

HEBRAIC VIEW OF PAUL'S TORAH-OBSERVANT LIFESTYLE

Through the end of his life Paul, "the Apostle to the Gentiles", lived a Torah-observant lifestyle and taught Gentiles they did not have to be proselytes and become Jews to gain entrance into the Kingdom! For both Jews and Gentiles, the Cross was the only entrance point into the Kingdom. Many people say Paul spoke against leading a Torah-submissive lifestyle. Paul's own words are enlightening as to the lifestyle he lived. Leading a Torah-submissive lifestyle does not gain anyone salvation, nor make them more righteous. However, for those who have already gained entrance into the Kingdom, leading a Torah-submissive lifestyle guided by the Spirit, is the desired lifestyle to aim for. Several times Jesus said "[if you love me obey my commands.](#)" Unknowingly, many believers already lead a submissive lifestyle to most all of the applicable Torah teachings.

Paul encourages us in [\(1Cor. 11:1\) Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.](#)

---In these verses Luke and Paul are speaking about Paul's Torah-observant lifestyle---

[\(Php 3:4-6\) ...although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law \(Torah\), a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law \(Torah\), found blameless. \(Found blameless?\)](#)

[\(Act 21:20\) And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law \(Torah\); and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses \(Torah\), telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs \(Torah\). "What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.](#)

"Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and (1) all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but (2) that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the law (Torah). (Here James confirms Paul was (1) not teaching people to abandon the Torah and (2) that Paul walked orderly, keeping Torah.)

[\(Act 22:3\) "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law \(Torah\) of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.](#)

[\(Act 23:6\) But perceiving that one group was Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees \(Torah-observant\); I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"](#)

[\(Act 24:14\) "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect \(of Judaism\) I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law \(Torah\) and that is written in the Prophets;](#)

[\(Act 25:8\) while Paul said in his own defense, "I have committed no offense either against the Law \(Torah\) of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." \(Committed no offense against the Torah?\)](#)

[\(Act 26:4-5\) "So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest \(Torah\) sect of our religion.](#)

Near the End of Paul's life, speaking to the leading group of Jews in Rome, he had this testimony -

[\(Act 28:17-18\) After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he began saying to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers \(Torah\), yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death". \(Paul claims he was Torah-observant to the end.\)](#)