

“You Are Your Brother’s Keeper”

Watch Over Your Heart

Don Cole

Refer to the last page: “How to Interpret Scripture”

Your notes:

While we are all aware that Yeshua sees what is in man’s heart, Yeshua wants us to acknowledge what is in our own hearts.

Regardless of a person’s spiritual age in Yeshua, they can slip into a false security of believing they are right with Yeshua. We cannot be right with Yeshua unless we study His Word. We must remember that no one has **arrived**; we are all **arriving**! Paul puts it this way...

“Test and evaluate yourselves to see whether you are in the faith and living your lives as [committed] believers. Examine yourselves [not me]! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves [by an ongoing experience] that Jesus Christ [Yeshua HaMeshiach] is in you—**unless indeed you fail the test and are rejected as counterfeit?**” (2 Cor 13:5 Amp)

Tests show us what is really in our own hearts. Through tests we have the opportunity to grow and become more like Him. Our goal is to walk in His ways so we may come into His presence.

Many, unfortunately, believe that by being born again, they have achieved righteousness. In actuality, when we are born again, our spiritual journey has only just begun.

Trials enable us to grow. The biggest challenge in life is not other people, rather it is US!

Working with people in general

Know this, the way we treat other people is the way we treat Yeshua! Let me repeat, the way we treat others is the way we treat Yeshua!

Yeshua wants us to be kind to others; regardless, if they are a follower of Yeshua or an infidel. When we encounter an unbeliever, Yeshua wants us to be good to them; regardless of how they treat us.

Our mission is to be Yeshua’s light to the world ... regardless whether the others are thieves or liars. We need to remember that

arguing, fighting, or demanding our own way does not win a person. When our actions reflect that we are a follower of Yeshua, then others will see His light in us.

We gave our oath that we will follow Yeshua all the days of our life.

It does not matter how a person (believer or unbeliever) treats us; let it go and pray for the person. Let Yeshua develop us.

We may assume that we've won the battle and that we are right before God; we need to examine ourselves & let Yeshua do His work in us. Listen to the Prophet Jeremiah.

² “The heart is deceitful above all things And it is extremely sick. Who can understand it fully and know its secret motives?

¹⁰ “I, the LORD [YHVH], search and examine the mind, I test the heart, to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. (Jer 17:9-10 Amp)

A reprobate (a believer who fails the test) often leads a double life. That person presents himself as holy; but, in reality, he is an infidel.

Even if you stole something from an unbeliever or lied, you need to make right with that person. Listen to Yeshua...

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reconcile quickly with your adversary, while you are still on the way to court. Otherwise, he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. (Matt 5:23-25 BSB)

Some believe that the word brother only applies to another Messianic Believer only. This is not true, we are not to steal or lie. If one does, then he should be taken to court.

Paul said this about another believer...

Therefore, if [my eating a certain] food causes my brother to stumble (sin), I will not eat [such] meat ever again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble. (1 Cor 8:13 Amp)

As we seek a righteous walk with Yeshua, we need follow the ways of Yeshua. We cannot obtain righteousness without following His Word.

Remember before you judge another without righteous judgement, or degrade another, consider yourself first! Let us ponder these words...

“Test and evaluate yourselves to see whether you are in the faith and living your lives as [committed] believers. Examine yourselves [not me]! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves [by an ongoing experience] that Jesus Christ [Yeshua HaMashiach] is in you—unless indeed you fail the test and are rejected as counterfeit?” (2 Cor 13:5 Amp)

“How to Interpret Scripture”

Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
 2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
 3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.
-

The character of Yeshua according to His Word:

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
 2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
 3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]
-

Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible

Matt 28:18-20 – this is after His resurrection.

¹⁸And Jesus [Yeshua] came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:6-8 – after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord [YHVH], will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 4:22-24 Amplified Bible

²²You [Samaritans] do not know what you worship; we [Jews] do know what we worship, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But a time is coming and is already here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit [from the heart, the inner self] and in truth; for the Father seeks

such people to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit [the Source of life, yet invisible to mankind], and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 3:36 – the book of John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

James 1:25

²⁵But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed *and* favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].

James 2:12

¹²Speak and act [consistently] as people who are going to be judged by the law of liberty [that moral law that frees obedient Christians from the bondage of sin].

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. [Note: Yeshua perfectly kept the Torah; likewise, we also need to &, thereby, stop sinning.]

James 2:19-24

¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well [to believe that]. The demons also believe [that], and shudder *and* bristle [in awe-filled terror--they have seen His wrath]! ²⁰But are you willing to recognize, you foolish [spiritually shallow] person, that faith without [good] works is useless? ²¹Was our father Abraham not [shown to be] justified by works [of obedience which expressed his faith] when he offered Isaac his son on the altar [as a sacrifice to God]? ²²You see that [his] faith was working together with his works, and as a result of the works, his faith was completed [reaching its maturity when he expressed his faith through obedience]. ²³And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND THIS [faith] WAS CREDITED TO HIM [by God] AS RIGHTEOUSNESS *and* AS CONFORMITY TO HIS WILL,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴You see that a man (believer) is justified by works and not by faith alone [that is, by acts of obedience a born-again believer reveals his faith].

John 12:47-50

⁴⁷If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge *and* condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but to save the world. ⁴⁸Whoever rejects Me and refuses to accept My teachings, has one who judges him; the *very* word that I spoke will judge *and* condemn him on the last day. ⁴⁹For I have never spoken on My own

initiative *or* authority, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *regarding* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life. So the things I speak, I speak [in accordance with His exact instruction,] just as the Father has told Me.”

Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision & Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
○ Oral Law ○ Customs of Moses	○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews</u> <i>only</i> who came up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost	○ 10 years after Pentecost ○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles</u> <i>only</i>	○ 10 years after Acts 10 ○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation & circumcision	○ Under the auspices of Constantine ○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend