

## “Me? Wear What?”

**Y**ahshua, in Matthew 5:17-19, declared that He did not come to “do away with” the Law or the writings of the prophets. He said, (Mat 5:17-19 KJV) *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. {18} For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. {19} Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

So, why does almost everyone assume that He did, in fact, “do away with” the Law? Most Christians teach that the Law, which they commonly refer to as the Ten Commandments, are, indeed, abolished now. But when they are pinned down, it comes out that the only one they think is abolished is number Four – about His Seventh Day Sabbath. They say something like, “Well, they were all nailed to the cross, but later nine were brought back.” Even some would-be “True Believers” are deceived into thinking that much of the Law, or more correctly, the Torah or “Teachings” has been replaced with something else, or abolished altogether.

Another that they ignore, thinking they understand, is the Third, concerning His Name. Although His NAME, singular, appears in the original Hebrew texts a total of approximately 6,823 times in the Old Testament alone, most people say that He has many names, and names are not important. Maybe not to them, but to Yahweh a name is very important. In fact, it is a life-or-death matter to Him. It’s odd, considering the great gulf between modern Judaism and Christianity, that they agree the Name, Yahweh, should not be used, but for completely opposite reasons – the Jews saying it is too holy to be vocalized, while the Christians say it doesn’t matter what we call Him, because He knows our hearts. Wow, does He ever!

The truth is that none were ever abolished, made of none effect, “done away with,” or destroyed – not even for one second. Some are now on hold until He returns and re-establishes His Kingdom here on earth. These are the ones concerning Temple rituals, priestly duties, animal sacrifices, etc. That is why He allowed the heathen to destroy the Temple, occupy the Holy Land, and disperse His chosen people. These things made it impossible to fulfill those parts of the Law.

But that is not the main thrust of the Law. Notice His words, *“Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”* A YOD (ψ) is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, and a “tittle” is the smallest mark of punctuation. So He was stating absolutely that the Law would remain. Some think the statement, “till all be fulfilled” is the key. His death, they say, fulfilled ALL. But that was just the beginning of His spiritual ministry, and will not be completed until that time when Yahweh descends from the heavens with the New Jerusalem, and Yahshua relinquishes His power back to Yahweh (1 Cor. 15:28). Even then, His

eternal Kingdom will continue to be governed by His Law (Torah), since “heaven and earth” will not pass, or cease to exist.

So let’s examine “the Law” with these things in mind. The word translated “law” in the Old Testament, when referring to Yahweh’s Law, is “Torah” in Hebrew, and means, Law, Instruction, Teaching, etc. This occurs about 132 times. Many references are to priestly temple duties, animal sacrifices, etc., that are now suspended. But there are many commands that are still in force today, such as the Ten Commandments, the clean meats laws, the annual Festivals, physical circumcision, plus many others, and our subject in this article, the wearing of tassels, or fringes, called in the Hebrew, *tsiytsith*.

*(Num 15:38-40 KJV) "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: {39} And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: {40} That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your Elohim."*

Again in Deuteronomy we find a similar Scripture, mixed in with several other teachings:

*(Deut. 22:12 NRSV) "You shall make tassels on the four corners of the cloak with which you cover yourself."*

The reason is not given here, as it is in Numbers 15:39, but it does serve as a “second witness.” The reason for wearing them, “that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, and do them,” seems unnecessary in light of True Believers’ now having the Holy Spirit to keep us mindful of the Commandments, what sin is, etc. That was my reason (or excuse) for not wearing them, until this past March, when I did a study on this and circumcision. My conclusion was and is, that I had been wrong on both counts, so I made some corrections.

I have been accused of “Legalism,” as if being legal is a bad thing, and of thinking that Law-keeping will “save” me. But that is ridiculous. If law-keeping would save a person, then Yahshua lived and died in vain. That is the error of the Christians. They believe that obedience is not necessary, as long as we have faith in the Messiah.

While it is true that we must have faith in Him and His sacrifice as being sufficient to pay for or atone for our past sins, this does not give us license to go on sinning. Remember that sin, as defined in the New Testament Book of 1 John 3:4, is “...the transgression of (breaking) the Law.” He died so that the repentant who accept His sacrifice, **and** begin to obey the Torah don’t have to die eternally.

In the Torah, we are told to do certain things. But not everything applies to everyone. For example, if you are not a farmer, then mixing of seed in your field would not apply to you. Neither would the prohibition against plowing with an ox and an ass together. If you do not have a house with a flat roof where people gather, similar to a deck or a porch, then the command to build a banister around it would not apply to you.

But without a clear-cut command from Yahweh negating His spoken words in the Books of the Law or changing them in some way (Genesis through Deuteronomy), then we are skating on thin ice to declare them “done away.”

There are very likely other scriptures setting forth Laws that we have been neglecting, but should be obeying. So we need to keep studying the Word to see what we may be misunderstanding. Many we take for granted, such as the “Clean Meats Laws” of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14; the annual High Sabbaths; and all ten of the so-called Decalogue, or Ten Commandments. It is ridiculous to assert that only nine are now in effect, and somehow the Sabbath got changed to the day of the sun. But that is another subject for another day.

Again, what is the purpose of wearing tassels? It is, as Numbers 15:39 tells us, to remind us of all the commandments of Yahweh, **and to do them**, not going about seeking our own way and forgetting His instructions for us. My former rationale was that, hey, we have His Holy Spirit now to remind us, so we don’t need an external physical reminder. But **nowhere** in Scripture is there even a hint that this “instruction” has been changed or done away. Yahshua Himself wore them, and He is our example:

((Mat 9:20 NRSV) "Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the **fringe** of his cloak."

(Mat 14:36 NRSV) "and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed."

(KJV says “hem of his garment” in both these Scriptures, but they are referring to His tassels, Heb. From Strong’s Concordance: 6734. tsiytsith, tsee-tseeth'; fem. of H6731; a floral or wing-like projection, i.e. a fore-lock of hair, a tassel:--fringe, lock.

The only requirement seems to have been that it have a ribbon of blue, and be attached to the “four corners” of an outer garment. There does not seem to be any word written that the Apostles wore them, but in light of their writings declaring that we should follow Yahshua, and that He was/is our example, the conclusion is obvious.~