

Israel and the Gentiles are one in Jesus Christ!

Are you a believer in Jesus/Yeshua? Are you the posterity of the Apostles of Messiah, believing that Jesus came to save sinners (1 Tim. 1.15)? Then know for sure

God the Father sent His Son timely into the world to save all of us through the Cross of Calvary. We all were then in need of one perfect blood sacrifice and so that our sins could be atoned for the proper way.

Our New Covenantal Salvation therefore hinges on Messiah as Suffering Servant of God (Isa 53) and complete spiritual renewal brought near to us in and through the Son of God's obedience. For this reason He, at the appropriate time, came to His prepared tabernacle and so that He, Jesus/Yeshua, the living force/fountain of life (Pro. 8.35 1 Cor. 1.24; Mic. 5.2; Mal. 3.1), could be clothed with humanity/with a human body (Phil. 2) and so that He, as Son of man, could perfect His Father's will (Jn 6, 8, 10). Only complete spiritual renewal can, to this day, make sinful man whole/acceptable in the sight of God.

Therefore not our works - virtuous works will naturally flow from the hearts and minds of blood-washed children of God! But our boasting can never be in works for it was through the grace of God - who had given us His precious Son from the heavenlies - that we are saved (Ps 40.6-9). And because sinful man can never approach God without a blood sacrifice, even to this day, we overflow with joy as Jesus/Yeshua has, after His resurrection, received the office of High Priest interceding for His own and so that we can receive the one and only true God's blessing (Jn 3.16; Heb. 7, 8.9.10).

We can therefore only approach God the Father in and through Jesus/Yeshua : "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything , in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMaschiach (Eph. 5.19-20). Therefore the blood-washed (!) are now - i.e. collectively - reflecting from their midst the radiance of the true tabernacle of God, i.e. according to Paul: " In him (Jesus/Yeshua) the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him (Jesus/Yeshua) you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit (God's very own Spirit) (Eph. 2.21-22).

As believing Jews and Gentiles, we are then one in Him (Jesus/Yeshua) bound together by the blood cord of Calvary!

For this reason I would like to again quote from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians as it was in Ephesus where the faith was endangered by false teachers, many who also came from a Jewish pagan background. Some of those believers had been proselytes who later accepted Jesus (Yeshua) as Messiah. It was also in Ephesus where the Apostle Paul's "son in Christ", Timothy, was acting as apostolic appointed elder (an elder was not necessarily one who was regarded as old in years but experience in the Lord was a necessity, also the anointing of God's Spirit. And these prerequisites Timothy clearly had and especially pertaining to his personal training by the Apostle himself.

Paul then, for a definite reason, assigned Ephesus to Timothy's care - it is said that his father was Roman and his mother, as we can gather from the Pauline letters, a Jewess. Timothy was then well acquainted with Jewish customs and observance as well as with the Roman laws and if his father was indeed an officer in the Roman army, he also would have enjoyed the much prized Roman citizenship, something which would have helped in many ways - just as it was the case with Paul .

However, and coming back to the early Church's overseer or elder (the first-century Church) and the pagan Jewish sects who so eagerly tried to disown the apostleship of Paul, it then was an excellent strategy of the Apostle to have appointed Timothy in (1) Ephesus and (2) in this particular capacity. For this very reason the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy that he must not in the least feel threatened by anybody questioning his age. Timothy was then, going by traditional prescriptions, indeed too young, i.e. in the eyes of the broader Christian Jewish community of the day and what then emerges is Paul's total new approach to the gospel he had planted in Ephesus, also in the Roman Province of Asia (Western and Southern Asia Minor) .

Although the Apostle then suffered so heavily for the sake of "freedom in Christ" - something that especially shines through in his Letter to the Galatians (5), he remained true to the revelation Jesus/Yeshua had given him. And we can therefore also detect this fresh Pauline/Apostolic approach in the following quotation (Eph. 3.2-7):

"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations (in the past) as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets (Compare this very important statement with Acts 20.13+, Paul's meeting with the Ephesian Elders)... "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs TOGETHER with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power (His Spirit manifestation)". (Quoted from NIV 5th Imp, 1994).

Our new life is therefore found in Christ (in Maschiach our Saviour) as we can now, since the planting of the Cross, all share EQUALLY in the "fullness of him who fills everything in every way" (Eph. 1.23) and this fullness clearly implies that we have life in God in and through the Son of God (Eph. 4.18; 1 Jn 5.12).

Only Jesus' (Yeshua's) atonement on the Cross could bring about renewal of our minds, enabling all of us to put on the new self, created to be like (!) God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph. 4. 22-24 - boiling down to regaining the image of God). And it is this spiritual renewal that enable us to truly be the New Covenantal Temple of the living God (1 Cor. 3.16) for God does not dwell in temples/houses made by hands (Stephen, Acts 7.48)! The New Covenant (Testament) was then indeed the perfection of the previous one (the Old Covenant - see Paul's Letter to the Hebrews).

Let's pray God for renewal of our minds and for spiritual maturity so that we will be able to understand the prophets of old, full knowing that Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMaschiach is the true Temple/Tabernacle of the living God and He Himself will come to reign in Jerusalem (Rev. 21.3, John was a Jewish (!) believer in Messiah and he was looking forward to His return).

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