

IN THIS CORNER- RAV SHAUL!

**By Rabbi Edward Levi Nydle
B'nai Avraham**

...as also our beloved brother (*chaver*)Rav Shaul wrote to you, according to the wisdom(*chokmah*) given to him, as also in his letters, speaking in them concerning these matters, in which some are hard to understand (*lomdish*) , which those who are UNTAUGHT and UNSTABLE, TWIST to their own destruction (*churban*), as they do OTHER Scriptures. (**2 Kepha (Peter) 3:15b-16**)

Kepha (Peter) in his second letter to the early talmidim of our Master Yahshua writes to the set-apart ones that Rav Shaul (Paul) has been given great wisdom by YHWH and because of that deep wisdom he possesses, his letters to the assemblies are challenging and very difficult to comprehend by the common readers. The brethren "wrestle" or twist, wrest, to torture, his deeper writings to their own DESTRUCTION because they are uneducated in the Hebrew Scriptures (TaNaK) and volatile or unsteadfast in all their ways. This statement by Kepha crowns Rav Shaul the "wrestling champion" of the religious world!

The Church System and its so-called learned churchmen have twisted and distorted Shaul's teachings and letters in order to make him appear as a modern-day graduate of a Baptist Seminary! Shaul is presented as an antinomian, pig-eating, Xmass and Ishtar keeper, and SUNday keeping "Christian" called "Paulos" that had knowledge of and taught from the so-called "New Testament" that replaced the "Old One"!

In truth, Rav Shaul was a Torah observant Pharisee who kept the law perfectly and believed Yahshua from Nazareth was the Messiah to all Yisrael. He kept "kosher", worshipped on the Shabbat, kept the Feasts of Yahweh, laws of ritual purity,wore fringes, tefillin, and a headcovering.His letters were probably in Hebrew or Aramaic originally and then translated into Greek later.

Those who hate the Torah perceive his statements concerning "the law" (Torah is not law but instruction or teaching) and twist them to look as if like he was against Believers in Yahshua keeping the Torah. This is just the contrary to what he really wrote and meant in his letters.

However, Shaul was against the idea of a hypocritical legalistic observance of Torah, as the Pharisees did, in order to be seen of men and to gain acceptance with Yahweh. He knew salvation was by the favor (grace) of Yahweh through Yahshua and that it was a free gift (just as the Torah also taught). Shaul also believed that the Torah was the righteous walk of the Believer AFTER his salvation experience! Rav Shaul believe that Ephraimites should keep the "oral law" or customs of the rabbis all at once. They were to be taught the four basic laws according to Acts 15 that would allow them to fellowship with their Yehudim brethren, and then they were to attend synagogue on every Shabbat to learn more of the Torah.His greatest desire was to see Judah and Ephraim together at the table for fellowship in the congregations.

For this desire he "caught it" from both sides! Read some of the following Scriptures on your own and grasp that he was not against Torah observance:

- Acts 16; Acts 18; Acts 21; Acts 24; Acts 28; Romans 3:31; Romans 6:15; Romans 7:7,12,14,22; Romans 8:4; 1 Cor. 5: 7-8; 1 Tim. 1: 8-10; 2 Tim. 3: 16

Yes, Rav Shaul taught that we are not "saved" by the "works" of the law and that we are not "under" the law. Yisrael NEVER WAS under the law nor supposed to earn their salvation! It has ALWAYS BEEN GRACE since the *Gan Eden* that a man is delivered from his sins! But this freedom from sin does NOT FREE us to live any way we so choose! It never did nor will it ever! Yahweh has always had commandments for man to obey as a redeemed life-style for the elect. He gave us His commandments to KEEP US from sin and to teach us how one should live out his salvation.

Kepha was right, the untaught and the unstable have twisted Shaul's letters for centuries to their own destruction on the *Yom HaDin* (judgment). Rebbe Melek Yahshua will tell them that they must be cast from His presence because of their "lawless" teachings (Matt. 7: **21-23**). Please do not be a "wrestler" of the letters and try to take on Rav Shaul-he'll pin you to the mat every time!

May Yahweh bless your understanding of the Scriptures

Rabbi Edward Levi Nydle B'nai Avraham
Updated 3-03

