

Concerning Food

Acts 20:20-32

What Paul preached, His Word:

Anything that was profitable (verse 20);

Gospel of grace (verse 24);

Gospel of the kingdom of God (verse 25);

The whole purpose of God (verse 27), in order to give you an inheritance among those who are sanctified (verse 32), not unfaithful (Lk 12:46).

Fallen Man, Fallen Instincts

Our tastes and preferences (fallen taste buds) are not what decide what goes into our mouths, lest we be heathens as the nations who do not know YHWH. The heathen are very careful what they feed their automobiles, but not too careful about what they feed their family.

What happens to the food you eat? The stomach digests and once digested, if you have eaten *food* that God created to be eaten (2 Tim 4:3), the essential minerals and vitamins, the life-giving properties in food, filter through the intestinal lining into the blood stream to replenish and build up decaying cells, to provide energy, body warmth and good health. The human body is wonderfully made, the most wonderful mechanism in the whole world. Just as the heathen use the right kind of fuel and oil and grease in their car for its best performance, so why don't they use the right kind of nourishment for their body? Because they are under the influence of the spirits of this world! (Eph 4:17-18).

When men put all kinds of foul things into their stomachs, they sin against their Creator and themselves, bringing upon themselves sickness — flu from bad meats, disease, aches and pains, dulled and clogged brains, inefficiency, and inability — killing themselves little by little.

YHWH has told us what is good in every respect. He has told us what food is and what it isn't. He has told us what meats keep the body functioning properly and what meats are for other purposes. Humanity will not listen because they do not know YHWH.

“Son, don't eat every plant that grows out of the ground because some are not food — they are poison and will work toward your destruction if you eat them.” Every plant is not food; so it is with animals.

Why did YHWH create animals? For a purpose. Why did He create you? For a purpose. Are you accomplishing the purpose YHWH created you for? Are you, then, whom YHWH created for a purpose, stuffing into your mouth what YHWH created for another purpose (besides eating)? Both you and this plant or animal are not fulfilling YHWH's purpose — this is for sure!

Yahshua came to give example of many things: law, grace, YHWH's will and purpose. He came eating *all food* YHWH created to be eaten, provided it was clean meat, fruit, vegetables. He said all foods are clean, purified with their use; none are to be rejected. But today meat markets are deplorable — rotted meats, corrupted hamburger, embalmed meats, sick cows already dead but kept alive by pumping them full of medicines.

By the first written revelation of YHWH to His creature, man, YHWH has given us instruction. Our Father has instructed us as to what kind of animals that He made may be eaten and not eaten, what was created for food and what was created for other purposes. This list is recorded for our instruction (Rom 15:4), that we might have hope. The list is recorded in Lev 11 and Dt 14. This is basic law and principle, a revelation from our Father to us, His children, about which kinds of animal meat will properly digest and assimilate into the human body He made, the human system, and which meats won't. He purposefully identifies what was created by Him for food for His highest creation and what He did not create for man to eat. This is not a part of the ten commandments. Neither is it part of the ceremonial, ritualistic or sacrificial laws which are abolished in the reality of Messiah in our heart. But as the ten commandments and the Law and the Prophets are still valid and are not abolished (not one jot or tittle (unless the Eighth Day is already here and we don't know it), so is this instruction still valid for us today, so that we can know the whole purpose of YHWH, what He expects from His creatures, including the animals and creeping things we are to have dominion over (not to pervert or destroy, but

to care for, and that not for greed of man lest we be disinherited from His kingdom).

We must realize that YHWH is the Author of all law and there are countless laws in motion: laws of physics, chemistry, gravity, and spiritual laws to regulate man's relationship to Him, in fellowship with Him and man — the Law of Love, the Law of Messiah, the Ten Commandments (Jn 14:21-23). YHWH gave His people Israel civil statutes and judgments, national laws for conduct and government as any nation must have lest there be utter chaos. Israel was His people under the Old Covenant as the Church is His people under the New Covenant, beginning at Pentecost which was the call to come out of the old Israel under the Old Covenant and out of the world (Gal 1:5; Rom 12:2; Acts 2:38-40) to begin a New Humanity.

The Old Covenant Israel was fit only for destruction: they did not keep His laws or commandments (Jn 14:21-24) is for the Israel of YHWH today (Gal 6:16), the Church. YHWH's laws are immutable. His laws and commands have never changed. The animals and plants are still the same as before. We still must hear (O Israel) what His laws and commandments are (Ps 19:7-11; Mt 5:17-19).

Being under grace on the narrow road we are not under the law to obtain eternal life, for only in the Son we have life; but now we must obey the Son (Jn 3:36). For the age of the Old Covenant gave Israel ritual and ceremonial laws for the conduct of religious service, laws relating to typical and temporary sacrifices, meat and drink offerings — temporary substitutions for Messiah and the Holy Spirit. Those laws, of course, ended when the Reality came.

All law and Moses we are no longer under as a legal system. But we must see that there are physical laws in our bodies regulating our health. What we eat has to do with these laws. There is no law against eating food, but there is one against eating what is not food. And the wages of this sin (as with sin in general) is death, sickness, disease, or some malfunction in these bodies. As there is no law against love, joy, peace, patience, etc., but there is against acts of the flesh (Gal 5:16-23), and so it is with food.

Both examples of the law are still YHWH's law. Many people believe and feel that when Yahshua came, He came to set us free from the law *so we could be lawless*. But we know He came and was born under the law so that He might redeem those *under the law* so we might receive the adoption as sons. So we are now sons, no longer slaves under a system which no man except Yahshua could and did keep, observing days and months under the system of law, not in celebration as sons. The (weak and beggarly) worthless and elemental things *to which you desire to be enslaved all over again* (Gal 4:9). But the answer is not even celebrations — feasts, Sabbaths, months, etc. — but that Messiah be formed in us, so we could celebrate the feast without strife, contention, malice, but in the Spirit, not in the obvious flesh (1 Cor 5:8).

Yahshua kept the law, born under it, but kept it in the Holy Spirit. He did not break the law, or ever intentionally do anything contrary to the will of His Father. We are to follow in His steps in this, not that we could keep the law in perfection, for we have all sinned and do sin (being born under sin) but we do not intentionally go against the laws that He has established for our good (Rev 14:12), which, since we have all been baptized into the commonwealth of Israel, we know. Did He come not eating pork to set us free from the law concerning food and other substances? Did He come not being uncircumcised to show us that circumcision is no longer valid, that it was just an imposition YHWH put on man for no practical purpose? Did He come not breaking the Sabbath to show us that we are free from the law now and should never go through with the drudgery of one more Sabbath? (1 Tim 1:5-7).

Rom 8:2-4 — The law we have been set free from is the law of sin — hallelujah! We are no longer under ~~the law~~, so now we who are no longer under *the law* are set free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:7 — Now the mind which is set on the flesh is not subject to the *law of YHWH*. When Yahshua came to earth, He did not say, "Now every man as he pleases." But quite the contrary, "Now whoever has been born of the water and the Spirit loves YHWH, Elohim of Israel," which could not be done without the Spirit of the Living Elohim (Rom 8:2), the means and the source of life to carry out His will on earth. "Shall we sin because we are not under the Law? May it never be!" Rom 4:11-13 does not mean we should do away with circumcision, but that, as our father Abraham, believing YHWH is what leads man into obedience in all things. Circumcision is the seal of righteousness for those who follow in the steps of the faith of our father

Abraham, not through feigned obedience in ritual, but in faith. Verse 15 — Where there is no compulsion of being under law in the flesh there is no violation. Abraham was not circumcised at the beginning of his faith, but at the maturity of his faith. The seal of his righteousness he had before he was circumcised, before the promised seed was conceived, and before the woman was pregnant, and before she was in travail with labor to deliver the manchild, Isaac.

Sin is the transgression of YHWH's laws — *His laws, His will, His Purpose* — and the result is death (Rom 6:23). If we want to live, we must hear Him and listen and do what He is saying to us. All foods are purified by use — all food is pure. There is no such thing as unclean food or persons except in specific cases when it or they have become defiled. For example, strangulation, etc., or when food had contacted unclean meat or animal in the same pot or grill, etc. Mk 7 — He wasn't speaking about unclean animals here. The animals YHWH made to be eaten and are food properly digested and nourish the human body. No change has occurred in animals or in the human body since or by the flood or the cross of Messiah. Unclean animals were unclean before the flood and have remained so since the flood. Noah took into the ark of the clean animals to be used for food by sevens, but of the unclean animals which were not meant to be eaten but had other purposes he took by twos — only enough to preserve the species.

Before the flood, clean animals were used for sacrifices (the will of YHWH about animals was known before the flood), which were eaten, but people ate mostly vegetables. Vegetables and fruit were their main diet. After the flood, YHWH gave Noah not merely the green herb vegetables but of every type of animal which was for eating — those already known fully well by Noah: clean animals, fish, and fowl (Gen 9:3; Lev 11).

Did YHWH give ritualistic regulations for the children of Israel under the Old Covenant while in the New Covenant Israel can eat slop if they want to and still be His holy people consecrated for His use and purpose? Who tells us that YHWH is some big unfair master who imposes hardships on His people? Whatever YHWH instructs us is for our good, not some nonsensical restrictions for one period of time (for another people, for other periods). Israel is forever. YHWH's people are forever and ever (Dt 14:4-8).

Horses are not mentioned here, for it is not fit for human consumption because it wasn't created so. They were created for another purpose — to serve man. Horses do not have divided hooves and they do not chew the cud. Swine flesh, pork, ham, bacon, sausages, etc. — these are not food. Neither are oysters, lobsters, clams, crabs, shrimp, dogs, snakes, rats, buzzards, skunks, and opossums. The only seafood that YHWH created for the purpose of food is fish that have both fins and scales. Catfish is unclean; mackerel is clean.

Man is fallen and has fallen instincts. This is the reason we must have the Word of YHWH written down for our instruction (Rom 15:4). A baby will stuff in his mouth anything he can get his hands on. The Gentiles are darkened in their understanding, separated from the life of YHWH. The Church is not to live like the nations nor eat like the nations in their darkened state. Even the most sophisticated eat lobster and creatures of that sort, even if they wouldn't eat a buzzard. Both are listed in the book of instruction for us, His people. It is not beneficial for man to go against YHWH's instruction or for a man to go against the auto manual for his new car. Acts 10 did not change YHWH's health and food laws. Verse 28 tells the reason for the vision. Peter was appalled at the thought and was perplexed as to the meaning of the vision. Yahshua revealed the reason for the vision. The laws had been taught from birth (regardless of all Yahshua mentioned about the nations being saved into Israel) that Gentiles were unclean like unclean animals — to have nothing to do with them. Ten years after Yahshua was taken up and the rituals and ceremonies were abolished at the cross, Peter refused to eat unclean animals. He didn't take the opportunity (such as false interpretation of this vision would suggest) to sit down and indulge in what he secretly lusted after in his heart all along, as if he couldn't wait to be out from under the law and get under grace so he could break the law and sin. No! Peter had received the Holy Spirit. He would not even eat at the command but awoke and pondered about the vision as to what it could mean. He refused to eat because he knew that Yahshua also distinguished between the clean and unclean and He knew that faith does not nullify the law. Neither, because he was under grace, could he now sin by breaking the law. Rom 3:31; 6:15. Peter knew that God's law of clean and unclean meats was still in full effect, *for faith establishes the law. Establish is to make stable, firm; to set up; to found the authority of; to confirm the law; to prove what*

the law really is — fixed! Settled and permanent! Mt 5:17-19 — TO FULFILL the law. There was something about the law that needed to be filled up and fixed by Him showing us what the law really was. That is, not something to be *under* without grace and the Spirit of life, but something that communicates to us what pleases YHWH fully (Ps 19:7-11), His mind and purpose. His law is immutable, not susceptible to any alteration, as God's Word is like himself — immutable, ROCK. Anyone who annuls one of the least of these commandments... Not one letter or stroke of the pen shall pass away until the Eighth Day.

In the account of Peter's vision it is written, "What God has cleansed you shall not call common or unclean" (Acts 10:15). YHWH never cleansed these animals — snakes, vultures, worms, skunks, and pigs — or what would replace them in what they do, what they were created to do on the earth? But YHWH has cleansed man only to do His purpose. These creatures would be doing YHWH's will today if Man would leave them alone and stop eating them. What YHWH cleansed is not to be called common. Man has the highest dignity, but then why do they lower themselves to eat unholy, unclean things not meant for *clean* mankind, created in the likeness of YHWH?

Man was the only creature the blood of the Lamb cleansed, not animals. They did nothing of their own in violation against YHWH's law. YHWH didn't suddenly change His law concerning these animals and reptiles, etc., of which some are holy and some unholy for man to eat. YHWH's law is immutable. "Not one jot or tittle will pass from the law," Yahshua said.

Acts 10:28 — YHWH has shown me that I should not call *any animal* unclean any more? Or is it any *man*? Any *man*, not animal. They are still just as unclean as they ever were. YHWH cleansed the Gentiles on the cross by the blood of the Lamb of YHWH that takes away that which makes man unclean — sins, disobedience, even his own way. He brought him back, very near. Nothing unclean can approach YHWH for He is holy and we should also be holy. The unclean animals in Peter's vision were used by YHWH to symbolize the Gentile Race.

The Gentiles were unclean, uncircumcised. They let dogs eat the crumbs from under the very table they ate on. They had an unclean animal in their kitchen and they let their children touch it. Because of the abominable Gentile habits and practices and customs, the Jews were forbidden to associate with them for fear of defilement. This wall of separation has now been broken down for those in Yahshua. Now because both are reconciled by the Blood of Messiah into one Body (Eph 4:17-24), there are no more abominable practices. They are not in darkness any more — that is, if they learned Yahshua rightly (Eph 4:19-20). YHWH is no respecter of persons. Jews and Gentiles alike can be saved by the Blood of the Cross. He who fears YHWH and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

What is righteousness we must work to be accepted (Ps 119:172). Among those commandments are the laws which give us instruction on how to live our lives in Yahshua: what is holy and what is profane.

Acts 10 — what if YHWH had been trying to tell Peter that he should eat all the things in the sheet? Would you eat all of them, or would you be selective as to just what you were used to eating anyway from your birth into the unholy nation of Gentiles, born in darkness (Eph 4:17)? What about the other unclean animals which Peter saw in the sheet? Acts 10:12 — All kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles, crawling creatures of the earth, vultures, seagulls, buzzards which eat dead carcasses from along the side of the road, dogs, cats, rats, snails, snakes, wild beasts of all kinds, horses, mules, donkeys, opossums, pigs. Would you eat these things which are mentioned here? They didn't make Peter's mouth water even though he was hungry at the time (verse 10). Of course you would not eat all these things. You would be selective as every well-bred heathen (educated in heathen schools and houses) would. Why? Because you have your own standard of what you think is clean and unclean??? (But it is not YHWH's standard!)

Are we willing to let YHWH instruct us as to what is clean and what is unclean? Totally submit ourselves to His immutable word, His immutable law, His immutable will? Let His Word kill us so we can live? Are we willing to let His love for us save us by submitting to Him on this subject and all subjects which concern His very own children, creatures He made and loved and redeemed at a great cost (2 Cor 5:15). Are we willing to let the Creator of all life, all creatures, tell us what is good and what is bad? What promotes health and life and joy

and what is injurious to our bodies and brings on more sickness and disease? Can we let YHWH instruct us without leaning on our own faulty faculties of reason and logic? It is recorded in His word: Lev 11 and Dt 14. But through systematized theology (Eph 4:14), those who justify lawlessness by saying, “We are under grace and not under law” (who are still under the death sentence, for they do not want to do right and fear YHWH; Acts 10:35) still argue with YHWH to justify their disobedience to YHWH’s Law by mis-interpreting 1 Tim 4:1-3. THE DOCTRINE OF DEMONS includes forbidding marriage and commanding or insisting on abstaining from FOODS which YHWH has created to be received with thanksgiving ... by whom? By those who believe and know the truth — the elect of YHWH. Those who believe and know the truth know YHWH’s instruction about what food is and what food isn’t. This is for certain, it distinguishes Israel from the nations.

What is truth? Jn 17:17 — Your word is truth. This word to His people (those who believe, the faithful ones, and know the truth) reveals, if we have ears to hear, what foods are. All food is clean, it has been recorded (Mk 17:19). But of course all foods are clean! But did he mean this? Look in the Greek Bible — purifying/purging all foods when they go into the stomach and into the sink/privy, purifying/purging all foods. 1 Tim 4:3 — We are not to be scrupulous over food YHWH created to be eaten or received with thanksgiving and a good conscience. But he is condemned who eats without a good conscience (Rom 14:22-23).

Verse 20 — All food is clean and can be eaten with thanksgiving for those who are the faithful ones who know the truth. The false doctrines of demons say you can eat everything now in the *New Covenant* which they know so little about. But they are very selective according to their upbringing in the culture they are raised in according to Gentile ways. Gen 18:19 — The seed of Abraham are to keep the way of YHWH, not the way of the Gentiles.

They say we are legalistic and that it is okay to eat pork, but why not buzzards? Just clean it up, feed it good food, and it will be *clean*, perverting its purpose (1 Tim 4:4). So everything created by YHWH is good and nothing is to be rejected IF (the big IF) it is received with thanksgiving or with a good conscience by those who are faithful to the Word of YHWH and know the truth. For true food is sanctified by the Word of YHWH and prayer. Sanctify means to make holy, set apart for right use or purpose, set apart in the Word of YHWH to be used as food. What meats have been set apart as food in the Word of YHWH? (Lev 11 and Dt 14). Here we find what is healthful, clean, created by YHWH as good and nothing is to be rejected.

There is no word in the entire Bible that YHWH instructs us to eat what is unclean, what He created unclean, not to be eaten by man, For it is unclean for you. He did not say to eat snails, oysters, clams, snakes, octopuses, eels, horses, rabbits, buzzards, seagulls, and swine. Yet all Evangelicals who live like the Gentiles along with all Roman Catholics (and all the daughters of the Roman Church) eat these very things with *thanksgiving*. If we can be thankful with a good conscience for these things without YHWH showing us these things somehow, then we know for certain we are not keeping the way of YHWH and are not the seed of Abraham and are separated from the life of YHWH, and can never make the Jews jealous! Woe unto you!

It is not that our conscience in our immaturity will always tell us what is right, but we must always walk in the light — we must continually walk in the light and learn from His word.

Rom 14 is not talking about unclean meat, but only what is clean and vegetables, verses 14 and 15. The only time clean meats are ever common or polluted is when we know they are offered to idols and Acts 15:20; Lev 11:39-40; Dt 14:21. Strangled/unbled animals and blood should and ought not to be eaten. This is recorded in the New Testament. Also, any clean animal that dies of its own.

The end of being under food law is in Messiah’s Spirit. We are not bound by *an external food law* where we can’t eat what YHWH forbids, but we are bound by our conscience, the internal law of Messiah, once we know these things (Eph 4:20-21). For this is how the law of YHWH is written upon our hearts and mind (Rom 2:12-13; 3:20; Heb 8:10; 1 Cor 6:12; 10:23).

Rom 6:17-18; 5:20,12-14, NEVERTHELESS. There is a difference between being justified by the works of the law and doing what the law requires as a result of the New Covenant (Rom 2:13; 3:20).