



Paul “Let not”...



Paul “Sha’ul”

- Paul is often miss-quoted and miss-understood.
- Some think Paul came to “start a new religion” or completely remove him from the canon because of confusion.
- This is nothing new!

2Peter 3:16-18 Indeed, he speaks about these things in all his letters. They contain some things that are hard to understand, things which the uninstructed and unstable distort, to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. But you, dear friends, since you know this in advance, guard yourselves; so that you will not be led away by the errors of the wicked and fall from your own secure position. And keep growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah. To him be the glory, both now and forever!
Amen.

“Let Not” ~ Paul

- In Paul's writings we often see statements that begin with the phrase “Let not...” Consider the pattern of understanding Paul's “Let not” statements:
- Paul is consistent across all these statements!
- There is great wisdom in Paul's words, and they align with scripture!

We “let not” a certain negative thing happen, by doing something positive to prevent that negative thing from happening.

- “*contradictory imperative*” or “*paradoxical exhortation*” Examples....

“Let Not” ~ Paul :

G3361

μή

mē̄ may

A primary particle of qualified negation (whereas G3756 expresses an absolute denial); (adverbially) not, (conjugationally) lest; also (as interrogitive implying a negative answer [whereas G3756 expects an affirmative one]); whether: - any, but, (that), X forbear, + God forbid, + lack, lest, neither, never, no (X wise in), none, nor, [can-] not, nothing, that not, un [-taken], without.

“Let Not” ~ Paul

Rom 6:12-13 Therefore “do not let” sin rule in your mortal body so that you obey its desires. And do not keep yielding your body parts to sin as tools of wickedness; but yield yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your body parts as tools of righteousness to God.

- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?
- By letting righteousness reign in our body, and by obeying the will of God instead of the lust of the flesh, as Paul explains in verse 13.

“Let Not” ~ Paul:

1Cor 7:10 To those who are married I have a command, and it is not from me but from the Lord: “Let not” a woman separate herself from her husband. (And let not the husband put away the wife).

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?
- By staying with their spouse unless there is scriptural grounds for divorce (abuse).

“Let Not” ~ Paul:

Gal 5:24-26 Moreover, those who belong to the Messiah Yeshua have put their old nature to death on the stake, along with its passions and desires. Since it is through the Spirit that we have Life, let it also be through the Spirit that we order our lives day by day. “Let us not” become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By putting our passions and desires to death and following the passions the Spirit is leading us to! Seeking God’s glory instead of our own.

“Let Not” ~ Paul :

Gal 6:9-10 “So let us not” grow weary of doing what is good; for if we don't give up, we will in due time reap the harvest. Therefore, as the opportunity arises, let us do what is good to everyone, and especially to the family of those who are trustingly faithful.

- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By not overworking and overextending ourselves to the point of exhaustion. Taking proper rest.
- Prioritizing correctly, you, marriage, family then congregation
- Using discernment in “needy” situations
- Proper structure in the congregation
- Law of “double release”

“Let Not” ~ Paul :

Eph 4:26-27 Be angry, but don't sin — “don't let” the sun go down before you have dealt with the cause of your anger; otherwise you leave room for the Adversary.

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By being reconciled with an offended brother or sister before sunset.

“Let Not” ~ Paul :

1Thes 5:6 So “let's not” be asleep, like the rest are; on the contrary, let us stay alert and sober. People who sleep, sleep at night; and people who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us stay sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of being delivered as a helmet.

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By staying spiritually and physically awake, as the rest of the verse tells us, “let us stay sober.” Utilizing the armor of God! Eph 6

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2Thes 2:3 “Don't let” anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By testing everything with the Scriptures to determine whether it is true or false. (See verse 9 through 12).

“Let Not” ~ Paul :

1Tim 4:12 “Don't let” anyone look down on you because of your youth; on the contrary, set the believers an example in your speech, behavior, love, trust and purity.

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By not behaving in an immature way, but rather by being a good (mature) example, as the rest of the verse explains.

Summary of “*Let Not*”

- These are just a few examples of Paul’s “Let not” statements. The way we understand and interpret these “Let not” statements could be summarized in this way:
- We “let not” a certain negative thing happen by doing something positive to prevent that negative thing from happening.

Summary of “*Let Not*”

- We let not sin reign in us by letting righteousness reign in us; we let not divorce happen by sticking together; we let not ourselves be weary by getting enough rest; we let not the sun go down on our anger by reconciling; we let not ourselves fall asleep spiritually by watching and staying alert; we let no man deceive us by consulting the Scriptures; we let no man despise our youth by being a good example.
- In all these, and in other “Let not” verses, we do something positive to prevent a certain negative thing from happening.

Understanding “*Let Not*” Correctly!

- That is the way we correctly understand and interpret Paul’s “Let not” statements.
- Why then do most believers not understand and interpret **Colossians 2:16**, another one of Paul’s “Let not” statements, in this same way?

Another “*Let Not*” by Paul :

Col 2:16-17 Therefore, “do not let” anyone pass judgment on you in matters of food or drink, or in respect to a festival or new moon or Shabbat. These are a foreshadowing of things to come, but the reality is Messiah.

- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?

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- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By obeying God’s dietary laws and by keeping the Sabbath and holy days in the proper (biblical) way, so that no man will have a legitimate reason to criticize us for the way we do these things.
- Messiah is still casting the shadow of things to come!

Another “Let Not” by Paul :

- Paul doesn't stop there, immediately after his “let not” in **Colossians 2:16-17** he throws another in! He doubles down!

Col 2:18 “Let no one” disqualify you by insisting on false humility and worship of angels—going into detail about what he has seen, puffed up without cause by his fleshly mind.

- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome?

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Col 2:18 “Let no one” disqualify you by insisting on false humility and worship of angels—going into detail about what he has seen, puffed up without cause by his fleshly mind.

- What positive action can we do to avoid the negative outcome? By following Gods laws and not man-made religious rules about clean and unclean – read **verse 21** through **23**!

Understanding “*Let Not*” Correctly!

- If we understand and interpret both **Colossians 2** “*Let not*” statements in the same way that we understand and interpret Paul’s other “*Let not*” statements (i.e., by saying that we do something positive to prevent something negative from happening), then how do we follow this instruction in **Colossians 2**?
- By obeying God’s dietary laws and by keeping the Sabbath, holy days & cleanliness laws in the proper way, so that no man will have a legitimate reason to criticize us for the way we do these things.
- If we obey God’s laws that govern these things, then no man will have a legitimate reason to judge us for our observance of the dietary laws, Sabbath, and holy days.

Poor Logic Conclusions:

- Sadly, this is not the way that most believers understand **Colossians 2:16**. Most believers think that Paul is saying in this verse that the Sabbath, holy days, and dietary laws are not important anymore, and can now be ignored.
- They think that Paul is saying “Don’t let anyone judge you for ignoring the God-given laws that tell us how to do these things. Just go ahead and ignore these God-given commandments, and don’t worry if people judge you for your disobedience.”

Using bad logic everywhere:

- But by using that same logic, Paul's instruction to "*Let no man despise your youth*" **1Tim 4:12** would then mean "Don't let anyone despise you for your immature behavior. Just go ahead and be as immature and reckless as you like, and don't worry if people judge you for your improper behavior."
- Is Paul telling us in **Rom 6:12-13** to let sin rule us? In **1Cor 7:10** to get divorced? To become conceited in **Gal 5:24-26**? To grow weary in **Gal 6:9-10**? To not deal with Anger and offenses in **Eph 4:26-27**? To be spiritually asleep **1Thes 5:6**, and not verify by truth of scripture **2Thes 2:3**?
- No!?!? – then interpret **Colossians 2** correctly!

Using bad logic everywhere:

- And in **Colossians 2:16**, Paul is not giving believers permission to eat pork and to profane the Sabbath. He is telling you to obey the dietary laws and Sabbath in the manner that God prescribes in His written law, and to not let yourself be judged by people who insist that you follow extra-Biblical traditions of men. (See **verse 8**, which provides important context.)
- Traditions of men are man-made rules. Commandments of God are not traditions of men. You do not need to disobey commandments of God in order to “Let no man judge you.” If you disobey commandments of God, then you are actually giving men a legitimate reason to judge you.

Understanding “*Let Not*” Consistently!

- Many believers who do not keep the seventh-day Sabbath think of Paul as the great liberator who set them free from the “bondage” of Sabbath keeping. But do you realize, that in all of Paul’s writings, the word *sabbath* appears only one time? Look in your Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance and you will see that the only time Paul wrote the word “*sabbath*” was in **Colossians 2:16**.
- Rather than misusing **Colossians 2:16** as an excuse for disobeying one of God’s Ten Commandments, let’s be consistent. Let’s understand this “*Let not*” “contradictory imperative” or “paradoxical exhortation” instruction in **Colossians 2:16** in the very same way that we understand all of Paul’s other “*Let not*” instructions!



Shabbat Shalom!

Q & A

