

your reading with the book of Matthew to learn about the life of Yahshua and the price He paid for us. You should not expect yourself to understand everything immediately. As you seek to learn Yahweh's ways, remember that He will always be with you to guide you on the path of life.

As you walk on this path, one thing that will be helpful to you is finding fellowship with other children of Yahweh. Gathering with other brothers and sisters in Yahshua is very strengthening – it brings people into our lives who challenge us and encourage us to press on to know Yahweh. Look for and ask Yahweh to bring you fellowship with like-minded believers in your area.

Finally, here are a couple of resources that may be helpful to you: EliYah.com and 119ministries.com. Nothing but Yahweh's Word is infallible, but these sites are generally solid. Each of them also has a "fellowship finder" map that may be useful.

If this has stirred your heart, please consider taking action on what you've read before the cares of the world distract you from what's most important.

Isaiah 55:6 – "Seek Yahweh while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near."

(Scripture quotations are taken from the NASB translation unless otherwise indicated.)



Will you please take
a few moments to
give this a read?

YOU MAY BE GLAD YOU READ IT

Is There a Better Way?

Do you feel a heavy burden weighing you down? Do you fear what may happen to you when you die? Do you want to be free from sin? Do you long for a better way of life? Do you want to know God?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please take a few moments to read this message.

The Wages of Sin

In the first few chapters of the Bible we read that God (whose formal name is Yahweh) created the heavens and the earth in six days and that His creation was "very good" (Genesis 1). If Yahweh's creation was "very good," then why is there so much suffering and death around us? It was because of sin that sickness, suffering, pain, and death came into the world. Satan (which means "adversary") uses sin to destroy us. Sin ruins lives, tears families apart, plunges people into despair, and even causes some to take their own lives – it is the way of death.

What is sin? Deceit, immorality, murder, and theft are obvious examples of sin. But how does the Bible *define* sin? 1 John 3:4 says that "sin is lawlessness." Yahweh's law is perfect and righteous, and everything that violates Yahweh's law is sin.

What are the consequences of sin? Romans 6:23a says that "the wages of sin is death." All who sin are worthy of death, and not just of a physical death, but also of a judgment after death. Have you ever sinned? Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned, and fall short of the

glory of God." You are, like me, worthy of death and judgment. What can we do? If only there was hope...

The Free Gift of God

There *is* hope! Yahweh provided a way for our sins to be forgiven. He did this by giving us His Son Jesus (Yahshua in Hebrew). Yahshua took our place through His death on a tree so that we might be free from the just penalty of our sins and inherit life. Romans 6:23b says, "...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Yahshua our Lord." Isaiah 53:5 says (speaking prophetically of Yahshua), "He was pierced through for our transgressions...The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Yahweh raised Yahshua from the dead after three days as proof that Yahshua truly was the perfect Son of Yahweh. Why was the death of Yahweh's Son able to pay the price for our sins? It is because Yahshua was perfect (meaning He walked without sin) that He was able to take our place. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He (Yahweh) made Him (Yahshua) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf..." Yahshua is the only One able to take away our sins and bring us into fellowship with Yahweh. He says in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

The Way of Life

We have discussed what sin is and what

Yahweh did to provide us with a means of forgiveness...but is forgiveness the only thing we need?

1 Peter 2:24 says, “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, *that we might die to sin and live to righteousness*. By His wounds you have been healed.” (ESV) When Yahshua died for us, He did so to bring us into a better way of life – a life of righteousness. Proverbs 12:28 says, “In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.” What is righteousness? Righteousness is the opposite of sin, and “sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4). Righteousness, then, is lawFULness. This is the way of life, when we walk out our everyday lives according to Yahweh’s instruction.

Unlike sin, Yahweh’s instructions build up lives, bring families together, bless us, purify us, strengthen us, and bring us close to Yahweh when we walk in them. They show us how to love Yahweh and how to love one another. 1 John 5:2,3 says, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” True love in Yahweh’s eyes is inseparable from walking in His commandments.

Where are these commandments found? The first five books of the Bible, referred to as the Torah (which means “instruction”), contain Yahweh’s foundational instructions of life for His people. Perhaps the most well-known of these are the Ten Commandments (found in Exodus 20), among which are “Honor your father and

your mother,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not commit adultery,” and “You shall not covet,” to name a few. Yahweh also gives us instructions regarding what we should and should not use for food, a day of rest on the seventh day of every week (the Sabbath), and many other things for our well-being.

Unfortunately, many Christians today believe that these Old Testament instructions (except the Ten Commandments) do not pertain to Christianity today and that when Yahshua died on the cross He did away with “the old law.” However, consider Yahshua’s words in Matthew 5:17-19: *“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* Psalm 19 tells us that the Law of Yahweh is perfect, sweeter than honey, and more precious than gold, so why would Yahweh send His Son Yahshua to do away with it? Yahweh did not give us His instructions to burden us, but rather to bring us blessing and joy.

Counting the Cost

When you embrace forgiveness of sins through Yahshua and turn to Yahweh, you are not simply saying a few words; you are embracing a way of life as a child of Yahweh. Before stepping into this way of life, you should come to terms with the costs.

As children of Yahweh, we must turn from sin and instead live in obedience to His instruction. Romans 6:11 says, “Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Yahshua.” Many times, walking in the truth will go against what our human nature would like to do. Sometimes we will be persecuted for doing what’s right (John 15:19,20).

Changing our lives and doing good deeds is not what cleanses us from our sins. Yahshua’s death on the cross is the only thing able to save us from our just penalty – but Yahshua did not save us to leave us wallowing in sin. If you are determined to continue in sin you are not ready to become Yahweh’s child.

Walking on the path of life in our fallen world will be hard at times, but take courage! Yahweh knows we are weak and does not expect us to stand alone. The Scriptures tell us that Yahweh Himself strengthens and supports those who trust in Him. 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, “The eyes of Yahweh move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His...” In the end, the trials of this life will seem as nothing compared to the reward of eternal life for those who overcome by His grace. Romans 8:18 says, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us”.

How to Enter In

We have discussed what Yahweh did to offer us forgiveness and what the way of life is.... But how do you enter into this life and be cleansed from the guilt of sin?

The first step is to admit that you are a sinner and to acknowledge your need of a Savior. We have all sinned, and we must humble ourselves and acknowledge our utter hopelessness without Yahshua.

Then, pray to Yahweh and ask Him to come into your life. Tell Yahweh that you recognize you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him that you are turning from sin and want to walk in His ways. Tell Him that you accept Yahshua’s death as payment for your sins and that you embrace Him as your Savior. Even if you do not feel anything special, you can know that Yahweh hears your prayer.

The next step is to realize that you are forgiven! 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” You are now Yahweh’s precious child, and in His eyes you are clean. Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” (ESV)

As a statement of your choice to become Yahweh’s child, one of the first things you will want to do is be baptized in the name of Yahshua (Acts 2:37-41, Acts 16:30-34). Baptism is the act of immersion in water; it symbolizes the cleansing of your sins through Yahshua and your choice to turn to Yahweh and walk in a new way of life (Romans 6:1-4).

After you have become Yahweh’s child, begin learning how to walk in obedience to His instruction. You do this mainly through reading His word, the Bible. Although Yahweh’s foundational instructions are found early in the scriptures, you may want to start