation unto eternal glory.

- 2Ti 2:11 *It is* a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*: 2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us: 2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

The Apostle Paul was ever teaching on a level of faithful assurance that had no place for the feeble, who consistently make excuses without understanding the consequences. He spelled it out for us. We must die with CHRIST.

Now, we all to be on one accord and remember how we actually died with CHRIST.

- Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that **so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?** Rom 6:4 **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,** even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**

Last week we discussed the foundation of how the Household of Faith was instructed to walk in the newness of life, as we were to convert and become as little children. We all, as members of the Household of Faith, know the process, right? Once called by the FATHER and drawn to YESHUA, we make our choice. We commit our spiritual walk to HIM through water baptism.

The Children of Yisrael (COY), as a nation, was baptized in the Red Sea under the Old Covenant. Those of us who exist in this modernity must personally commit and become baptized unto YESHUA. And in so doing, we spiritually die to the old self. Remember, YESHUA we read last week how we must hate ourselves and those we love, for HIM.

This is how we die, while hoping and praying that those we love will understand and also join us in this spiritual journey. And, at the same time we recognize that not all are prepared, or, not all desire to take on this spiritual journey with us, at this time. YESHUA warns however, that if we allow family, friends or others to cause us to compromise our walking in a newness of life, by HIS words, we are not worthy of HIM (Matthew 10:34-40).

- Rom 6:5 For **if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:**

And this is the reason for our willingness to put YESHUA first; our desire to be resurrected in HIS likeness.

- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Rom 6:7 For **he that is dead is freed from sin.** Rom 6:8 Now **if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:** Rom 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. Rom 6:10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

The Apostle is advising us how we must walk, by being dead to sin.

- Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Rom 6:13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.**

And so, after having died to sin, we yield ourselves unto ELOHIM. We walk as though we are alive, as though we are resurrected, yet with the understanding that we are not yet born into that hoped for likeness that awaits us.

- Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Rom 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Rom 6:16 **Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**

And this is what the essence of our walking as a child is all about, dying, suffering, and ultimately living and reigning with CHRIST. Think of how so many that have been taught about grace, have also been taught that the words of YAHWEH have little relevance to the New Covenant walk. They have not truly studied ELOHIM's WORD for themselves.

Consider this for a moment, how often do we take a step back to consider what does it mean to reign with CHRIST. Remember, this is what Revelations 20:6 states that those who became like little children will ultimately do when they enter the Kingdom of ELOHIM. Does it mean we will simply then be given the authority to order people around? Let's consider supervisors in their various places of employment. How did they get to that point of authority in these given professions, and, for what purpose did they get there? They had to learn a lot of stuff that they did not previously know, in order to instruct others, and show them by example how things should be done, right? This is what true leadership is all about, knowledge. And this is what the Apostle is teaching us as.

- 2Ti 2:14 Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers.

This is a part of my own learning that I constantly have to remind myself, particularly when having conversations with members of the Household of Faith. You see, every member of the Household of Faith has some knowledge of the truth. And yet every member of the Household of Faith must become discerners of Biblical truth, as opposed to the intelligent truths of the world, in order to continue bearing spiritual fruit. How does the apostle teach us to discern this?

- 2Ti 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

As we walk, each and every member of the Household of Faith, male and female, must study to show ourselves approved unto ELOHIM. The Apostle is assuring us that as we commit ourselves to this level of study, we as workmen and workwomen will not be ashamed, even as we are tested by other so-called intelligent minds within the Household of Faith, who have not truly studied. It is our diligent study that allows us to rightly divide the word of truth. And as we do so, we must remember two important crucial elements we also read last week.

- Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Mat 4:4 **But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

We recall how that the COY lived by the physical manna from above and yet failed. The Household of Faith is commanded to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of ELOHIM. Within the Household of Faith, we must discern that these words from YESHUA are not simply HIS response to the tempter. They are a commandment to those who will believe in HIM and in HIS words.

We learned a little about how we do this as YESHUA commanded us to convert in order to walk as little children. HE gave us the blueprint to successful studying.

- Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.
- Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. Joh 14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

It is HIS words that we must study, accept, and obey. And yet, we cannot just approach this act of studying without the appropriate mindset. We learn a little more about this in the faith chapter.

- Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.
- Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Last week, we read how that both YAHWEH, as HE approached Moses and the COY, and then YESHUA, as HE approached the COY and eventually others of the Household of Faith with HIS words, declared to them, I AM. We must first believe that HE IS, and that HE is a rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM, in faith.

This means we carefully search out and investigate HIS words.

We must remember that we like the COY, were given HIS words through a carefully thought out process.

- Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

How did they get ELOHIM's WORD?

- Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

YESHUA gave it directly to the disciples, as HE walked with them in the flesh.

- Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

As HE gave it to them, HE prayed about others who would come unto HIM after them. And this is the faith that we must first develop. If we are to convert towards YAHWEH/YESHUA, we must accept that the words of the apostles are of YESHUA, and as such, the WORD of ELOHIM. This is our utmost necessity, if we are to show ourselves approved.

And yet, HE gave them a heads up of how this process of informing them of ELOHIM's WORD would proceed once HE was no longer with them.

- Joh 16:12 **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.** Joh 16:13 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**

- Joh 16:14 **He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

YESHUA tells them that the Spirit of Truth, when he comes, will guide them into all truth, and even more importantly, teach them those things that they could not bear at that time. As members of the Household of Faith, as we study to show ourselves approved, this must be our faith and our prayer. We must approach our studying in a manner of trust in YESHUA's words that ELOHIM has and is doing exactly what YESHUA said would happen.

And at the same time, accept that the Spirit of truth will not teach us other things within ELOHIM's WORD until we are able to bear it. This is the process. And yet, we must continue to study to show ourselves approved. Perhaps its our approval from above, based on our studying, that allows the Spirit of Truth to teach us more. And later, ELOHIM's WORD would show us the process, if we are able to accept and near it.

- Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

This is how ELOHIM has provided to us HIS every word, which are spirit and life. Many within the Household of Faith community have not been taught this revelation given to us at the very beginning of the Revelation of YESHUA the MESSIAH. Few know that throughout ELOHIM's WORD, YAHWEH, and eventually YESHUA, signified the words of ELOHIM through their angels to those who were being "called-out".

I have conducted a much more detailed study of this process in my article "The Holy Spirit Revealed". It is only through diligent and humble study that ELOHIM details how HIS spirit(s) in their many forms operate for the Benefit of HIS "called-out ones".

Now the longer I walk in humility to the WORD of ELOHIM, the more I'm blown away by what I read, in HIS WORD. I emphasize this because there is an element that has crept into the Household of Faith that is so willing to accept vain interpretations from those outside of the Household of Faith. We must have the faith in what we read and study so that we are not taken captive by the vanities in the world, whose source is Satan.

YAHWEH gave us a very another important lesson which we have studied and read often, on this process of studying to become approved. This is something that all the Household of Faith should read and study over and over, until we all come to the desired oneness of faith.

- Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isa 28:14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which *is* in Jerusalem.

Some may assume that this is only how YAHWEH's WORD was given to the COY, and as such have not prayerfully meditated on these powerful words. This is in fact how the entire WORD of ELOHIM has been presented. HE has given it to us precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little. HE did it this way for a purpose to the Household of Faith, consisting of not only the COY, but others from all the nations on the earth.

This purpose was and is for "called-out ones" to fall backwards from where they were in this life, be broken from the garbage we all were taught and accumulated before our calling, snared by HIS Holy Spirit in its many forms, and taken out of this world's influences unto CHRIST.

Let me share something.

I want to follow-up on something I presented to you last week about Appointed Times and Festivals. Remember I said that the first seven days of Tabernacles was a festival (the Hebrew word “chag” translated feast), and yet also a vital part of the entire eight days of Tabernacles, which is the Appointed Time (the Hebrew word “moed”, also translated feast). I learned this by and diligently comparing the Hebrew words translated feasts in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus. Well, I also studied what YAHWEH has provided to us in other places about this, using YAHWEH’s guidance on a little here and a little there.

- Exo 23:14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Exo 23:15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) Exo 23:16 And the feast of harvest, the first fruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, *which is* in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Here, we learn how that those of us who accept the commandments given by YAHWEH are to keep three feasts unto HIM. This is also presented to us a little later.

- Exo 34:18 The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.
- Exo 34:22 And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the first fruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end. Exo 34:23 Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

YAHWEH is commanding these three feasts, Unleavened Bread, Weeks (called Pentecost in modernity), and Ingathering (which we have generally and consistently accepted was Tabernacles). Now, in each of these instances, the Hebrew word translated feast is “chag”, which we know now means a literal festival or feast. Yet, we also know that in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus that Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles (8 days) are also YAHWEH’s appointed times, which also include the weekly Sabbath, Passover, Trumpets and Atonement.

Let’s review this. YAHWEH’s appointed times (Lev. 23:2 & 4) are the weekly Sabbath, the Passover, Unleavened Bread, Weeks (or First Fruits), Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles (eight days). However, only Unleavened Bread, Weeks and Tabernacles (first 7 days) are festivals or feasts. This is why these three are so festive, including food and strong drink.

- Deu 14:25 Then shalt thou turn *it* into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: Deu 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

However, this understanding of the difference between appointed times and feasts now informs me that the ingathering at the year’s end here, only refers to the first seven days of Tabernacles and not the eighth day. Why, because we now learning (here a little, there a little) that only the first seven days were the feast. The 8th day was part of the broader commanded Appointed Time of Tabernacles. This tells me that there is yet much more diligent study required on this subject, as we continue to grow in ELOHIM’s WORD. You see, we must never be afraid to accept that we may have been in error about previous beliefs.

If we do, we potentially become like wells without water.

Now, the fact that the Passover, the Atonement and the eighth day are not festivals seems to be appropriate. But what about Trumpets. Why isn't it a celebration? Well, the Household of Faith has been primarily taught that this day pictures the announcement of the return of YESHUA. While that is true, is that the primary reason for our observance? ELOHIM has detailed to us the fact that there are seven trumpets that will blow and that each of the first six trumpets shall signal a time of great destruction and death on the earth. This is not a festive time. Only the seventh trumpet relates to the actual return of the MESSIAH to claim HIS servants. This is why we study precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

After instructing the Household of Faith to study to show itself approved unto ELOHIM, the Apostle warned us why this is so important.

- 2Ti 2:16 But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 2Ti 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 2Ti 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

He warns “called-out ones” by presenting an example of a falsehood that was threatening them in that day. Is it any different for us today? There are pastors who now teach that Enoch is god. What's the difference? There are those teaching that Satan is an atonement or sin offering. What's the difference? If we study the WORD of ELOHIM “here a little, there a little”, can we read that Enoch is god, or that Satan is for an atonement or sin offering? No! This is what the Apostle is warning the Household of Faith against. Why? It is because these are false doctrine not given in the WORD of ELOHIM.

- 2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 2Ti 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 2Ti 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

Isn't the Apostle basically instructing the Household of Faith to purge itself from these vain teachings? What is a vain teaching? It is any teaching that we cannot read in ELOHIM's WORD.

I remember asking a sister years ago, who presented herself as being some form of minister, what is sin. She responded to me, "Baby, you know, it's when you do wrong". When I showed her ELOHIM's definition of sin given through the Apostle Yochanan (John) in 1 Yochanan 3:4, she simply said, okay, shrugged and moved on. It was of no apparent impact to her.

For the Household of Faith, made up of "called-out ones", our walks should not hold on to the vain teachings of this world. The Apostle continues.

- 2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2Ti 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

Now, the Apostle could be inferring here that the teaching about the resurrection already happening, was based on foolish and unlearned questions. And as such, as we continually learn how to individually study the WORD of ELOHIM, we have to also determine or discern what is foolish and unlearned issues not worthy of our time and effort.

Perhaps this is why the Apostle followed with the following statement.

- 2Ti 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, 2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 2Ti 2:26 And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Brothers and Sisters, this is why we study to show ourselves approved unto ELOHIM. These are probably the most important instructions given to guide our walks in terms of our bearing fruit. Let's first remember something on great importance to this.

- Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

“Called-out ones” are required to bear fruit. We remember the parable of the sower when the servant did not increase the fruit he had been given (Luke 19:11-26). In the discourse that sets the tone for tonight's study, the Apostle wrote that we must study to show ourselves approved. He then told us that we must be apt to teach. However, we cannot teach unless we study. Yet, he also instructed us to not strive, to be gentle to all, to be patient. YESHUA had this to say about HIS servants.

- Luk 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season? Luk 12:43 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Luk 12:44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Now here again we have to view these words in the context of “here a little and there a little”. Some may read these verses and determine that it only relates to the man, as the head of the household. But let us not forget what YAHWEH told us in the very beginning of mankind’s creation. The woman was created to be a “help meet for” the man. They were and are to become one flesh. Together, they rule over the household. Each has their position of being servants in bearing the proper fruit for the household and their communities.

- Luk 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

And this is what I wanted to get too. No matter what our roles in the Household of Faith, which is a type of our personal households, the more we are given, the more that is required. Let us not forget why we study. It is to show ourselves approved. When we die to our old selves, we live unto CHRIST.

- Luk 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Luk 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,
- Luk 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

You see Brothers and Sisters, the MESSIAH is quite clear on why and how important it is that we must study ELOHIM’s WORD. We must first develop a level of faith that we did not previously have. Faith involves trust.

Do we have the faith and trust, that as we begin to study and learn ELOHIM's WORD, we are willing to accept and live by everything we continue to learn out of the mouth of ELOHIM? We must count the cost.

The Apostle Peter gave us additional information on these costs.

- 1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 1Pe 4:16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

We have all faced trials and know that the possibility for greater trials lurk all about us. If we continue to do our due diligence, we develop the confidence that no matter what the trial is, we stand on solid ground, even when all those about us may not understand why we stand. The Apostle warns us what this all means.

- 1Pe 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

The House of ELOHIM, the Church, the Household of Faith, are all the same body. Its judgement is now. As YESHUA urged us to count the cost earlier, HE then followed those words with another warning we have read before.

- Luk 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? Luk 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Luk 12:51 **Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:** Luk 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. Luk 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

These are the words of YESHUA that diligent study should always resonate to each member of the Household of Faith. Again, YESHUA is all in all. We study to learn how to place HIM all in all in our walks.

Now we each study for different reasons. Sometimes its an immediate concern that needs our attention. Sometimes its simply to keep growing in our knowledge. There are perhaps other reasons. Well, the one thing we should desire in all our studying is to come to the knowledge of the truth. And this phrase, knowledge of the truth, occurs three times in ELOHIM's WORD. Each instance provides something different and worthwhile.

- 1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

This is an important result of individual study. Some of us may have heard that the Household of Faith should be careful not to pray for sinners. The Apostle here exhorts "called-out ones" to pray for all men. If we don't study for ourselves, we would not see how that, for whatever reason, the scripture was misquoted. It read as follows.

- Pro 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

As you can read, it is the person that turns from hearing the law, whose prayer is an abomination. Our studying tells us that YESHUA came to save the world. It further teaches us of a timetable for this process. Not all know this. Studying to show ourselves approved teaches us this.

- 1Ti 2:3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1Ti 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1Ti 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

This is the first instance of the phrase “the knowledge of the truth”. How do we know this? The Prophet Daniel told us that in the last days that knowledge would increase. Now, we but need to look up key words to study what ELOHIM has provided us on all subjects. If we utilize these tools, our knowledge will increase so that we are never deceived.

Here, we learn through study that ELOHIM desires “all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth”. We also learn that YEHSUA “gave HIMSELF a ransom for all”.

As we study, using the available tools, we read the second instance of this phrase, which teaches us of “the last days”.

- 2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

- 2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Isn't this so true of this modernity we live in, even though these acts of abominable acts have existed from the times of the reign of the beasts of the Prophet Daniel (specifically Greece and Rome). There are those who read ELOHIM's WORD constantly and teach that HIS Sabbaths are no longer applicable. Or, they teach that Enoch is god. They teach that one must speak in other tongues as the evidence of ELOHIM's Spirit. Many who claim to be students of scripture teach that ELOHIM loves all men, and as such, homosexuality is justified by ELOHIM's WORD.

I once heard a Hebrew Yisraelite confess that he liked to sleep around with different women. He also stated that because Samson, a man of ELOHIM, also slept around, he was justified in calling himself a man of ELOHIM. I immediately did my due diligence and searched ELOHIM's WORD only to discover that Samson is only documented to have slept with his wife, and then one other instance of sleeping with a harlot in his grief after the death of his wife. The women this person slept with are such as we read in verse 6. There are so many in modernity that read what they desire and conclude based on their own desires.

I.e., men now love themselves more than they love HE whom many claim to follow. However, it is the third and final instance of this phrase that should resonate to all the "called-out ones".

- Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This is a vital part of the recipe for being of the Household of Faith. Yet, we must be certain that our assembling is with the Household of Faith, and not just another assembly that appears to be ever learning, yet never coming to the knowledge of the truth. This is why we study.

- Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Obviously, this last instance we must all be careful of. What is our level of knowledge? Do we believe we have come to an acceptable receipt of the knowledge of the truth? If so, is there some important aspect of this knowledge that we may not be adhering to that we need to prayerfully seek help from above in order to accomplish. If so, and we do not study and put forth the appropriate efforts, we may have a problem. We must encourage one another towards the essence of our studying; to show ourselves approved. For if we have the knowledge of sin, we have a sufficient knowledge of what not to do. If we have also studied to obtain a sufficient knowledge of what to do, and yet decide to not do what we know is right to do, Brothers and Sisters, we have a problem.

This is why we count the cost. This is why YESHUA issued stern warnings to us about HIS expectations, if we commit to HIM.

As we grow in our understanding on why and how we must study, some other very familiar and important scriptures came to mind.

- Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

So, we are admonished to “put on the whole armor of ELOHIM”.

How do we do this? The Apostle first tells us why we need this.

- Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Remember, Satan quoted scripture as he tested YESHUA. He is allowed to use our surroundings to thwart us. This is why we are told to put on the whole armor.

- Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

So, what is “the whole armor of ELOHIM? Whatever it is, “called-out ones” have a serious need of it, to ensure that they are approved.

Well, first, as verse 14 informs us we must develop a desire and a willingness to stand girt about with truth. This is why we study, without fear of what we will find out.

Second, we put on the breastplate of righteousness. How do we do this? We study to know how ELOHIM defines righteousness, which we know that the Prophet King David has defined in ELOHIM’s WORD as “all HIS commandments”.

Did we somehow come to an understanding that HIS commandments ended with what was provided in the Old Covenant? We read earlier that when YAHWEH came as YESHUA, HE said that HIS words were spirit and life. So, our study informs us that HE was still in the commandment business when HE came. Why then would anyone claiming to be of the Household of Faith ignore, and so teach others to ignore, HIS words, which make the breastplate of righteousness more complete?

Third, we shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Do we walk in the knowledge of the truth we continually learn through our studying? We should be, at all costs.

Fourth, we take on the shield of faith, so that we will be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked. This is so important because we often are not prepared for the direction these fiery darts come from. Did Abraham know that his faith would be tested by being required to offer his son as a sacrifice? His faith and trust in YAHWEH quenched this fiery dart. Obviously, I am not saying YAHWEH was wicked. Yet, HE needed to see if this man had the faith and trust in HIM before YAHWEH would establish HIS covenant with him. Likewise, HE will allow us to be tested to assure we are indeed worthy of the love HE desires to give unto us.

Fifth, we take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, the WORD of ELOHIM. If we don't study for ourselves, how do we take these? Again, we are like wells without water.

Sixth, we pray with prayer and supplications in the Spirit. This takes study to know and learn how and what we should pray on. Why? Because the WORD of ELOHIM is also the Spirit. We also pray, allowing the Comforter to bring things back to our memories.

And finally, seventh, we must watch with all perseverance and supplication for fellow members of the Household of Faith.

This is how we “put on the whole armor of ELOHIM”. And as we read and meditate on this, we will see that these are seven elements of “the armor of ELOHIM”, presented to us that will create within each of us, and collectively within all “called-out ones”, a form of completeness and oneness, if we are continually studying ELOHIM’s WORD to show ourselves approved. None of this will be easy.

This week I experienced the negative side of the seventh point of this armor. I was truly upset and disappointed at something that seemed so simple to me, as a fellow Brother kept interjecting contradictory thoughts into our study of the principle of 1,000 years being a prophetic day. At one point this Brother stated that YAHWEH parted the Red Sea “in an instant”. I shared the scripture (Exodus 14:21) that shows that YAHWEH “caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided”. We went back and forth and admittedly; I became quite frustrated and didn’t do too well.

However, eventually I remembered the advice of one of my closest Brothers in the Household of Faith at this year’s Appointed Time. He said I must start with the basics, if I wanted others to see. You see, we want to accept that others whom we see at the Appointed Times show a level of diligence, and will be receptive and accept and understand the scriptures we provide. Yet we must remember that we all still remain in this body of flesh. I remembered this seventh aspect of putting on the whole armor. It is about being there for fellow Brethren, in spite of ourselves. And with that, I settled back and just kept quoting scripture, that this Brother has not been taught. Through prayer and supplications, I hope in time we will come to the desired oneness.

You see it takes some of us a little more time to understand some things. It took me over twenty years to begin to understand the 8th day of Tabernacles. Why?

Because some of us, like me, may have more garbage to rid ourselves of, while not quite understanding that we are full of garbage. We each need to let that one sink in. Or, perhaps we were not prepared to handle the new teaching. And so, this is what I will continue to do. Why?

First, as we each approach ELOHIM's WORD, we must always be prepared to accept that we may be wrong on a given subject. Second, we must be prepared to humbly change when scripture is clear that we were wrong. In the Household of Faith, this is a very difficult process, apparently. The following scriptures are important to our growth and understanding as we study.

- Isa 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. Isa 55:9 **For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.** Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

This is something we must remember, YAHWEH's thoughts are higher than our thoughts. This is why we must be humble as we approach HIS WORD. HE said HIS WORD shall not return to HIM void. When we don't accept what we are seeing, we interfere with this perfectly planned process HE has in place.

It is our faith that will allow us to trust that what we have been provided is the truth, if we continue to follow the process; "precept upon precept, here a little and there a little".

One of my Brothers wrote to me this week that “we should at least **learn the original languages of the bible; otherwise, we will just be going in circles on concepts that were not the intention of the original author. Word lookup is not enough.** For example, British and American speakers of English use totally different approaches to phrases, so that alone is challenge in the same language, not to mention Hebrew which has a totally different approach.”

When I read this, all I could do is shake my head. Why? Because if this is the way members of the Household of Faith approach ELOHIM’s WORD, we will never fulfill our commission, as YESHUA so desired; for HIS followers to become as one.

The Apostle Paul, in the midst of speaking about other languages and other issues, also spoke the following.

- 1Co 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

I have heard verse 9 quoted by many, especially when they are presented with a Biblical fact they have not previously known, or heard. Rather than accepting the fact as truth, verse 9 is quoted; totally out of context. Wherever they heard the quote, they did not receive, or was not told verse 10. All we have been given is the part. This is that part that we should “study to show ourselves approved”. We study the entire part that we have been given. The other part, which will make us perfect in our knowledge, will only come when YESHUA comes, and we are able to see HIM as HE is, because we will then be like HIM. A little later the Apostle also wrote.

- 1Co 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

As we continue our studies, remember this. We don't need to learn the original languages to understand the part we have been given. ELOHIM is not so vain as to not ensure that we have the tools to understand what each writer of scripture has provided to us.

Any belief that ELOHIM has not given us this part, is so confusing, and as such, our individual interpretations simply will always keep us from becoming as one. We refuse to accept that HE has not provided us the perfect part because of our arrogance, whether willful or in ignorance.

What does our continued studying inform us about our commissions?

- Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

A Sister recently identified her pastor as “the priest”. Do you see this included in the Household of Faith? No! During our previous studies we now know that in some manner, we are all teachers, right? Why did HE establish the Household of Faith in this manner?

- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Why would YESHUA allow HIS disciple to write this if it's only possible to become experts in Hebrew or Arabic? Before the Apostle wrote this, we all remember how that YESHUA prayed in the 17th chapter of Yochanan for the Household of Faith, those who would come to believe on HIM through the words of HIS apostles, to become one, as both HE and the FATHER are one. We in our continued humanity, make this a tall order. Yet, this is our commission. This is why we study.

- Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

If you know beyond a shadow of doubt that you have been and are being led by the Spirit of truth in what you believe, you are obligated to never stop seeking to edify your fellow saint, as you have opportunity. Your desire is for none of your fellow saints be tossed to and fro. There will be plenty of times that our Brothers and Sisters don't know that they are being tossed about to and fro. But we were told in 2 Timothy of our need to be patient with others.

This will not be easy. In fact, trying to teach fellow Brethren just may be the toughest acts in our walks, particularly if you are not in the pulpit. This is because once we learn some things, at times we fail to take those periodic steps backwards to remember the basics in order to continue our learning beyond those things.

This is why we must continually study to show ourselves approved. Imagine the prophets as they performed their commissions. Imagine the disciples who became apostles as they performed their commissions. Imagine all of those who have gone on before us who "put on the whole armor of ELOHIM". There was no doubt some frustrating moments as they worked to edify the COY and Household of Faith, respectively.

However, they immersed themselves in the WORD of ELOHIM. And this is what we must also do until we all "come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ".

As such, let's remember our basics on why there will always be a need for each of us to continually study to show ourselves approved.

- Mat 9:16 No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Mat 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

When we study the WORD of ELOHIM, we learn that YAHWEH in the flesh, YESHUA, requires our all. As such, we must forever strive to create cleaner/newer tabernacles, to rid ourselves, of ourselves and others who will hold us back. Remember, YESHUA said that we must hate ourselves for HIM. HE is referring to that old self that at times believes itself to be more intelligent than the written word.

Let's remember these words about the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter.

- Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.

It is the commission of the Comforter, to teach us all things and bring all things to our remembrance. If we don't follow the process by continuously falling backward to be broken, we fail to progress in our ability to be snared and taken. The Comforter is there to do what; to teach us ALL things. The Comforter is also there to bring ALL things to our remembrance.

However, we must be spiritually reasonable about this process. If we fail to clean out the old bottles, we continue to rely on ourselves.

The more we clean the old garment, the more we rid ourselves of self, and, the more internal space we create for the Comforter to work with us. The more we study ELOHIM's WORD, the greater our capacity to be taught ALL things by the Comforter. And yet, first, to have something to remember, we must seek. We close with this.

- Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The more we seek to put on the “whole armor”, that part that we have been given, the more we should realize our need to empty. As we improve through steady studying and emptying, studying and emptying, we become more complete in the full armor of ELOHIM. Our relationship with the Comforter grows. As we accept each other for what the Comforter has provided to each of us, our approval rating before ELOHIM rises. Our oneness assures that YAHWEH's WORD does not return to HIM void.

And through all the frustrations, trials and tribulations, it is our continued coming into the knowledge of the truth of the Kingdom of ELOHIM that will see us walk together, safely cross over these troubled waters of modernity.

Shalom Brothers and Sisters!!