

THE NEWS OF YAHWEH'S RESTORATION



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November-December 2008



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Unconditional Salvation?

by Deacon Randy Folliard

One of the most well-known Protestant leaders was John Calvin. In about 1532 Calvin was converted and joined the Protestant movement, otherwise known as the Reformation. Unlike Martin Luther, whose focus was evangelizing the good news of Messiah, Calvin's focus was developing a formal system of theology. Calvin's theology was summarized with the acronym "TULIP," which included five basic beliefs.

T – Total depravity of man, i.e. man inherited Adam's sin and can do nothing for his own salvation.

U – Unconditional election apart from human merit or divine foreknowledge, i.e. salvation is based on Yahweh's will and is a dual predestination of some to salvation and others to condemnation.

L – Limited atonement, i.e. Yahshua's sacrifice is given to only those who are predestined to salvation.

I – Irresistible grace, i.e. the elect can do nothing to prevent salvation for the Holy Spirit irresistibly draws them in.

P – Perseverance of preservation of saints, i.e. the elect, who are saved by the Holy Spirit, will never be lost.

From these five theological points, Calvin believed that man was predestined to be either saved or condemned. He also believed that those who were elected could do nothing to fall from that grace. Question: is salvation something predestined or

guaranteed no matter how one may live? This teaching of Calvin could not be further from the truth. One undeniable fact that is found in Scripture is that salvation is not predestined and is not certain. What's more, salvation is partially based on works or what we do in life.

The word "works" is taboo to many when it comes to salvation, but the fact is we all have a responsibility to obey when it comes to eternal life. Let's now look at what the inspired Word says regarding the belief about once saved always saved, and predestination to eternal life or destruction. We will find that this belief is in complete contradiction of Scripture.

Endure to the End

Yahshua said in Matthew 10:22, "And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endures to the end shall be saved." Now this certainly does not sound as if He is promoting a once-saved-always-saved teaching. If

(please turn to page 2)

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Unconditional Salvation?

(continued from page 1)

we desire salvation we must do as Yahshua says here and endure to the end. But what it does it mean to endure? This word is from the Greek word *hupomeno* and means to undergo, i.e. bear trials or to have fortitude” (*New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*).

Salvation is not something guaranteed at baptism, but baptism is a prerequisite. Salvation is a gift granted to us if we remain faithful to Yahweh’s Word no matter what trial or persecution we suffer. If we do not have the fortitude to stay strong in our faith then we will not attain the gift of eternal life. To achieve life in Yahweh’s kingdom we must have the faith and devotion to remain strong so that we are never removed from His Word — this is what it means to “endure to the end.”

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to remain steadfast, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living Elohim. But exhort one another daily, while it is called to day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Messiah, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end” (Heb 3:12-14).

We find the same message in this passage as we found in Matthew 10:22. The writer of Hebrews says that we are partakers of the Messiah **IF** we hold our confidence steadfast unto the end. It is our choice in whether or not to partake of the blessings through Messiah. We as sons and daughters of the Most High have a responsibility to do His will. As we find in this passage, that responsibility is holding our confidence steadfast unto the end.

The word for confidence is from the Greek word *hupostasis* and conveys the meaning of assurance or faith. It is absolutely imperative when it comes to salvation that our assurance or faith remain fervent unto the end. If we allow our faith to be weakened by tribulation, trial or doubts it is possible that we could fall away from the faith and fall short

of salvation.

In addition to what we find in Hebrews, the Apostle Paul also offers a strong admonition to remain firm in this faith, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the good news which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand; By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain” (1Cor. 15:1-2).

Notice verse 2, where Paul emphasizes that you are saved **IF** you keep in memory or hold fast Yahweh’s Word which he preached to you. As we saw in Hebrews, salvation is conditional – it depends on how we live.

Through our own actions we have the ability to accept or reject eternal life in Yahweh’s kingdom. We were created with a free will to choose light or darkness, righteousness or sin. If, as Paul said, we follow in Yahweh’s Word we will conquer death, but if we reject that Word we also reject the hope of salvation and embrace condemnation. Salvation is given to those whose dedication and devotion stays unwavering to the end. It is given to those who allow Yahweh’s word to mold their lives into His own image.

From the beginning His promise of salvation was conditional. Yahweh told the Israelites that if they would obey that they would be blessed and be called a treasured people unto His own possession (Ex. 19: 5-6). This is the great promise of salvation; those who dedicate their lives to Him now will be saved.

Paul in Philippians 2:12 declares that we all have an obligation to live for the goal of salvation. “Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own

salvation with fear and trembling.”

This is one of the most important passages in all of Paul’s epistles. From this passage we find two pivotal truths: (1) when it comes to salvation there is work and effort involved, and (2) salvation includes fear and trembling. These points are two of the most misunderstood and ignored truths of Yahweh’s Word. Nowhere do we find that individually we are predestined to salvation. Instead we find that we must stay devoted to the very end and work

out our own salvation if we will find eternal life — anything short of this is simply not enough.

Hope, Not a Guarantee

Besides remaining steadfast in our faith, there are many instances in Scripture showing that we have only

The only form of predestination spoken of in Scripture pertains to one’s calling - after a person is called, salvation is imparted on personal merit, Rom. 9:29-30.

the hope of salvation, not a guarantee.

· “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1Thess. 5:8).

· “In hope of eternal life, which Elohim, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).

· “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7).

In all these examples we find one essential truth – salvation is a hope not a guarantee. The Apostle Paul explained that while Yahweh promises salvation, it is only a hope based on our devotion to our Father in Heaven.

In an astonishing confession, Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:27 acknowledges that in the end he himself could have become a castaway. “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

Now if anyone could have been certain about his salvation it would have been the Apostle Paul. But according to

his own confession, that even after all his efforts to live by and further the truth that it was possible for him to lose his salvation.

Considering Paul's trials from the many beatings to the times he was rebuked and chastised, it is truly amazing that he in the end could have lost it all. Determined not to become this castaway, we find that Paul worked to keep his body under bondage or subjection. He understood the carnality of the flesh as described in Galatians 5:16-21. Again, if anyone could have been certain of his salvation, it would have been this Apostle.

Is this concept of salvation found only in the New Testament? As with all New Testament beliefs, this one has its roots in the Old Testament. From the beginning salvation has been based on personal devotion. This is no more evident than what is found in the writings of the prophet Ezekiel. "The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him...For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, saith Yahweh Elohim: wherefore turn yourselves, and live" (Ezek. 18:20, 32).

From this passage we find that every person will be judged on his or her own works. Yahweh declares that the soul that sins will die, but the soul that lives according to righteousness will live. So once more it is evident that Yahweh does not predestine man to either salvation or condemnation, but allows each person to choose by his or her own free will between life and death. If our Heavenly Father had his choice we find that there would be no death, for as it is written, "I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth." However, even with this desire has Yahweh allowed free will to reign over his creation, allowing man to choose between good and evil.

Is Obedience Important?

Another undeniable truth from Scripture is that to receive the hope of eternal life a person must obey the commandments.

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In a question presented to the Messiah on how one can receive eternal life, His reply was to obey. "And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And He said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but one, that is, Elohim: but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:16-17).

Why did Yahshua say to keep the commandments if salvation was predestined with no way of changing the outcome? Obviously, from what is found in this passage salvation is not assured. There is no example in the Word to even suggest that salvation is predestined with the absence of free will. When it comes to eternal life we have a responsibility to obey Yahweh's commandments, because in the end salvation is not given based on predestination, but on our devotion and dedication to the One we worship. The only form of predestination spoken of in Scripture pertains to the calling (Rom. 9:29-30); after a person is called salvation is imparted on personal piety.

In Acts 5:32 we also find that obedience is required to receive one of the greatest gifts in Scripture, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom Elohim has given to them that obey him"

Can we enter Yahweh's Kingdom

without the Holy Spirit? According to John chapter 3 we must be born of water, which refers to baptism, and receive the Holy Spirit. Is it possible to receive the Spirit apart from obedience? According to Acts 5:32, no we cannot. Even though we do not earn salvation from obedience or works, we are called to obey our Father in Heaven as we would our own natural father and mother. As carnal human beings, earning salvation on our own merit is impossible; salvation is a gift (Rom. 6:23), but even with that gift we have an obligation to obey. This is why salvation is partially based on our devotion.

Not only must we obey to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, but also according to Hebrews, Yahshua is the author of salvation to those who obey. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9).

Notice that our Savior learned obedience by his own suffering and tribulation. So obedience was not a foreign concept or unnatural way of life for the Messiah. In addition to Yahshua's obedience, we find confirmation that Yahshua became the author of salvation to those who obey. It does not say that he became the author of salvation to those who were predestined or to those

who were under grace. Obeying is a significant part of salvation. If we were predestined to salvation and believed according to Calvin's theology we could do nothing to earn or reject salvation, but as we find in this passage, Yahweh is very specific about the responsibility we have if we seek receive everlasting life. Again, while Scripture is clear that salvation is a gift, which we cannot earn on our own merit, we do find that salvation is only offered to those who obey.

While the large majority might believe that profession is enough, we find through Paul's epistle to Titus that professions of only one step, "They profess that they know Elohim; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

From what Paul wrote to Timothy, is it enough to simply confess our devotion? Are works important in our relationship with our Father in Heaven? According to Paul, it is possible to profess devotion to Almighty Yahweh and yet deny Him by our works. Salvation is not about what we say; it is about what we do. If what we do is different from what we say then what we say means absolutely nothing. It is as Solomon said, a chasing after wind.

You may fool those around you, but our Heavenly Father will not be deceived. Profession apart from works is like a house without a foundation, it will surely fall.

One of the most compelling Scriptures regarding the importance of works is found in *Revelation 20:11-15*, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before Elohim; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

John of Patmos gives a glimpse of what many call the Great White Throne Judgment, otherwise known as the second death. In this account we find that mankind will be judged by their works. Now if man was predestined to eternal salvation or destruction as proposed by John Calvin, why do we find a judgment based on works? After all,

why would works matter if we were all predestined and could do nothing to earn or reject that salvation? Obviously, if our eternal fate were predestined there would be no need then for a judgment on works. The fact that there is a last judgment for mankind, which will be based on works, confirms that not only are we not predestined to salvation, but also that salvation is partially determined by our own works and devotion.

Why is it important that we understand whether or not we are predestined apart from works and obedience? Because this belief leads to the apathy that we find with many Bible believers today. If it is held that certain people are predestined with no regard to works and that there is nothing they can do to fall from grace then there is no motivation for repentance and righteous living. Yahweh's Word emphatically teaches that mankind is held to a standard of righteousness and when we teach a belief that opposes or degrades that notion then we again remove the motivation to repent and live according to holiness. This is not only a travesty, but it also opposes the very essence of who Yahweh is and what He desires from His people. 📖

Tabernacles 2008 Pictorial Review

(See yrm.org for a more complete look back at a great Feast)



The centerpieces of a Feast are the sermons from the Word. We were blessed with many great messages on a variety of subjects this year. Audio and video recordings are available upon request.

A plethora of fun activities also helped bond everyone in the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship. We had a picnic and hike in scenic rock formations, a thought-provoking Scriptural Challenge Bible game, the Sabbath year reading of Deuteronomy, Frontier Day, chuckwagon barbecue, Ultimate Feast Challenge, dessert contest, afternoon of bowling, movie night, and Night of Special Music (CD of which is available on request).



Ryan and Ken ensuring professional recordings



Russ Thain from Canada is immersed by Elder Alan Mansager, third from left, with assistance from Deacon Randy Folliard.

Also baptized:

Alexi Bracey (Canada), Nathan Siefert (Wis.), Leslie Siefert (Mo.), Megon Smith (Tex.) and Bill Karstetter (Ky.)



Fellowship of the Spirit



Youth enjoy scenic ventures in the Cumberland

We Have a New Facility for Feast of Tabernacles 2009

After years of searching and praying for a camp that would offer the accommodations we need for growth, Yahweh's Restoration Ministry may have found just the camp in northern Indiana. Camp Crosley, a YMCA facility, is located approximately three hours east and slightly south of Chicago, Il. Camp Crosley offers all the needed facilities with a multitude of activities. The camp offers a separate worship center, dining hall, and nature center, and will permit us to expand.

Ample Lodging:

These new facility will double the lodging space the previous six years afforded us. The camp offers 10 lodge rooms with private bathrooms, which will primarily be used for the handicapped and elderly, and 26 cabins with semi-private or nearby bathhouses. All lodging will be assigned based on need of the individual or family. The camp has also made an exception for basic tenting and spaces for RVs and campers, with the rates remaining the same. The tentative cost for lodging for the entire Feast stay per person and family is as follows:

Ages 1-2: Free

Ages 3-12: \$100

Ages 13+: \$150

Family cap: \$500 (large families will pay no more than \$500 total)

The camp requires that the ministry pay 20% of the estimated lodging expense before arrival. To reduce the burden and liability on the ministry, all those registering will initially pay a non-refundable 20% of the total lodging cost, which will be subtracted from your total when final payment is made. Yahweh's Restoration Ministry will be accepting reservations near Pentecost time 2009. Please visit www.yrm.org for camp pictures and eventually early registration. For those who plan to join us at Camp Crosley, we would encourage you to **save your second tithe** so that you have the funds to attend Yahweh's commanded observance (Deut 14:22-27, 16:13-15). The earlier we begin saving, the more prepared we will be.

Activities, Activities, Activities!

In addition to great accommodations, the camp offers many activities, including: indoor and outdoor basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball, volleyball, archery, rock wall climbing, high ropes course, zip line, canoes, walking-trials, fishing, and much more. There is also a large game room with ping-pong, pool, foosball, karaoke, and a large selection of family board games. With the increase in lodging and the many family activities, the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles promises to be a great blessing for all.

Unique Nearby Attractions:

Another positive for Camp Crosley is its proximity to the charming town of North Webster. It is only 2 miles from the camp and offers an adequate grocery store, laundry and family restaurant. Only 20-miles from North Webster is the larger city of Warsaw, which offers more grocery stores, restaurants, home improvements, shopping, and more. In addition to North Webster and Warsaw, the camp is also



Cabins



Dining Hall



Meeting hall



Nature Center



Indoor gymnasium with basketball

approximately 30-miles from Shipshewana, known for its Amish community. Feastgoers will likely have an opportunity to take a group trip to Shipshewana to visit Menno-Hof, an Amish/Mennonite multi-media educational center. Other attractions at this quaint community include one of the largest flea markets in the Midwest, beautiful Blue Gate Theater, and a working artisan village.

Airport and Bus Connections

Those flying to the Feast have their choice of three airports. Two major hubs are Indianapolis International Airport and O'Hare International Airport in Chicago; both being approximately three hours drive from the camp. A much closer airport is the Fort Wayne International Airport at

approximately one hour from Camp Crosley. However, because Fort Wayne is a smaller airport than either Indianapolis or Chicago, the cost may be somewhat higher. If you regularly check prices you may find a sale on flights to Fort Wayne. For those taking Greyhound, the closest stations to the camp are Elkhart and Fort Wayne, each about one hour from the camp.

We pray that you will make plans now to join us for the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles from the evening of October 4 through October 12 at Camp Crosley. The many instructional and inspirational messages along with a boatload of family activities available at this camp promise to make the upcoming Feast one for the ages! May Yahweh bless you in your desire to serve Him. 🙏



The Virtuous Woman is written by women for women, with articles about faith, home, marriage, child-rearing, recipes, and whatever may interest women in the Faith.

Guard My Heart and the Door of My Mouth

by Ledonna Scalf

It was a crisp, cold morning here in the hills of Tennessee. I awoke early just as the sun was peeking over the horizon. I sleepily made my way to the coffee pot. Making fresh coffee is almost always my day's first accomplishment, as the early birds I've shared Tabernacles with over the years can testify.

I ventured to the back porch and bravely opened the door to peek outside. A rush of freezing air blasted me. I shuddered and quickly closed the door. BURRRR! Winter is NOT my favorite time of year! Still sleepy and glassy eyed, I searched for a jacket. SOMEBODY had to venture out there and collect wood and stoke the fireplace. I guess that would be.....ME. Of course it would be. I was the only one awake. Everyone else was still snoozing, warm and cozy in his or her bed. Never mind the fact that just a few hours ago, while on a midnight trip to the bathroom, I had already replenished the fire once.

With the fire roaring once again, I managed to pour a cup of coffee. Ahhh! This would be great! I'd use two sugars and extra cream—just the way I like it. I'd sit at the kitchen table and warm myself by the fire before making pancakes for breakfast. But when I opened the fridge I discovered that SOMEBODY had helped himself to the last drop of milk! This wouldn't be a problem if they had told me LAST NIGHT, when I would have had the opportunity to FIX it! Now there would be no milk for my coffee, let alone any to make my pancake breakfast! I huff. I couldn't understand why they ALWAYS do this! How hard could it be to tell me we're out of milk?!

I made my way to the pantry and searched the shelves. I

knew that somewhere, hidden among the rows of items, was a canister of powered coffee creamer. I don't like that nearly as well...but it would have to do with the pinch I was in. HUFFF!

Now. Finally! I could sit and just enjoy my coffee. Breakfast options ran through my head. 'Can't have cereal. I'll make muffins. No, silly. You can't make muffins. Remember? You have no milk! Huff! Double HUFF!

It might seem like such a petty thing. But it's no small task to make breakfast for five "starving" children each morning! It requires thought and preparation. And here, I had NO MILK! Huff! Finally, I settle upon oatmeal. It's not anybody's favorite, but it's nutritious, I had plenty of it and it requires no milk. Fine! Oatmeal it would be!

It was entirely too early to have to be confronted with so many frustrations...HUFF!

I sat down with my coffee and opened my Bible. I knew I didn't have long before the silence of the morning would be shattered by the voices of hungry children and I wanted to get in a few chapters of my daily reading before that happened. The warmth of the fire felt SO good! Engrossed in my reading, I sipped my coffee, barely noticing the "off taste" of my "fake cream."

I wound up reading the book of Hosea. It's the testimony of a righteous man who was told by Yahweh to take on the burdens of a wife who was guilty of great whoredoms. Hosea's life was one of symbolism; an earthly example of how the house of Israel continually walked in their sinful ways in spite of their marriage covenant with the Almighty. Its

chapters repeatedly point out how Israel “returns to Egypt” and the punishments that result.

“Return to Egypt.”Hmmm...I pondered that and began to reflect upon my earlier attitude. Could it be that grumbling, complaining and overlooking one’s blessings is in part what is meant by a “return to Egypt”? Surely returning to captivity is part of it. But captivity to what? Could it be that when we don’t take every thought captive, we return to the slavery of Egypt through sin? If we do so, would we the “wild branch” which is “grafted in” be found any less deserving of chastising? Oh Yahweh! Purify us so that it not be so!

I heard floorboards above me starting to creak. The children were beginning to wake up. Very soon now the house would be filled with the sound of clanging pots and idyllic chattering. I closed my Bible and took a long, deliberate breath. “Father, you alone know all my shortcomings! Forgive me for each grumbling that has flown so quickly from my heart! Help keep me from falling back into the captivity of Egypt through

the renewing of my mind!

“Show me how to guard my heart and the door of my mouth so that I not sin against you! Teach me to find the blessings and joy in each thing — however great or small so that I will not be guilty of sinning against you. I thank you for firewood which has done such a great job of keeping our home warm and cozy! I thank you for oatmeal in the pantry. I thank you for messy, noisy children who will quickly fill my empty sink with dishes which beckon for me! And I thank you for allowing me to experience LACK so I can be taught to experience PLENTY.”

Sisters, I share this to show how quickly (and unintentionally) we can find ourselves walking close to the realm of contamination. We must be diligent to guard against this. Being quick to proclaim blessings and thanksgiving is the best ammunition we have! Besides, it drives the enemy CRAZY. Let us give thanks to Yahweh continually and be determined to stay out of Egypt! 🍷

CLEAN FOOD RECIPES

Summer is long gone and so, too, are the vibrant green and yellow garden vegetables. Fall ushers in the golds and oranges of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and butternut squashes. These versatile autumn vegetables can be used in soups, main courses, side dishes, and desserts. Following are some "golden fall" recipes. - Debbie Reed

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE - Cathey Hinson

(a favorite at Sabbath meetings)

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes

1 cup brown sugar

½ cup milk

1/3 cup melted butter

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

*Beat the above ingredients with a hand mixer. Pour the mixture into a greased 9" x 13" baking dish.

1 cup coconut

1 cup chopped pecans

¼ cup brown sugar

½ cup flour

1/3 cup melted butter

*Mix the above ingredients together and pour on top of the sweet potato mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.

Cathey also brought back this recipe from the 2008 Feast of Tabernacles. She claimed that it earned rave reviews.

PUMPKIN BARS

2 cups sugar

1 cup oil

4 eggs

2 cups canned pumpkin

2 cups flour

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

*Mix all of the ingredients together. Bake in a greased 12 x 15 pan at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. COOL and then frost with the following:

PUMPKIN BAR FROSTING

8-oz. cream cheese (softened)

1 stick butter (softened)

3 tsp. vanilla

4 cups powdered sugar

1 cup chopped pecans

*Mix the first four ingredients until smooth. Stir in the pecans and spread over the cooled cake.

Butternut squash is one of my favorite vegetables, with its delicate, buttery flavor. It's easy to grow and very prolific.

As I live in a retirement center where not all meals are furnished, it's been convenient to collect a few quickie noon meal recipes of items I usually have on hand. Leftover veggies could be used in the following recipe.

CREAM OF BROCCOLI & CHEESE SOUP – Mil Mansager

1 to 2 c. celery

1 c. chopped onion

Broccoli (green beans can be used)

2 c. milk

1 can undiluted celery or cream of chicken soup

1/2 c. of cheddar or bits of block cheese, pepper to taste

First cook the celery, onion and broccoli in about 2 cups of water. Then add the milk, soup and cheese, using the cooking water.

A new building rises at Yahweh's Restoration Ministry

High Time for Expansion

The floor of our offices is filled with boxes, our Discover the Truth telecast is filmed in a borrowed shed shared by a tractor, and our printing press and other printing equipment have been in storage for 10 years while we limp along with desktop printers. It truly is time we had better accommodations for this growing ministry. Thanks to a special donation, we are able to start work on a 42 x 70 building next to our present meeting hall and offices that will give us more office space, a print shop, a TV studio, and much-needed storage room. It will also offer protection for the 5th-wheel trailer we use yearly for Tabernacles. We will go as far as donated funds allow, praying to get at least the shell up this winter. This work of Yahweh would be most blessed by any help you choose to send toward this much-needed project!



A tractor is used to blade the floor of the new building, above, as a crane sets the first of 10 trusses, above right. To help save on costs all work is being done by local brethren. At right, Bros. Ryan Mansager, Landis Deck and Robert Gregory look over the new construction from a distance. At the far right of the lower photo is the present hall and office complex at Holts Summit. The cost quote for the steel to enclose the structure is \$7,000, and we are trusting Almighty Yahweh to bless us to allow the building to be enclosed this winter.





Unclean Food and the Second Tithe

“Please explain Deuteronomy 12:15-18, which raises two questions for me: does verse 15 say we can eat unclean food, and why do verses 17-18 limit where one can consume the tithe of the food and other offerings?” – AR, MO

The passage in question reads, “Notwithstanding you may kill and eat flesh in all your gates, whatsoever your soul lust after, according to the blessing of Yahweh your Elohim which he has given you: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart. Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it upon the earth as water.

“You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your corn, or of your wine, or of your oil, or the firstlings of your herds or of your flock, nor any of your vows which you vow, nor your freewill offerings, or heave offering of your hand: But you must eat them before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which Yahweh your Elohim shall choose, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite that is within your gates: and you shall rejoice before Yahweh your Elohim in all that you put your hands unto.”

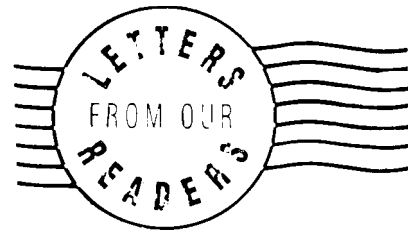
Reading the passage carefully, we see that the terms clean and unclean refer to the eater, not to what is eaten. This aspect of the law says both the ceremonially clean and ceremonially unclean person are permitted to eat meat for food at home, meat like the roebuck and hart, which are not used ceremonially in sacrifice to Yahweh. Verse 17 answers the second part of your question, about where Israelites were to offer their offerings to Yahweh — at home or at a specific place?

In verse 17 we enter the realm of worship and the role sacrifices played in it. According to **Old Testament Commentaries** by Keil and Delitzsch, “From these instructions it is very apparent that sacrificial meals were associated with the delivery of the tithes and firstlings to [Yahweh], to which a tenth part of the corn, must, and oil was applied, as well as the flesh of the first-born of edible cattle. This tenth formed the so-called second

tithe, which is mentioned here for the first time...” *The Fifth Book of Moses*, p. 1030.

The second tithe is a tenth saved for the annual Feast gatherings, Deuteronomy 14:23. Here Yahweh tells us that the second tithe was to be used only at the Feasts at the place where Yahweh puts His Name. “And you shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of your corn, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks; that you may learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always.”

From these two Old Testament teachings about where to eat everyday food versus sacrificial food, we see that Yahweh’s Feasts are to be observed at a special place and not at home.



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– NC, NC

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