

Elohim Expects Us to keep His Commandments

We live in a world full of fear, hatred, and death due to prevalent transgression of the commandments of Elohim. Regretfully, many groups, *claiming to be Christian*, teach that Christians don't need to keep the commandments and law. The following is a compilation of Old Testament and New Testament Bible passages that proves Elohim requires everyone to obey His commandments and law; especially those who call on His Name.

* Note: in reverence to the Almighty, the words "The Lord" and "Yeshua Christ" have been rendered as "The Eternal" and "Yeshua Messiah" respectively. Some words are in bold for emphasis.

A) The Old and New Testaments clearly show that Elohim wants everyone to keep the commandments:

1. The commandments are everlasting and must be kept always:

Deuteronomy 11:1 - Therefore thou shall love the Eternal your Elohim, and keep His charge, and His statutes, and His judgments, and His commandments, always. **Psalm 111:7-8** - The works of His hands are verity and justice; **all His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.** **Psalm 119:160** - The entirety of Your word is truth, and **every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.** **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Elohim, and **keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.** **Matthew 19:17**- And He said unto him, Why do you call Me good? There is none good but one, that is, Elohim: but if thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments.**

2. One law for Israel and all people in Messiah:

Exodus 12:49 - One law shall be to him that is **native born**, and **unto the stranger** that sojourns among you. **Leviticus 24:22** - Ye shall have **one manner of law**, as well for the **stranger**, as for **one of your own country**: for I am the Eternal your Elohim. **Isaiah 56:1-8** - Thus says the Eternal: Keep **justice**, and do **righteousness**, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. **Blessed is the man** who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; **who keeps from defiling the Sabbath**, and keeps his hand **from doing any evil**. Do not let the son of the **foreigner** who has joined himself to the Eternal speak, saying, The Eternal has utterly separated me from His people; Nor let the **eunuch** say, Here I am, a dry tree. For thus says the Eternal: To the eunuchs **who keep My Sabbaths**, and **choose what pleases Me**, and **hold fast My covenant**, Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the **foreigner** who join themselves to the Eternal, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Eternal, to be His servants - **Everyone** who keeps from defiling the **Sabbath**, and holds fast My covenant - Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For

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My house shall be called a **house of prayer for all nations**. The Eternal Elohim, who gathers the outcasts of **Israel**, says, Yet I will gather to him **others** besides those who are gathered to him. **Ephesians 2: 11-13** - Therefore remember that you, once **Gentiles** in the flesh - who are called uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands - that at that time you were without Messiah, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of **Israel** and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without Elohim in the world. But now in Messiah Yeshua you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah.

3. Elohim will write His law on the hearts and minds of His New Covenant people:

Deuteronomy 5:29 - Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and **always keep all My commandments**, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

Jeremiah 31:31-33 - Behold, the days are coming, says the Eternal, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Eternal. **But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Eternal: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.** No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Eternal,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Eternal. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

Ezekiel 36:27 - I will put My Spirit within you and **cause you to walk in My laws**, and you will **keep My judgments** and do *them*.

4. Prophecies (predictions) of Yeshua Messiah's (Jesus Christ) first coming, reveals He came to exalt the law:

Isaiah 42:1-3, 21 - Behold! My **Servant** whom I uphold, My **Elect One** in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth... The Eternal is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; **He will exalt the law and make it honorable.**

5. Messiah Yeshua taught:

- ✓ **All need to repent** (stop breaking the commandments) and believe the Good News. **Mark 1:15** - The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of Elohim is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Good News.
- ✓ **He came to bring the law to its fullness.** **Matthew 5:17** - Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.
- ✓ **Nothing in the law will pass until all prophecies are done.** **Matthew 5:18** - For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Note: *Messiah fulfilled all prophecies concerning His first coming. Yet,*

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heaven and earth are still here and many prophecies leading to His second coming still need to be fulfilled.

- ✓ **All should keep and teach all the commandments. Matthew 5:19** - 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.
- ✓ **Keeping the commandments are vital. Matthew 7:23** - And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' **Matthew 23:23** - Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.
- ✓ **Love is keeping the commandments. John 14:21** - He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. **John 15:10** - If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

6. Messiah's apostles and disciples kept and taught the commandments just as He taught them: Paul, James - all the apostles and disciples kept the law - Acts 21:20, 24 - And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, You see, brother, how many myriads of **Jews** there are **who have believed**, and they are **all zealous for the law**;...Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, **but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law. Acts 24:14** - But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohim of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. **Romans 2:12** - For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law. **Romans 2:13** - (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of Elohim, but **the doers of the law will be justified; Romans 2:14** - for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **Romans 2:15** - who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them). **Romans 3:31**- Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, **we establish the law. Romans 7:12** Wherefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Romans 7:25** - I thank Elohim through Yeshua Messiah our Lord! So then, with the mind **I myself serve the law of Elohim**, but with the flesh the law of sin. **1Corinthians 7:19** Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the **keeping of the commandments of Elohim.**

James 1:25 - But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. **James 2:8** - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself,

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you do well; **James 2:9** - but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **James 2:10** - For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. **James 2:11** - For He who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **James 2:12** - So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **James 4:11** - Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. **He who speaks evil of a brother** and judges his brother, **speaks evil of the law** and **judges the law**. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **1Peter 1:22** - Since you have purified your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart. (Psalm 119:142 - Your **law is truth**).

1John 2:3 - Now by this we know that we know Him, if **we keep His commandments**. **1John 2:4** - He who says, I know Him, and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar**, and the truth is not in him. **1John 3:4, 9** - Whoever commits sin transgresses the law, for **sin is the transgression of the law**. Whoever has been born of Elohim does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of Elohim. **1John 3:22** - And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because **we keep His commandments** and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. **1John 3:24** - Now he who **keeps His commandments** abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. **1John 5:2-3** - By this we know that we love the children of Elohim, when we love Elohim and **keep His commandments**. For this is the love of Elohim, that **we keep His commandments**. And His commandments are not burdensome. **2John 1:6** - This is love, that we **walk according to His commandments**. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

7. Revelation (the last known book of the Bible) *shows we should keep the commandments:*
Revelation 12:17 - And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who **keep the commandments of Elohim** and have the testimony of Yeshua Messiah. **Revelation 14:12** - Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep the commandments of Elohim** and the faith of Yeshua. **Revelation 22:14** - Blessed are those **who do His commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

B) The following statements are used by some to keep honest people from observing Elohim's law.

1. The Law was abolished: Ephesians 2:15 - "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace."

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The word, translated as “**ordinances**,” is the Greek word “**dogma**” Strong’s Concordance **code# 1378**. The word dogma is defined as a common belief or law that may or may not have a substantial basis. The context of Ephesians 2:12-13, show that by the work of Messiah, all gentiles who believe are no longer aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and to the covenants of promise. By the blood of Messiah, they now have hope and are in Elohim. Through Messiah, Christian gentiles and Christian Israelites are made one people and partake of the covenants of promise. Furthermore, Ephesians 2:18 shows “through Him **we both** have access by **one Spirit** to the Father”. This agrees with Ezekiel 36:27: “I will put **My Spirit** within you and **cause you to walk in My laws**, and you will keep My judgments and **do them.**” 1John 3:24 teaches the same - “Now he who **keeps His commandments** abides in Him, and He in him. And **by this we know** that He abides in us, by the **Spirit** whom He has given us.” Clearly the Spirit of Elohim unifies and enables Jew and Gentile Christians to keep the commandments. Thus, Paul would be contradicting the prophet Ezekiel and John and all the others if he were teaching Messiah abolished the law. Paul’s own testimony is in Romans 3:31- “Do we then make **void the law** through faith? **Certainly not!** On the contrary, **we establish the law.**” In Matthew 5:18-19 **Messiah** stated “For **assuredly, I say to you**, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle **will by no means pass** from the law **till all is fulfilled**. 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, if any ordinances or commandments were abolished, they would have to be demonic or manmade rules - not Elohim’s everlasting commandments. Specifically, Ephesians 2:15-16 **emphasizes** that Messiah **abolishes** and **kills** the **enmity** (hostility) more so than anything else in the statement. It is evident that man’s hostility, evils, and prejudices against Elohim and each other come from their diverse and personal beliefs and customs. Therefore, the law stands forever, but Messiah spares us from the penalties of law breaking when we stop sinning and trustingly seek His Divine forgiveness.

To better understand this, consider the following references. **Colossians 2:14** - Blotting out the handwriting of **ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. Colossians 2:13 gives the context, “And **you**, being **dead** in your **trespasses** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He** has **made alive** together with Him, having **forgiven you all trespasses.**” The framework shows Colossians 2:14 teaches that Messiah forgives and removes the charges against people who repent of their sins. Clearly Elohim’s laws and commandments are **good** and **holy** as Paul stated in Romans 7:12. Although they show us our faults, they are not against us. Thus, the ordinances that are against us refer to lawful penalties incurred by us every time we sin against Elohim. We have forgiveness and are spared the penalties if we stop the sins and ask Elohim for pardon through Messiah. This is possible, because Messiah gave His life as a ransom for all so that anyone who will stop sinning and believe in Him will be ransomed. Since Paul never taught that Elohim abolished His own laws, what was he teaching? In Romans 8:7 Paul explains “the carnal mind is **enmity** against Elohim; for it is **not subject** to the

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law of Elohim, nor indeed can be.” In Colossians 1:21-22 he shows that mankind is **alienated** from Elohim **by** their **sins** – not by Elohim’s law. So, Messiah abolished the enmity or hostility caused by our sinful carnal nature to make a new Spirit-led humanity of peace.

Consider the use of a similar Greek word translated as ordinances “**dogmatizo**”. **Colossians 2:20** - Wherefore if ye be dead with Messiah from the **rudiments of the world**, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to **ordinances**... In this case, the word pertains to a state of being subject to dogma (manmade rules). See Strong’s Concordance **code# 1379**. **Colossians 2:21-22** “Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using; after the **commandments and doctrines of men?**” Plainly, this shows that Paul is referring to man’s rules and not Elohim’s rules.

A different Greek word translated as ordinances is “**dikaioma**.” Listed as Strong’s Concordance **code#1345**, it means “judgment,” “justification” or “righteousness” and is found only twice in the entire Bible. Not surprisingly, in both cases, this word was used only in relation to rules ordained by Elohim; with both references found in the book of Hebrews. **Hebrews 9:1, 10** - “Then verily the first covenant had also **ordinances** of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary... “Which stood only in meats and drinks, and diverse washings, and carnal **ordinances**, imposed on them until the time of reformation.”

2. “*Christians are not “under the law” but are “under grace”* is another truth which some misunderstand. The Scriptures absolutely do teach that true Christians are not “under the law” but are “under grace.” Yet, we need to know the Biblical meaning of being “under the law” and “under grace.” Look at the following. **Romans 3:19** - Now we know that whatever **the law says**, it says **to those** who are **under the law**, that **every** mouth may be stopped, and **all the world** may become **guilty** before Elohim. **Romans 6:14** - For **sin shall not** have dominion over you, for **you are not under law** but under grace. **Romans 6:15** - What then? **Shall we sin** because **we are not under law** but under grace? **Certainly not!** The above three references show that being under the law is being guilty of sin while being under grace is overcoming sin and the world. Here are more references showing the same. **Romans 6:19** - I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. **Galatians 5:18** - But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are **not under the law**. **1Timothy 1:9** – “knowing this: that the **law is not made for a righteous person**, but **for the lawless and insubordinate**, for the **ungodly** and for **sinner...**” **Hebrews 10:16** - “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Eternal: I will put My **laws into their hearts**, and in their **minds** I will write them”.

Some misunderstand the term “under the law” to represent the condition of someone who is attempting to please Elohim by keeping the law. Some call this “**legalism**.” If their understanding is correct, then only a relatively small population of humanity would have this problem and have a

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need for salvation. In other words, **if under the law is legalism**, then **pagan** nations and **ungodly** people would **not** be **under the law** since **they aren't trying to keep the law** and often don't even know **Elohim's law**. As shown in the Bible and evident in the world, **only** a **small** proportion of **people** know Elohim's laws, and even fewer are trying to keep it. Yet, the Bible clearly and emphatically shows the condition of being under the law applies to all of humanity- not only some. So, by the Biblical context, the term under the law actually refers to a condition of being **below** Elohim's law or in violation of His law.

This is evident in **Galatians 4:4-5**: "But when the fullness of the time had come, **Elohim sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born **under the law**, to **redeem those** who were **under the law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Also in **1Timothy 1:15** "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Messiah Yeshua came into the world to **save sinners**, of whom I am chief." In **Luke 5:31-32** "Yeshua answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, **but sinners**, to **repentance**." The above references clearly show that Messiah came to save those who are sinners - under the law. So, the idea that the term "under the law" refers to people who seek to please Elohim by keeping the law is not found anywhere in the Bible and is false. These Bible texts show that people are actually under or *beneath* the law and are accused by the law when they break the law. This understanding matches the Biblical framework that all of mankind is under the law, in violation of Elohim's law and deserving of the prescribed penalty. However, they are not under the law if they stop sinning and by the Spirit seek and receive Elohim's grace.

3. Christians are "**saved by grace**" **not law** and so they don't need to keep the law is another error. The fact is, according to the Scriptures, people were **always saved** absolutely **by faith** in Elohim and by His **grace alone**. **Never**, were the **commandments** and **law given to save** us. They were **given to show** us what is **right** and what is **wrong** so that we may stop doing wrong and seek **Elohim's grace**. Elohim's goodness to people **was always by His grace**; never because they earned it. Without any contradiction, the following Bible statements, written long before Messiah came, make that fact very plain.

Deuteronomy 30:11-16 - "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. See, I have set before you today **life** and **good**, **death** and **evil**, in that I command you today to love the Eternal your Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to **keep His commandments**, His statutes, and His judgments..." The commandments and law were given **to show us right and wrong - not to save us**. We can **never be saved by our own righteousness**: **Deuteronomy 9:5** - "It is **not because of your righteousness** or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land..." **Isaiah 57:12** - "I will declare your righteousness and your works, for they will not profit you." **Isaiah 64:6** - "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags... **Mankind has always been required to live by faith**: **Habakkuk 2:4** - "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But **the just shall live by his faith**. **Elohim's favor and**

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Salvation are always by grace: Exodus 33:17 - “So the Eternal said to Moses, ‘I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found **grace** in My sight, and I know you by name.’” **Ezra 9:8** – “And now for a little while **grace** has been shown from the Eternal our Elohim, to leave us a remnant to escape...” *By the entire Biblical context, **grace is more than just forgiveness. It is Elohim’s unmerited favor to forgive our sins and empower us to love and keep His commandments when we repent and turn to Him in faith. So then, people who break Elohim’s commandments are under the law and those who obey the law by Elohim’s Spirit through faith in Messiah are not under the law but under grace.***

4. “Messiah abolished animal sacrifices” so we don’t need to keep the law. The fact is, sacrifices were all earthly examples of realities Elohim established in the Heavens (**Exodus 25:40, Exodus 26:40, Exodus 27:8, Hebrews 8:5**). The earthly *sacrifices could never justify* people. Elohim was and is always the One Who justifies (**Exodus 31:13, Leviticus 20:8, Leviticus 22:32, Psalm 99:8, Psalm 103:3, Ezekiel 20:12, Hebrews 10:4**). As per the Scriptures, the sacrifices were stopped by “**the beast**” (demonic government) - **not by Messiah. Daniel 7:22-25, Daniel 9:26-27** - And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah** shall be **cut off**, but not for Himself; and **the people of the prince** who is to come **shall destroy** the city and the **sanctuary**. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then *he* shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week **he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering**. *Clearly, the beast not only stopped the sacrifices it also cut off - killed Messiah. Yet, by Messiah’s death and resurrection, Messiah revealed that He is and was always The Way to forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to The Father (Hebrews 9:23). Thus, Elohim allowed the beast to remove the examples and revealed the reality of His Son Who will eliminate the beast forever.*

5. “Christians don’t need to celebrate Elohim on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holydays” is another big error they teach supposedly from the Apostle Paul’s message in **Galatians 4:8-10**. This text reads, “But then, indeed, **when you did not know Elohim, you served those which by nature are not Elohim. But now after you have known Elohim, or rather are known by Elohim, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years.**” Yet, careful and unbiased study of the text clearly shows that Paul was simply telling the Christians in Galatia, who were former pagans (*idolaters*), not to go back to their former pagan practices. Thus, the days, months, and years mentioned here are **not the appointed times in Elohim’s law**, but some of their old pagan customs such as astrology. Paul addressed it because Elohim’s law forbids such inhibitive customs. In Deuteronomy 4:19 Elohim instructs “And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be drawn away and worship them and serve them, those which the LORD your Elohim has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.” Paul testifies that the law is holy, and that he keeps the law and therefore would never describe any part of Elohim’s law as “weak” or “beggarly.” He and all the other apostles knew that the Psalms affirm that **all** of Elohim’s “**commandments** are sure. They **stand fast**

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forever and **ever**, and are done in truth and uprightness.” They’re certainly not weak and beggarly. Additionally, in Galatians 4:1-5, Paul describes pagans as slaves, being of the flesh, under the law (sinners), and people in Messiah as being free from sin by promise in the Spirit.

Unmistakably, all the Old and New Covenant Scriptures teach that Elohim expects true Christians to keep His commandments. Also, commandment breaking (sin) puts us under the law deserving its penalty. As per Messiah and His disciples, repentance (leaving sin for Elohim and keeping the law) prepares people to accept Messiah - the goal of the law, and to receive Elohim’s grace. In essence, Elohim sent His Son to exalt the law, to tell mankind to repent, keep the law, believe the Good News, and to give His Holy Spirit to all who believe (do what He says). So they can honor Elohim in spirit and in truth and become His immortal descendants. Therefore, we need to carefully follow the clear Biblical **teaching of the Apostles, Prophets and Messiah Yeshua**, and not be deceived by false or misguided people who, being under the law, teach we should not keep Elohim’s commandments. Thank you for your time. Please **call** or **write** concerning any prayer requests or questions you may have about this or any other topic.

By Jackson Souffrant