

Summary of Matthew 5 and Torah for Believers

Created on June 15, 2026 at 9:03 PM by Notee: AI Note Taker —

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Matthew 5 and the Role of Torah in Covenant Living

Main Topic: Understanding Matthew 5:17–19 and the Torah's Relevance

- The meeting focused on the interpretation of Matthew 5, emphasizing verses 17–19, and its implications for both Gentile and Jewish followers of Yeshua (Jesus).
- The speaker, Tony Pino, outlined his ministry's approach: teaching about the covenant relationship Gentiles have with Yeshua, the ongoing role of repentance, receiving salvation, and the Holy Spirit.
- Emphasized that following Yeshua in the New Covenant includes following his commandments, which are rooted in the Torah. The Torah serves as a guide for walking in righteousness, love, and forgiveness.
- Addressed common misconceptions that the Torah (Law) has been abolished for New Covenant believers. Argued that, according to Jeremiah 31, the Torah is now written on believers' hearts.
- Clarified that Paul's writings (Romans, Galatians) are often misunderstood regarding the "law," as Paul distinguished between the Torah and extra-biblical oral traditions of Rabbinic Judaism.
- Stressed that the Torah was not abolished; rather, Yeshua and Paul both taught its observance as a witness of faith and righteousness.
- Discussed how Gentiles are grafted into the covenants of Israel (referencing Romans 11 and the example of Ruth), and thus are called to follow the Torah as part of their covenant relationship.

Key Points from Matthew 5

- The Sermon on the Mount is a call to repentance and a return to covenant living with Yahweh.
- Yeshua's teachings in Matthew 5 are in-depth lessons on Torah, emphasizing humility, mercy, justice, and love—qualities sometimes neglected by the Pharisees and religious leaders of the first century.
- Righteousness is defined as obediently following God's commands out of love and humility. The Torah provides the "guardrails" for this walk.
- The "light of the world" and "salt of the earth" metaphors highlight Israel's role (and by extension, believing Gentiles) in exemplifying and spreading God's ways to all nations.
- Yeshua explicitly states he did not come to abolish the Law or Prophets but to fulfill them, and that "not one jot or tittle" will pass from the Torah until all is accomplished.
- Those who annul or teach against even the least of the commandments will be least in the Kingdom; those who keep and teach them will be great.
- The righteousness required to enter the Kingdom must surpass that of the Pharisees, whose oral traditions often overshadowed Torah's core teachings.

The Temple, Offerings, and New Covenant

- The speaker addressed the relationship between the sacrificial system and Yeshua's atonement. Yeshua's sacrifice provides eternal life and ultimate cleansing, but the Levitical offerings had a specific role in sanctifying sacred space and ritual purity.
- Hebrews 8 and 10 were discussed to explain that the Sinai covenant is "growing old" but not fully obsolete or abolished; both Sinai and New Covenants operate in tandem until the full realization of the New Covenant in the world to come.
- The temple offerings and Levitical priesthood continue to have significance and purpose, especially in future prophetic contexts (e.g., millennial reign, third temple).

Questions and Discussion Points

- Is the Torah (Law) abolished for believers in Yeshua? (Speaker argues no; it is still relevant and essential.)

- How should Paul's writings about the law be understood in light of historical context and distinction between Torah and oral traditions?
- What is the relationship between the sacrificial system and Yeshua's atoning work?
- Are Gentiles required to keep the Torah? (Speaker affirms they are grafted in and called to keep the commandments.)

Decisions and Action Plans

- No formal decisions were made, as this was a teaching session rather than a meeting for organizational planning.
- The speaker encouraged listeners to:
 - Read Matthew 5:17–19 in its full context and understand Yeshua's intent.
 - Study Paul's letters with awareness of the historical context and the distinction between Torah and Rabbinic traditions.
 - Embrace the commandments as a blessing and a means to walk in love and righteousness, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - Continue learning through additional resources provided by the ministry (Keys of the Kingdom).

Additional Topics

- The dual nature of the New Covenant and Sinai Covenant during the present "overlap" period, awaiting the full manifestation in the world to come.
- The importance of reading Hebrews and related scriptures in context to avoid common misunderstandings about the law's status.
- The ultimate goal is to love Yahweh and one another according to the ways of Yeshua, with the Torah serving as a practical guide.

