

glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;" (Romans 3:25)

"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (Romans 3:26)

"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith." (Romans 3:27)

Observations on how faith establishes the Law:

* Faith establishes the Law in that faith proves that the Law could NOT save us. There is no justification available through the deeds of the Law (Romans 3:20), and thus, the Law is established.

* Faith establishes the Law in proving that the Law is entirely accurate! Not one person has ever fully obeyed the Law of Moses (except Jesus.) All have sinned; therefore, the Law is established (Romans 3:23).

* Faith establishes the Law in that something infinitely superior to the Law is necessary for the remission of sins. FAITH in the Blood of Jesus (Romans 3:25)!

* Faith establishes the Law by offering a DECLARED righteousness that is unavailable through the Law of Moses (Romans 3:26).

* Faith establishes the Law in the fact that the Law HAD to be CHANGED! Romans 3:27 asks the question that is never addressed by those who quote verse 31 in support of legal obedience, "By what Law? Works? Or Faith?" The existence of the Law of faith establishes the inadequacy of the Law of Moses.

Accepting Jesus' Explanation

In conclusion, it is vital to remember that Jesus explained the Old Testament to His disciples, and God used them to codify Jesus' understanding in the Bible.

It is entirely backward to force private interpretations of the Old Testament over Jesus' explanations of the Old Testament.

The Torah is to be understood in light of the teachings of the apostles, as Jesus taught.



By: Robert Dallmann
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There is much emphasis today on the "Torah." Generally, the Torah is the first five books of the Bible, the writings of Moses.

There is a new movement loosely referred to as the Hebrew Roots movement. Within this growing attractive doctrine, adherents focus on the Law of Moses and how they believe it applies to Christians.

There is a fundamental fact that must be understood when one desires to comprehend the Law of Moses. It is a fact that is often overlooked or ignored.

Those in the Hebrew Roots movement approach the Scriptures **backward**. Their logic says that the New Testament is a commentary on the Old Testament and that the New Testament must be understood in the light of the Old Testament.

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## UNDERSTANDING THE TORAH

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As such, believers in this concept elevate the Old Testament to a position of superiority over the New Testament.

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All Scripture is God's Word

The fact is that all Scripture is God-breathed and is equally the Word of God.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” (2 Timothy 3:16)

Jesus told us (quoting from the Torah) that man is to live by every Word from God.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

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### Who Understands the Old Testament Better

All of the Bible is God's Word, and no Scripture is superior to the other. The Bible tells us that Jesus EXPLAINED the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms to His disciples.

*“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,”* (Luke 24:44-45)

**Question:** If Jesus explained the Old Testament to His disciples, who in the Bible understood the Old Testament the best?

**Answer:** The men to whom God (Jesus) explained it!

It may be within the confines of human logic to think that Moses understood the Law of Moses better than any other person. But is that true?

If all Scripture is God-breathed (inspired by God), and Jesus is God, and Jesus explained the Old Testament to His disciples...

Wouldn't the men He explained the Scriptures to be more knowledgeable than any other men? Of course!

### Backward

Adherents to the Hebrew Roots movement need to take the opposite approach to the Bible to uphold their traditions. They seek to endorse the Law of Moses; therefore, they must force obedience to the Law of Moses into the New Testament.

Whereas, if they allowed the Apostle's and New Testament authors (i.e., ultimately the Holy Spirit) to define the Law of Moses, they would not have to perform doctrinal gymnastics to enforce their pre-conceived opinions.

For example, legalists will often quote that faith establishes the Law, to mandate legal compliance to Moses. Here is what the verse says:

*“Do we then make void the Law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the Law.”* (Romans 3:31)

With the notion that the Old Testament is superior to the New Testament, the Hebrew Roots follower can mandate that this means the Law of Moses. However, if one believes that Jesus gave the Apostles the correct understanding of the Scriptures, the rest of this chapter cannot be ignored, or re-defined according to the legalist's understanding of Moses.

Here are a few of the preceding verses that give clarity to what it means that faith ESTABLISHES the Law?

*“Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.”* (Romans 3:20)

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the*