

**Lesson No. 158 – For Righteousness Sake, Is It Cold, Hot or  
Lukewarm**

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As Sabbath keepers we often take comfort in the fact that we are assured through much study that we are indeed observing the weekly appointed time that was first commanded by YAHWEH to the Children of Yisrael (COY) for a memorial of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of ELOHIM's creation, in which ELOHIM "rested from all His work". Many have come to keep the appointed times given to the COY in Leviticus the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter because of an assurance that these appointed times have significant meanings for our daily and annual walk, as well as for our understanding of the major events prophesied of in the plan of salvation.

And more and more, as we look at ELOHIM's WORD, the more we are able to see that everything in it is connected. As such, we find ourselves being somewhat repetitive of many scriptures because each part is relative to the other parts. As we continue in our kingdom walk, we are challenged daily by outside influences that unintentionally or intentionally seek to knock us off of our paths. Sadly, at times we are unable to discern these influences, particularly when they are unintentional. Why, because the unintentional challenges often come at us through those we least suspect.

The Apostle Paul spoke these words to the called-out ones in Galatia.

- Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? Gal 5:8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you. Gal 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Gal 5:10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

These brethren were being hindered by Jewish brethren that sought to persuade them that even under the New Covenant, they still had need to shed their blood through physical circumcision. Do you think these persuaders did so in a deceitful manner? In verse 8 the Apostle called it a “persuasion”, and informed them that it came not of HIM that called them. This is a very overlooked statement, because we know who it was that called them. So, the Apostle Paul is informing them that this “persuasion” to be physically circumcised, after the shed blood of the LAMB of ELOHIM, came not from YAHSHUA.

Quite possibly, these Yehudans truly believed this was needed. We know fellow Hebrew brethren today who truly and continually believe in this teaching. The question is, why did or do they believe this, particularly if they believed in YAHSHUA. And furthermore, do they accept the Apostle’s conclusion that that teaching came not from YAHSHUA? Earlier, the Apostle had asked these “called out” Galatians some questions.

- Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the **truth**, before whose eyes YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** Gal 3:3 **Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?** Gal 3:4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain.

These were powerful and valid questions then, are even more so today in modernity. Here, Paul, who was once a chief Pharisee and proponent of physical circumcision, reminding them that they did not receive the Spirit by the works of the law. Consider what Spirit he is talking about: the Spirit of Truth, the WORD of ELOHIM. This truth he received from YAHSHUA, no doubt by way of the Spirit of Truth.

Well, if we believe we are not susceptible to these same type vanities, we deceive ourselves. And just when we think we are strong, we are made weak. How do we protect ourselves from these vanities?

We have read what YAHSHUA said to Yochanon the Baptist at HIS baptism, when HE came to the COY in the flesh, at the beginning of HIS ministry. Let's revisit this.

- Mat 3:13 Then cometh YAHSHUA from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. Mat 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? Mat 3:15 And **YAHSHUA answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him. Mat 3:16 And YAHSHUA, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and **he saw the Spirit of ELOHIM descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:** Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

What was this “Spirit of ELOHIM” that Yochanon saw descending as a dove and lighting upon YAHSHUA. Obviously, it wasn't YAHSHUA. Obviously, it wasn't the FATHER. It's pretty much the same as YAHSHUA's Apostles would experience on that great 50<sup>th</sup> day, the Feast of Weeks. Why are there so many differing opinions on what should be obvious to the Household of Faith?

In verse 15, YAHSHUA responded to Yochanon's assertion of unworthiness by saying i.e., let's do this to fulfil all righteousness. And in doing this act, the voice from the FATHER in heaven said that HE was well pleased with HIS SON. There are a couple of points of interest here. First, in this very act, YAHSHUA instituted water baptism as a commandment in associating this act with righteousness. YAHSHUA is establishing this as a spiritual requirement for the COY. In doing so, water baptism is now the central focus of any new convert to YAHWEH under the New Covenant.

Water baptism was now a commandment for every believer, including women, who under the Old Covenant had to almost totally rely upon their husbands and fathers. This is the beauty of the New Covenant. What if your husband was another Nabal, the fool? Now, because of the shed blood of the LAMB, wives have their individual access to ELOHIM through the actions of YAHSHUA, and not through their husbands, which is just one reason physical circumcision had to become irrelevant under the New Covenant.

A second point here is that in this very act, YAHSHUA established that the New Covenant would be based on not only the commandments HE gave to the COY, but on new commandments given by HIM now that HE, YAHWEH of ELOHIM, is come in the flesh. Why is this so important?

First, many who have immediate access to each one of us don't know that YAHWEH and YAHSHUA are one and the same. Thus, those of this group that claim to be Christians believe in a form of spirituality that is purported to be based on the New Covenant, when it is not. Second, there may be others connected to us that know this vital fact, and yet, based on their actions, follow YAHWEH's prophets more than they follow YAHSHUA and HIS apostles. Only when the apostles agree totally with the prophets do they accept the Apostles' writings as authoritative. They have been taught that scripture is ONLY the Old Covenant. There are others that know, yet allow and teach doctrines that are not scriptural, based on interpretations of so-called Jewish or Hebrew authorities. There are other factions that cross our paths.

Whether we know it or not, all those that are a part of our everyday walk, potentially influence our walk, and at times can intentionally or unintentionally impact how we walk. Today, the world in which we live is diversely evil.

In America we have a two-sided political system.

If we vote for any political candidate, we believe we are casting our ballots on the least evil influence on our communities and families. On one side, homosexuality is not tolerated, because of supposedly Biblical beliefs. Yet, adultery and fornication are accepted. Racism is accepted. On the other side, homosexuality is openly accepted. In our hearts we know that both options are led by the beast/kingdom which inherently follows Satan, which intentionally or unintentionally, neither are following the commandments of YAHWEH.

For each person who believes in and desires to walk in the teachings of YAHSHUA, the world all around us presents particular challenges the more we read ELOHIM's WORD. Where does that leave us as we strive to discern our spiritual walk?

At its core essence, the most profound spiritual advice I have received was to always "follow the trunk"; which is HAMASHIAC, which is why it is worthy of my constantly repeating it. We all need to reconcile our walk with spirit that impacts our everyday lives to our desired walk with HAMASHIAC. This is why I want to once again discuss tonight's Lesson No. 158 – For Righteousness Sake, Is It Cold, Hot or Lukewarm.

Well, if YAHSHUA is truly at the center of our conviction, we must start with HIM. YAHSHUA allowed HIMSELF to be baptized by Yochanon to fulfil all righteousness. We know that ELOHIM, both FATHER and the SON, expect those drawn to YAHSHUA to strive to be perfect; for the scripture says; " Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Mat 5:48).

So, the question for YAHSHUA's followers is, are they walking for righteousness sakes? Or, are they confused about whether or not they are cold, hot, or lukewarm? ELOHIM's WORD suggests that the COY were very confused about this, constantly playing the harlot with other nations.

Are we confused?

Living in these last days, many of us have great jobs, and compared to many in this world, life in general is not bad. Yet, we read this.

- Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

This is the plea to YAHSHUA's followers throughout ELOHIM's WORD.

- Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and ELOHIM hath remembered her iniquities.
- Rev 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Rev 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord ELOHIM who judgeth her. Rev 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. Rev 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: Rev 18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, Rev 18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. Rev 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

This is the world all about us in which ELOHIM's people are told to come out of. To do this we must be on guard night and day. To do this, decisions must be made. Questions must be answered, such as. What is our true conviction? Whatever it is, I am sure we all pray that our convictions have not led us to be lukewarm.

Let's look back at this so that we remained totally clear regarding our own conviction.

- Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: **I would thou wert cold or hot.** Rev 3:16 So then **because thou art lukewarm,** and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

YAHSHUA would rather that the members of the Household of Faith all be cold or hot, and never lukewarm. For if we are lukewarm, HE will spue us out of HIS mouth. What does that mean?

The word lukewarm is translated from the Greek word "chliaros", which means to be tepid, unenthusiastic. So, if we are tepid and unenthusiastic about our calling and being led by the Spirit of Truth, HE will spue us out of HIS mouth. I.e., HE will no longer be our COMFORTER and intercessor, speaking for us before the FATHER.

The Greek word spue is "emeo", which means to vomit or spit. This can only mean one's utter separation from YAHSHUA which leads to the ultimate destruction. Isn't this similar to another New Covenant protocol that many Hebrew Brethren simply refuse to accept?

- Joh 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. YAHSHUA answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

- Joh 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. Joh 13:14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

Is there really any difference between “I will spue thee out of my mouth”, and “if I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me”? Perhaps these Hebrew Brethren simply do not understand that by Brothers and Sisters doing what HAMASHIAC commanded HIS disciples, it is as though HAMASHIAC HIMSELF is washing our feet, cleansing us each Passover. And sadly, this lack of belief in HAMASHIAC’s own words is a representation of the spirit of being lukewarm at its very core.

How does one become lukewarm in the first place? In life we call it many things, like straddling the fence; like seeing both sides yet refusing to choose a side. Being lukewarm in a spiritual context means having knowledge and choosing to play both sides. The Apostle Paul spoke on this.

- Heb 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of ELOHIM, and the powers of the world to come, Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of ELOHIM afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

These were once hot, they were enlightened, they were convicted, they understood the plan of salvation. Yet, they looked back, like Lot’s wife. Someone planted a seed of tares which through the lack of faith uprooted their knowledge. They became lukewarm.

- Heb 6:7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from ELOHIM: Heb 6:8 But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned.



YAHSHUA gave us an important blueprint.

- Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.

This person had been given a talent, yet refused to allow his light to shine. He knew he had the talent and hid it rather than allowed it to grow.

- Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Mat 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Mat 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

This talent was given by ELOHIM. When we recognize the talent, it is meant to grow. The more we grow, the more we eliminate the space in our lives for vanity to creep in. We fill up on righteousness. We began to become more perfect. If we don't grow, we become lukewarm and allow false doctrines to replace the truth we once knew. We then lose our invitation.

- Mat 25:30 And **cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

This is why we are over and over are admonished to endure until the end. This is why we are admonished to grow together into one house.

This is why we are told that a divided house cannot stand. This is why we cannot be fearful, as the one talent servant was. We must strive to walk in full confidence in YAHSHUA, not in man. This walk requires patience and yet due diligence.

- Luk 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning; Luk 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Luk 12:37 Blessed *are* those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. Luk 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. Luk 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Luk 12:40 **Be ye therefore ready also:** for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Luk 12:41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

Peter seemed to be the bold one. He wanted to know. Just break it down. We are supposed to come boldly unto the throne.

- 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.**

This is why we must always remain hot, after we have been given our talents through the Spirit of Truth.

- Luk 12:45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

Through a lack of patience, this servant became lukewarm.

- Luk 12:46 The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. Luk 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. 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.

Yes, the path to perfection can also get a little hot in a negative way. Think about it, we are supposed to be like the trees. A tree that no longer grows leaves and fruit, is essentially dead. We are supposed to be the “salt of the earth”. Yet, if our salt has lost its flavor, the scripture says “it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”.

So, this walk is not easy. Yet, if we continually train our eyes to focus on the strait and narrow path, we will be successful. Each week we are learning of how much ELOHIM has provided to us about how to become perfect.

In the context of spiritual dualism, we know that ELOHIM’s WORD instructs us to fear both mothers and fathers. Think about it for a moment. In each household, this is the beginning of perfection. Boys would be trained how to become men by their fathers. Girls would learn how to become women by their mothers. Our communities would grow in the spirit of YAHWEH’s righteousness. Instead of a being a community with 70% of the households led by women, we would have stability. Crime would be the exception, and not the rule.

Each of us must consider, am I contributing to the confusion? After detailing the witnesses of faith, the Apostle Paul said the following.

- Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us**, Heb 12:2 looking unto YAHSHUA the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of ELOHIM.

This was the advice I was given by my European Brother in the faith. Does it matter that he was a European gentile? Many of my Hebrew brethren believe so, yet even they refuse to truly look unto YAHSHUA.

- Heb 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Heb 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, ELOHIM dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- Heb 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; Heb 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Let's think for a second here. What is one of the key symbolic attributes of being chastened?

- Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

We have to be extremely careful not to differentiate or discern our humanly desires to be rich with the comforts of this world and our kingdom walk. Remember, to whom much is given, much is required. YAHSHUA here links fire with chastening from above. Let's consider this gold tried in the fire that YAHSHUA said we should purchase, that is far more valuable than the riches and increased goods of this world.

Gold is the most precious metal on the earth. It can only be refined by fire. Fire is either a devourer or a refiner. We must discern between the devouring fire and the refining fire.

- Isa 30:25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers *and* streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Isa 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that YAHWEH bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

- Isa 30:27 Behold, **the name of YAHWEH cometh from far, burning with his anger**, and the burden *thereof is* heavy: **his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire**: Isa 30:28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and *there shall be* a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing *them* to err. Isa 30:29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night *when* a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of YAHWEH, to the mighty One of Israel. Isa 30:30 And YAHWEH shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and **shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire**, *with* scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

The Prophet Isaiah likens the tongue of YAHWEH as a devouring fire to all His enemies. The gold we purchase must be tried in the fire. Look at what David said about YAHWEH's word.

- 2Sa 22:31 *As for* ELOHIM, his way *is* perfect; the word of YAHWEH *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him. 2Sa 22:32 For who *is* ELOHIM, save YAHWEH? and who *is* a rock, save our ELOHIM? 2Sa 22:33 ELOHIM *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect.

ELOHIM's way is perfect and the WORD of YAHWEH is tried. The Prophet Malachi prepared us for this gold to be purchased.

- Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and YAHWEH, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith YAHWEH of hosts. Mal 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

- Mal 3:3 And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto YAHWEH an offering in righteousness.

HIS appearance was to be like a refiner's fire. So, if HE is the refiner, and also said to be a consuming fire, HIS words have been tried in the fire from above. The word of YAHWEH is mentioned throughout the Old Covenant. Let's look how YAHWEH revealed HIMSELF to Samuel.

- 1Sa 3:21 And YAHWEH appeared again in Shiloh: for YAHWEH revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of YAHWEH.

Next let's look at how Balaam spoke to Balak. Remember, it was Balaam who spoke to the donkey.

- Num 22:17 For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people. Num 22:18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, **I cannot go beyond the word of YAHWEH my ELOHIM, to do less or more.**

The gold Balak offered had not been tried by fire. Balaam made it plain as a lesson for all generations to come. He was convicted to not go beyond the word of YAHWEH his ELOHIM. And this is how it must be for all who would be hot, rather than cold or lukewarm. The entire Bible, whether Old Covenant or New Covenant has made this very clear.

- Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with ELOHIM, and the Word was ELOHIM. Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with ELOHIM. Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Again, throughout the Old Covenant the COY were led by the “word of YAHWEH”. HIS disciples, who became HIS apostles recognized exactly who HE was. HE was the WORD. HE would speak plainly to HIS disciples.

- Joh 6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 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.

This is the gold tried by fire, the word of YAHWEH, now YAHSHUA. And this is what all HIS apostles taught.

- 1Pe 1:24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 1Pe 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Now, we today live and exist during the times of the New Covenant, brought to us by YAHWEH, come in the flesh in the FATHER’s name, YAHSHUA.

- Joh 5:43 **I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:** if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. Joh 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from ELOHIM only? Joh 5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. Joh 5:46 **For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.** Joh 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Somehow, the COY stopped growing and believing. The Sabbaths and holy days became rituals.



Sadly, even today many perform these same rituals in YAHSHUA's name, yet refuse to grow with YAHSHUA's words of the New Covenant. These have not considered fully what it means to be cold, hot or lukewarm. For an example.

There are those who believe that the New Covenant changes nothing from the Old Covenant. Knowing that YAHSHUA is YAHWEH, or as some call Him, Jehovah, they site the following 2 scriptures.

- Mal 3:6 For I *am* YAHWEH, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
- Heb 13:8 YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

If we are to be like Balaam, and not go beyond the word of YAHWEH, no more, no less, we must allow what YAHSHUA has spoken to give us discernment and not man. Because of these 2 scriptures, many teach that this means all of the laws of the Old Covenant, except for the sacrificial law, remain in force. And as such, there are no new laws under the New Covenant. Thus, the instructions to YAHSHUA's disciples to follow HIS example of foot washing is not a commandment. And, the physical circumcision commandment remains.

However, if we believe that we are amongst YAHSHUA's "called out ones" we need to do what? We need to "Study to show ourselves approved". So, let's look at the first scripture in Malachi. The COY were consistently admonished to repent, to return and accept the mercies of ELOHIM.

Here YAHWEH is saying to the COY that because He doesn't change, they are not consumed. The question that must be considered is what is it that did not change with YAHWEH that allowed the COY to not be consumed? Rather than interpret, let's allow the context of the statement to minister unto us.

- Mal 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. **Return unto me, and I will return unto you,** saith YAHWEH of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

So, YAHWEH reminds the COY that they have not abided by HIS ordinances given to their fathers. He then says to them. “Return unto me, and I will return unto you”. Isn’t this familiar to us? Remember our study into the first usage of the repent. It meant to return to YAHWEH and HIS commandments.

- Mal 3:8 Will a man rob ELOHIM? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Mal 3:9 Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith YAHWEH of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Tithes and offerings are generally considered to be money; however, it may also entail other offerings such as the giving of ourselves and our spiritual gifts to the poor, the widows, and to the household of faith. Notice what the reward is for their giving.

- Mal 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith YAHWEH of hosts. Mal 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith YAHWEH of hosts.

Isn’t this the same promise the COY were given in the beginning of the Old Covenant?

For obedience, they would be a peculiar people, a holy people, and all the other nations would see the blessings bestowed upon them by YAHWEH. YAHWEH would be their protector.

- Mal 3:16 Then they that feared YAHWEH spake often one to another: and YAHWEH hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared YAHWEH, and that thought upon his name. Mal 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith YAHWEH of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Mal 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth ELOHIM and him that serveth him not.

So, we see that what happened was that YAHWEH never changed HIS promise to forgive and protect the COY if they returned to HIM in righteousness. This promise remains, even unto this day. It does not mean that there would not be anything new when HIS New Covenant would be given.

Secondly, when the writer of Hebrews says that YAHSHUA is “the same yesterday, today and tomorrow”, isn’t this the same concept, knowing that YAHSHUA and YAHWEH are one and the same?

- Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. Heb 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Heb 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Heb 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers ELOHIM will judge. Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, the Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of ELOHIM: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

As we read through these verses, haven't we learned that the 2nd great commandment is love, given in the past to the COY, also given to us today, and will stand forever? Didn't the Apostle Peter testify that YAHSHUA's words endure forever, from one age to another? Verses 1 to 6 simply echo that 2<sup>nd</sup> great commandment we learned about last week. Verse 6 is simply a reminder of what Malachi spoke, YAHSHUA's promises stand yesterday, today and forever. Those that rule over us in verse 7 are those that speak YAHSHUA's words to us, who in faith, we are to follow, beginning with the Apostles. In this context verse 8 says: "YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC the same yesterday, and today, and forever".

How can the COY of today openly assert their disagreement with the servants ordained by YAHWEH/YAHSHUA HIMSELF to teach us the New Covenant? YAHSHUA must be our foundation. HIS word, and only HIS word, must be our foundation. Now, in recognizing this, we need to further discern something of utmost importance.

- Mat 22:1 And YAHSHUA answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

The King is the FATHER. YAHSHUA is the SON.

- Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Mat 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage.

As we read these scriptures, who was first bidden, or invited, to the wedding? Was it not the COY?

- Mat 22:5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: Mat 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*.

These servants that were treated spitefully were the prophets and the apostles, and those that walked with them.

- Mat 22:7 But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Who do you think the King's armies were? Notice verse 7 says their city was burned up. This in fact is what happened in 70AD by the Romans.

- Mat 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Mat 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. Mat 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. Mat 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: Mat 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Mat 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

Let's fully understand this parable.

The parable offers three different sets of servants being sent out to invite man to the Son's wedding. The first invitation in verse 3 was sent by the prophets to the COY. They "would not come". The second invitation was sent by the apostles. Remember this.

- Mat 10:5 These twelve YAHSHUA sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: Mat 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Mat 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The disciples were first sent only to the COY. Verse 5 and 6 of chapter 22 shows that they not only rejected the invitation, they also treated the disciples spitefully and killed some of them. As we read through the text of the books of the New Covenant, this prophecy is clearly documented.

In verse 7 we see that the FATHER in heaven "was wroth" with anger and sent forth His armies to destroy and burn up their city. What city? History documents that the armies of Rome, the 4<sup>th</sup> beast, destroyed Yerushalaim in 70AD. The Romans killed thousands of Yehudans, the remnant which remained primarily of the House of Yehuda after being taken away by Babylon.

In verse 8, we are told that the COY were not worthy. So, in verse 9 HE sent HIS servants, beginning with the Apostles Peter and Paul, into the highways to invite others. They were to invite the good and the bad. Who are these? There are those who know have a spirit of right from wrong, yet know not YAHWEH's commandments. And, there are those who don't have this spirit of right from wrong. A prime example of the bad would be the Apostle Paul himself, who prior to his invitation, was a murderer! He was cold at that time, not lukewarm.

This is what is in process even as we live today.

The servants in verse 10 are all YAHSHUA's Apostles and those who were called out and chosen through to bring the New Covenant from 70 AD until the end of the Millennium. Why do I say this? We know that up until the millennium, only those who were called and chosen will enter into YAHSHUA's Kingdom. At the end of this 1,000-year period, the following will happen.

- Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before ELOHIM; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is when both the good and the bad, that were not called and chosen and a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection, were invited. This is why HE said HE would rather we be cold or hot. The cold and the hot still have an opportunity for salvation. The lukewarm stand on shaky sand. And notice what happened next.

- Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from ELOHIM out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of ELOHIM *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and ELOHIM himself shall be with them, *and be* their ELOHIM.

- Rev 21:4 And ELOHIM shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his ELOHIM, and he shall be my son. Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

As we noted, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection, they invited the good and the bad. Why? Because these represent what I believe to be the cold. Even though the COY were destroyed physically, they were not destroyed spiritually. They had a promise that still stands. They were primarily ignorant, and like all others they will be purged.

For us, the trials we are encountering is for our endurance. We all know that nothing we are bearing is more than we can handle. Why? Because YAHSHUA's word spoken by HIS Apostle Paul says it.

- 1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but ELOHIM *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Then HIS word, spoken by HIS Apostle Peter says this.

- 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 HAMASHIAC'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 HAMASHIAC, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of ELOHIM 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 ELOHIM on this behalf. 1Pe 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of ELOHIM: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of ELOHIM? 1Pe 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of ELOHIM commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

It is up to each of us to make our calling and election sure. Verse 17 lets us know that those being called and chosen now are those servants spoken of in Mathew 22:9-10. Verse 17 also represents the duality of scripture. Remember, the COY were the church in the wilderness. They were given a name that represented ELOHIM. Of those living during the Old Covenant, judgement will begin with them.

We know that the following prophecy must be fulfilled.

- Eze 20:33 As I live, saith YAHWEH ELOHIM, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: Eze 20:34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. Eze 20:35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Eze 20:36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith YAHWEH ELOHIM.

- Eze 20:37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: Eze 20:38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* YAHWEH.

Whether we are cold, hot, or lukewarm, we all shall come under some form of rod at a time chosen for each of us. The reward for the lukewarm is established. The reward for the cold and the hot is yet to be determined. For the hot, those being “called out” during this New Covenant age, we have been told over and over that we must “endure until the end”. As such, our judgement is upon us until the end. The purging of the “called out ones” is session today.

Mathew 22:11-13 reminds each of us that our garments must be cleansed. We can only be cleansed by the precious blood of the LAMB of ELOHIM. We cannot be cleansed by our own blood, or the blood of animals. The cleansing by YAHSHUA’s blood leads us to a continuing greater understanding of HIS words, as told to us by the prophets and the apostles.

- Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of ELOHIM; Eph 2:20 And **are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC himself being the chief corner** stone; Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of ELOHIM through the Spirit.

I believe that each of us in the process of joining others that have chosen YAHSHUA’s words as our guide to salvation. We have chosen to be hot. If so, we are surrounded by various forms of fire that will try us as long as we are in these earthly tabernacles.

After a long summer, this is obviously why we have the Feast of Tabernacles to look forward to. Seven days of stepping away and reinvigorating ourselves in the Spirit of YAHSHUA; remembering that we still exist during these seven days in these physical tabernacles, before observing that bonus day, the eighth day of Tabernacles, looking forward to another form of tabernacles that are awaiting us, that is if we remain hot.

We know that the righteousness of YAHWEH is in all of His commandments.

- Psa 119:172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness. Psa 119:173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. Psa 119:174 I have longed for thy salvation, O YAHWEH; and thy law *is* my delight. Psa 119:175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. Psa 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

We love to quote “for all thy commandments are righteousness”. Yet we sometimes fail to recognize that David also said: “my tongue shall speak of thy word”, and in so doing, we fail to recognize that all of YAHWEH’s words “are spirit and they are life”. We read this earlier.

- Joh 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. YAHSHUA answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

If we fail to accept HIS words to Peter, and so teach others to do the same, we are like the COY, we reject YAHSHUA’s invitation.

- Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, HAMASHIAC shall profit you nothing. Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

- Gal 5:4 HAMASHIAC is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

If we fail to accept that the apostles' words were given by YAHWEH, and so teach others to do the same, we reject YAHSHUA's invitation.

This year, the Household of Faith is being tested, perhaps like none other before. We have read the prophecies of impending events that will be like none before them. Now, we have events that are testing each of us. This is not a message of condemnation. However, it is a lesson about our spiritual stamina. Each member of the Household of Faith has been drawn, called and chosen to train for spiritual leadership. As we face the events of modernity 2020, are we allowing ourselves to once again return to being cold; for if we are, we are becoming lukewarm. And, you see, this simply is not a viable option for us.

We each have steeped out of the realm of the cold, once we repented years ago and were buried with HAMASHIAC in baptism. HE now is our PASSOVER. We were given our talents. Now, the only question for each of us is whether or not we are lukewarm and tepid, or hot.

Are we beaming with the anticipation of the upcoming appointed times, in spite of the worldwide efforts to thwart us? Have we grown any spiritually between the last appointed time and now? How will we appear before ELOHIM on the Memorial of the Blowing of Trumpets? How will we afflict our souls on the Day of Atonement? What will be our offering before ELOHIM for each of the commanded eight days of tabernacling this year?

Will our obstacles overcome or overwhelm us? Or, will we be hot and continually growing and bathing in the "consuming fire" of YAHSHUA HAMASHIAC's words??

So, together, let us not allow anything, whether it be our own vanities, or any other spirit, to defraud us of our ultimate goal, to see HAMASHIAC.

YAHSHUA said that HE wishes that we are cold or hot, never lukewarm. We have focused on our becoming and maintaining our being hot. But what if we are cold. To be cold is the opposite of being hot. We lack an understanding. And because of that, members of the household of Faith are not held responsible for being cold.

However, we cannot allow that to shape our walk once we are committed to YAHSHUA. We must continue to grow. It's just that some of us will grow at faster and even more productive rates than others. And yet, there may some areas that we remain cold in.

So, let each of us continually allow YAHSHUA in to sup with us. And let us never forget to follow YAHSHUA, and not man! As we accomplish this, we can be assured that we are not lukewarm, and walking diligently towards the goal of becoming on fire for the WORD of ELOHIM!

Shalom!