

Mennonite Brethren: Our Heart Condition

Most Christians today believe that the Mosaic Commandments are burdensome, have passed away, or are even contrary to what the Spirit says. Nothing can be farther from the Truth!

It is quite clear from the Scriptures that the Father wants us to keep His Commandments. It is also very clear that obedience to the Mosaic Law brings great physical and spiritual blessing. So the common understanding that the Law was a burdensome obligation, performed by tedious repetition is surely wrong. The law is not something we that have to do. We should want to keep the Commandments out of a desire to please the Father and be blessed by Him.

A miracle is happening right before our eyes! The prophecies concerning the outpouring of the Spirit that had their initial fulfillment in the Book of Acts are now coming into their latter day completion. Hearts are being miraculously changed as the Israelite people are awakened and released from centuries of spiritual captivity. For as it is written in Yehezqel (Ezek.) 36:24, 26,27:

“I shall take you from among the gentiles, and I shall gather you out of all lands..... And I shall give you **a new heart** and put **a new spirit** within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I shall give you **a heart of flesh**, and put My Spirit within you. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them.”

Brethren, if we think back to the time when the Commandments were first given, it is obvious that heartfelt obedience was required from the outset. Hear the words of Moshe recorded in D’varim (Deut.) 32:46-47:

“Take to **heart** all the words which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to do, all the words of this Law. For it is not an idle word for you; indeed **it is your life.**”

We know from the Scriptures and history that this did not happen. Except for isolated times, the tribes of Israel never took the Commandments to heart, and rarely understood how their well-being was at stake.... that the Law was their life. In Tehillim (Psa.) 81:11-13 we read:

“But My people did not listen to My voice; and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the **stubbornness of their heart**, to walk in **their own devices**. Oh that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in my ways!”

“Gave them over” is so poignant. Because we refused to keep the commandments and be blessed by them, Yahovah gave us over to obey our own hearts. Now we believe what our own hearts tell us instead of the Word that came from Yahovah. We genuinely believe that the Mosaic Laws are no longer valid, that

they are burdensome, and even un-spiritual. It is a **heart-condition** in the truest sense. But what does it say in Yirmeyahu (Jer.) 17:9:

“The **heart** is deceitful above all, and desperately sick - who shall know it?”

This heart-condition is the bondage of Israel and especially the Mennonite people who are so sincere, and genuine, and zealous. We are ‘all heart’ so to speak. We never consider that we must not trust our own understanding or thoughts or feelings. We never comprehend that our ways are not His ways. It is impossible for us to do that because we believe so sincerely in what our hearts tell us. This is our captivity.

“And now, Israel, what does YHWH your Elohim require from you, but to fear YHWH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve YHWH your Elohim with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** to keep YHWH’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?... Circumcise then **your heart**, and stiffen your neck no more” (D’varim 10:12-16, abridged).

A test of whether or not we have ‘circumcised’ our hearts (our heart of stone has been removed) is in how we read certain passages in the Scriptures. For example, Yohanan 15:10:

“If you guard My commands, you shall stay in My love, even as I have guarded My Father’s commands and stay in His love.”

And as Yeshua said in Mattithyahu 5:19 & 48:

“Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens; but whoever does and teaches them, shall be called great in the reign of the heavens.”

“Therefore, be perfect, as your Father in the heavens is perfect.”

Yeshua the Messiah kept His Father’s (Yahovah’s) commandments perfectly and expects us to do the same. If we receive these words with gladness, then our hearts are circumcised. If we twist His words to mean something else, then our heart of stone is still there. We still think that what Moshe said is of little value, not for us, or done away with. We still have a **heart condition**.

My brethren, the great end-time miracle is that Yahovah is putting a new heart and a new spirit into the so-called ‘lost tribes of Israel.’ Many Israelites are returning to the commandments that Moshe delivered to our people, and witnessing to the Father’s eternal faithfulness to Israel. This is in accordance with what Moshe prophesied in D’varim 30:1-3,6,8 and the end-time witness in Revelation 14:12:

“And it shall be, when all these words come upon you, the blessing and the

curse which I have set before you, and you shall bring them back to **your heart** among all the gentiles where YHWH your Elohim drives you, and shall turn back to YHWH your Elohim and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, with **all your heart** and **all your being**, you and your children, then YHWH your Elohim shall turn back you captivity, and shall have compassion on you, and He shall turn back and gather you from all the peoples where YHWH your Elohim has scattered you..... And YHWH your Elohim shall circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love YHWH your Elohim with **all your heart** and **all your being**, so that you might live,.... And you shall turn back and obey the voice of YHWH and do all His commands which I command you today.”

“Here is the endurance of the set-apart ones, here are those who keep the commandments of YHWH and their faith in Yeshua.”

Mennonite brethren, it is the desire of Yeshua Messiah to release us from the captivity of our own heart. Yeshua wants us to listen to Him instead of our own thoughts and feelings. He wants to give us a new heart and put a new spirit within us. He wants us to keep His Father’s commandments with all our heart and all our soul. In the stubbornness of our own hearts, we may want to reject this. But what did Yeshua Messiah say in Yohanan 5:47:

“If you do not believe his (Moshe’s) writings, how shall you believe My words?”

In conclusion, dear brethren, let me assure you that the Mosaic Law is not burdensome. (Nor has it passed away or is it contrary to the Spirit.) In this we have both the testimony of Moshe (D’varim 30:11) and Yeshua Messiah (Matt. 11:30):

“For this command which I am commanding you today is not too hard for you.”

“For My yoke is gentle, and My burden is light.”

May Yahovah, the Elohim of Israel, and Yeshua Messiah remove our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh. The day has come.

Ahava in Yeshua

Avraham ben Gad

“Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people” (D’varim 4:6)

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