

POSITION PAPER

“P-I-G Positive?”

Consumable vs. non-consumable foods

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Back in 2001 NBC began airing a very popular TV reality program called “FEAR FACTOR.” FEAR FACTOR began to captivate a large viewing audience due to very creative physical challenges that involved having contestants eat certain things that most people would consider repulsive: bugs, insects, certain anatomy of different animals, etc. The show proved that most contestants (most people for that matter) will put *anything* into their mouth, cash reward or not . . . *and swallow*, without a second thought for the Bible and what God would have to say!

Pat’s Pig Position: My intention in writing this paper is to demonstrate that the Bible is very clear that certain creatures in the animal world are not meant for human consumption. I will focus primarily on the Biblical prohibition against eating Pork. In the past, if an occasion presented itself for me to share my views on this subject with other believers, some have listened courteously; some with interest; but for others, well, it’s a very difficult subject when eating habits involve such things as pork bacon in the morning, ham sandwiches in the afternoon, and honey-baked hams in the evening! If the mention of these things makes you hungry, then please read on and “*Come, let us reason together*”² from the Scriptures regarding pork consumption.

You’ve probably already guessed this is “Pat’s Pig Position Paper” and as you consider my thoughts on the subject of consumable vs. non-consumable food, i.e. “clean” vs. “unclean” food, please keep in mind, these are *my* thoughts and *my* opinions – *my convictions* if you will, of what I believe the Scriptures clearly teach. At the same time, I recognize that many other God-fearing people have a different view based on *their* convictions. My feeling is, as long as we’re studying and being honest with God’s Word, it’s all good. We can agree to disagree agreeably, and in saying that, I pray you will conduct your own investigation and search the Scriptures for yourself.

As I write this, it will come as no surprise to anyone that I don’t have the corner market on Truth. With the exception of Jesus Himself, *no one does – only the Messiah has the corner market on Truth!* Moreover, His words and the way He lived out His life are the clearest example to all of us regarding the manner in which His followers are to apply that Truth within our own lives. Therefore, our best hope is to allow God’s Spirit to guide us as we cling to His Word and make our residence as close to the “corner market” as possible.

A Light To The Nations: In Genesis 12:1-3, God told Abram, “*Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the Land which I will show you; and I will make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

In Bible times there were customs and ways of living that were unique to that time and place and applied specifically to the Jewish people. Their ways and manner of life, even today, involve only a very small segment of the world’s population, so therefore, as the reasoning goes, since the commandments were exclusively given to the Jewish people, New Testament believers are *not required* to follow any issues of Law regarding dietary practice. Is this so? Are non-Jewish people from the nations who wish to honor God – are they doing the right thing by not observing the dietary stipulations from the “Older” Covenant? Does it even matter?

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² Isaiah 1:18

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Is Leviticus 11 written for everyone?: Leviticus 11 is the primary chapter in which the God-ordained dietary laws are listed. "But," you may reason, "I'm not Jewish, so what does this have to do with me?" First and foremost, believers from the nations should be eternally grateful to Jesus for salvation, but there should also be a profound sense of appreciation and even indebtedness to the Jewish people through whom the Messiah came.³ From Genesis to Revelation, the oracles of God;⁴ the Commandments; the Prophets; and the Messiah Himself⁵ came through the people of Israel. And only through Yeshua (Jesus) can a person become "grafted into" the rich root of the natural Olive Tree⁶ which belongs to God and represents the people of His Kingdom. To "graft" means taking something, in this case an unnatural branch (the gentiles), and making them a permanent part of the natural Olive Tree. Man has no part in this – it is accomplished exclusively through the plans and purposes of God alone.

If you happen to be from the nations like I am, when the God of Israel becomes *your* God, the most amazing and wonderful thing happens, you become part of God's family – you are grafted into the Olive Tree, and the redemptive history of Israel also becomes part of your redemptive history! 66 books comprise the Scriptures venerated by believers today. And everything written in the first 39 books of the Bible reflects just as much of the heart of God as the last 27. Nowhere do the Scriptures indicate Leviticus 11 was in any way abolished or relegated to a by-gone era. The instructions in Leviticus 11 are just as important as the 10 commandments in Exodus chapter 20.

!?!? FOOD LEGALISM !?!?: Isn't it legalistic to follow these dietary laws given in the Bible? First of all, let me say that nobody I'm aware of can convince another person *not* to eat (unclean) non-foods if they feel compelled to eat them. For every person who reveres the God of Israel, choices in food consumption should be a matter of conscience based on the understanding one has of the Scriptures. I know a number of Christians that follow Biblical dietary habits as a matter of conscience – a matter of personal conviction, irregardless of the official position of their church. But what about the charge of "legalism?" Is it legalistic to abstain from certain things God identified as "unclean" in Leviticus chapter 11? Are dietary laws even relevant to the believer today?

Scripturally based commandment-keeping does not (can not) fall into the realm of legalism. The question that must be asked is: from *whom* do these commandments originate, from man or from God? If they are the invention of man, obviously there is a potential issue. But if they are from God, how can a person be considered "legalistic" by keeping His commandments to the best of their ability? "Legalism" has to do with a religious system, or people in general, trying to impose preferences and practices outside of divine authority. "Legalism" involves an overemphasis of the traditions of man, whereas keeping Biblical commandments is a gift of freedom to follow God. Big difference! Even so, there is only one Person in all of human history that has flawlessly obeyed God's Commandments. His name is Yeshua (Jesus).

True Discipleship is Imitation: I think we all agree that Jesus is the example we wish to follow. Yes, I realize that no one can be perfect as He was, but if any person has lived the perfect example of a life pleasing to God, it was the Messiah – the anointed One. Consequently, if there is any one person in the Scriptures we are to imitate as a disciple, it has to be Jesus who lived in faithfulness to the ancient paths of Torah. In other words, He lived His life adhering to the wishes of His Father.

If you are from the nations – if you are a gentile, you should remain as God has called you.⁷ But in doing so, by following the ancient paths that Yeshua walked, you are a living testimony to the faithfulness of God who promised to make Abram (Abraham) a blessing to many nations.⁸

³ John 4:22; Romans 11:11; 15:27

⁴ Romans 3:1-3

⁵ Matthew 1:1-16

⁶ Romans 11:17-29

⁷ 1 Corinthians 7:18-20

⁸ Genesis 12:1-3

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That being said, I humbly submit to you that although different in form, the universal Church has incorporated certain *creeds, traditions, and theology* that should be re-examined with renewed vigor and without fear of the Jewish roots of the faith. If we fail to do this, and if we continue to follow man-made paths (traditions) at the expense of God's clear commandments, we are guilty of the same charge Jesus leveled against the Pharisee's⁹ who neglected the commandment of God, "*but held to the tradition of men.*" The time has come for an awakening to restore the full counsel of the written Word with a renewed application of God's commandments as practiced by Jesus and the first century believers.

Jesus already secured salvation for us. And since He is our example, in response, shouldn't we try to walk as He walked? He is the *only person* who has ever kept God's holy standards perfectly by hitting the "bulls-eye" straight on, every time. We will never hit the bull's-eye perfectly as He did, but make no mistake; *it is well-pleasing in our Father's sight that we keep aiming at it!*

Commandment Keeping: In keeping the commandments "*there is great reward*",¹⁰ and when we fail (as we all do), God's grace picks us up and encourages us to keep moving forward. *God's grace* encourages us to draw closer to Him by honoring His Word to the best of our ability. Do you think God would chastise a believer for keeping His commandments? Of course not! And although it is utterly impossible to earn salvation by doing or "keeping" anything, when we choose to follow God's ways instead of our own, this is a natural response to the salvation we have been freely given.

Covenant Integration and Appreciation: I believe the Bible is clear that each Covenant in Scripture has been *modified, not replaced*, by subsequent covenants and therefore the Newer Covenant (the New Testament) modifies and incorporates, but does not replace, the Mosaic Covenant. Furthermore, in any study of the Scriptures it is important to look at the full counsel of God's Word because as someone once pointed out, "The Scriptures are a supernaturally integrated single message system from God." If this statement is true – and I believe it unquestionably is, in order to understand clean and unclean foods, specifically pork consumption, we must look at the entirety of God's written instructions. It's equally important to understand that some commandments apply only to the Land of Israel; some apply only to the Temple which no longer stands; while still others apply to the completed sacrificial system, removed in light of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. Obedience to God's commandments in the Scriptures does not equate to "legalism," and the commandment to abstain from pork consumption applies to all God-fearers today.

So, dietary commandments, although important in the sense of obedience, just like any commandment-keeping, cannot be applied apart from personal conviction. As a corporate practice in our congregation, and based on my conviction of God's Word, we do not serve things at Kehilat Mashiach that would violate clean/unclean commandments as stated in the Bible. We do not necessarily hold to the rabbinic interpretations of "Kosher," but we are "Kosher-style," and hold to the clear Biblical prohibitions.

Nailed To The Cross? Many Christians have been taught and sincerely believe that dietary prohibitions are exclusively a part of the "Levitical" or "Mosaic" Law given specifically to the Jewish people – laws that were "nailed to the cross." Check that. What was nailed to the cross? My understanding is that sin and death was nailed to the cross because Jesus conquered these things in our behalf, once for all time. Also nailed to the cross, were the ceremonial laws and ordinances having to do with a temporary covering for sin. In fulfillment of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, those things were also done away with, and by His Spirit residing in us, we now have free access to the mercy seat of God.

⁹ See Mark 7:8-9

¹⁰ Psalm 19:11

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God's Commandments – His rules of life were *never* nailed to the cross. How could they be nailed to the cross if Jesus Himself said, "*Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all things have been accomplished*"? ¹¹

Important Rule of thumb: Whenever we interpret the writings of Paul, we must do so in light of what our Savior taught. A fundamental tenet of Christianity is that Jesus has the final say in the life and practice of the believer which is why we ask WWJD? and not, WWPD? (What Would Paul Do?) Therefore, in light of our study, we are compelled to ask: WHAT WOULD JESUS EAT?

Perhaps you have already looked at Leviticus 11. Perhaps you consider dietary commandments to be a "peripheral" issue and non-essential – in no way related to salvation. You are correct, abstaining from pork is not a "salvational" issue, but, in the same breath it shouldn't be minimized in how we honor God in our life and practice. In this sense, it is NOT a "peripheral" issue. We are saved by grace through faith alone!

There have been occasions in which I have been challenged (more like mocked and ridiculed) from some of my brothers in the Church because of my Scriptural conviction to abstain from eating ham or pork. Not too long ago, the subject came up and a person who attends a large non-denominational church said to me, "All those Jewish laws were nailed to the cross brother!" I said, "Oh really? So they've been abolished!" He knew where I was going with this and replied, "No, they've been fulfilled in Christ! *We're not under the Law any more, we're under grace.*" And really, that position typifies boiler-plate traditional understandings from many who have a misapplied understanding of what "Law" and "Grace" are actually concerned with.

Law and Grace: Clearly, from the beginning of time, our Heavenly Father has always been a God of grace, mercy and forgiveness! No less important, and exemplified throughout history, He has always been – He is to this day, a God who is judicious, orderly, and One who makes a clear distinction between the Holy and the profane! What so many people unfortunately miss is that the Law (Heb: "Torah" which simply means "teaching" or "instruction") was *never intended as a salvation document*. It was *never* given as a means of getting to heaven. It was given as a means of covering and protection – a means of living and walking in holiness. It was, *and still is*, a schoolmaster pointing us to the Messiah.¹²

Think of it. Why would God give "*the apple of His eye*"¹³ – the children of Israel, a list of do's and don'ts in which they were doomed to fail . . . and then throw it all away? He wouldn't!¹⁴ Just like our Messiah says, *nothing* has been abolished from the Torah and therefore all the Scriptures flow in harmonious agreement. Harmonizing the Scriptures leads to sound exegetical conclusions – or, you might say, responsible exegesis will bear out harmonious conclusions. And if harmonious conclusions are not reached, invariably it has to do with our own faulty lack of understanding.

But as far as food goes, all of us who enjoy eating will be encouraged to know that *most* things in our society identified as food are edible – in other words, they are *intended* for consumption. It must be understood however, that according to Leviticus 11 (and other places in Scripture), certain things are *not considered food by God* and He specifically directs against eating these things. Pig meat is considered unclean and is therefore included on God's list of non-food animals.¹⁵

¹¹ Matthew 5:18

¹² Galatians 3:24

¹³ Zechariah 2:8

¹⁴ Deuteronomy 30:11-14

¹⁵ Leviticus 11:9 et al

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The Prophets On Pork: Let's take a brief look at what the Prophets thought about pork consumption. The Prophets of Scripture were men of deep vision and spiritual insight. Within their proclamation of the Word of God – through God, they were able to anticipate and sometimes even foretell events that would happen in the future. This God-given ability is one of the unique trademarks of Scripture. The Prophetic writings are paramount to understanding many spiritual insights about our heavenly Father, as well as instructions for living in a manner pleasing to Him.

As far as content, and the depth of his writing, in my opinion, Isaiah was at the top of his class. He is considered the Apostle Paul of the "Older" Testament. In Isaiah 65:4, the prophet talks about idolaters and those who continually provoke God. He says these are the kind of people, "*Who sit among graves, and spend the night in secret places; **who eat swine's flesh**, and the broth of unclean meat is in their pots.*" This amazing prophet, who also gave the clearest written prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection in Isaiah 53, also said something about the future kingdom when Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Isaiah 66:15-17 reads, "*For behold, the Lord will come in fire and His chariots like the whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For the Lord will execute judgment by fire and by His sword on all . . . **who eat swine's flesh**, detestable things, and mice, 'shall come to an end altogether,' declares the Lord.*" Eating swine's flesh . . . *Honey Baked Ham* – doesn't matter how much honey and sugar glaze you put on it – it's still a pig! Clearly, the ingestion of pork will not take place in the future Millennial Kingdom!

During the time of the Maccabean revolt, Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated God's Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar. Throughout the Scriptures, is there ever any *positive* connotation associated with pigs? No, it's always negative (as in uncleanness and separation from God).

New Testament: What about the New Testament? Is it P-I-G positive? In Matthew chapter 8, we are told that Jesus cast demons into a herd of swine. Why didn't He cast these demons into a herd of cattle or a flock of sheep? And no, it wasn't that the pigs were any closer! It wasn't like using a cell phone where the little piglets had to be within range! (Actually, these "little piglets" may have been up to 300 lbs or more!) Two reasons seem to be most apparent: First because swine, according to God's Word, is considered an unclean animal. According to the Bible, it is a *non-consumable non-food*, and people are commanded not to eat it. Secondly, He knew those involved in raising and selling these swine for food were in direct violation of God's Law. Therefore, Jesus condemned this practice by sending demons into the herd.

New Testament "PROOF TEXT?": Now, let's take a look at some of the so-called "proof text" passages in the "New Testament" where an inference to food consumption is made.

Mark 7:18 – Jesus said to the multitude of people gathered around Him, "*Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from the outside cannot defile him; because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?*' (Thus He declared all foods clean.)" So this passage effectively abolishes the dietary laws of Leviticus chapter 11 and Jesus is now calling ham kosher, right? Not exactly – not at all! If we read the context here, Jesus was chastising the Pharisees who ritualistically and legalistically washed their hands¹⁶ appearing clean on the outside, but were corrupt and sinful inwardly. In verses 8 and 9, Jesus accused them of substituting the Commandments of God for their tradition, but there is not even the slightest hint that the foods mentioned in this verse are anything other than the "kosher" foods Jews were already permitted to eat. Jesus' emphasis here is clearly on Spiritual priority. Moreover, the parenthetical statement "(Thus, he declared all foods clean)" does not appear in the earlier manuscripts. In other words, it appears in parenthesis because it was added at a later date.

¹⁶ Mark 7:1-3

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Acts 10: - This is where Peter fell into a trance and has a vision of a sheet coming down out of the heavens with all sorts of four-legged animals on it. In this vision, a voice instructs him to "*rise, kill and eat*" but Peter insists he's never eaten anything unholy or unclean. And then in verse 15, a voice comes to him a second time and says, "*What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.*"

These verses have nothing to do with changing the Law of God to make "clean" or "sanitize" those animals that God commanded were not to be eaten. In Acts 10:17 Peter is still bewildered about the vision. What could it possibly mean? God gave the eternal Law to His people on Mount Sinai, and since God's Word tells us He is unchangeable (Malachi 3:6) would He now change His Law to make unclean animals clean? Heaven forbid, but too many commentators have traditionalized this interpretation in spite of the contextual evidence against it.

There's one very important lesson that every student learns in Bible College, and that is "context, context, context." If we look at the context here, Peter's bewilderment is solved a few verses further on and God provides what Peter needs to know regarding his vision. In verse 28, Peter says, "*You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet **God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.***" Mystery solved! The vision was not about making unclean animals clean. It was about how a Jewish believer is supposed to relate to gentiles!

So As Not To Stumble Your Brother: Now, if we rewind back to Bible times, food – the sharing of food, was an essential expression of bonding with other people, of interpersonal communication and acceptance. That's why the breaking of bread with other people was so very important. It still is today. Check out these verses:

Luke 10:8 – "*And whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat what is set before you.*"

1 Corinthians 10:31 – "*Whatever, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved.*"

Would the unchangeable God¹⁷ receive "*glory*" if a person was to consume meat which God has specifically prohibited? How would this bring "*glory*" to God? It wouldn't! But there is more being communicated with these verses. There is a very important teaching here involving compassion, sensitivity, and love that should not be overlooked. In 1 Corinthians 13 we are instructed that "*we may speak with the tongue of men and of angels, prophesy, know all mysteries and have faith to move mountains, but without love . . .*" our dietary observance – in fact all commandment-keeping loses its value as a testimony to God. It becomes nothing more than a "*noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*" Commandment-keeping with love and respect for other people is clearly being communicated in the context of these verses. Unquestionably, as Americans, we are blessed to live in a society where many dietary choices are available. And the good news is that with a little planning and good communication God's Commandments can still be honored with compassion, sensitivity, and love for others. Then our light as believers – as a "peculiar" people set apart in our ways to glorify God, will shine as a reflection of the Messiah to all people. OK. Let's look at one final Scripture.

1 Timothy 4:3 – In 1 Timothy 4:3 Paul speaks against those who have turned away from God in apostasy. He speaks against those who forbid marriage and "*abstain from foods.*" To "*abstain from foods*" as it says in verse 3 has to do with refraining from *food* for nebulous or ungodly reasons. Please note however that this verse clearly refers to *food* and may be alluding to various ungodly practices of fasting. In no way does God consider certain animals (swine, etc.) to be in a category of consumable foods. Moreover, He does not consider these things to be in a category of "food" at all.

¹⁷ Malachi 3:6

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In verses **4-5** it continues, "Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the Word of God and prayer."

Lifting Holy Hands: Certainly we can say that everything created by God IS good if used for its rightful purpose. In the case of things people put into their mouths, not everything created by God is meant for consumption (even if offered large sums of money to do so!). Lifting hands to God and blessing "everything" for the purpose of "chowing down" cannot – does not turn a non-food item into a food. Blessing *ham* does not turn it into *lamb* any more than blessing hemlock turns it into a Cesar Salad! Not everything created by God is intended for *food*. Therefore, 1Timothy 4:3-5 does not contradict or *abolish* the dietary laws of God's Word.¹⁸

What If?: Occasionally, well-meaning people have challenged my "pig position" with a hypothetical question: "What if?" they say . . . "What if I was stranded on a desert island and all I had to eat was wild pig?" Well, one good hypothetical question deserves another, good hypothetical answer: God would provide a source of nourishment – He would provide food such as chicken, fish or various forms of vegetation. "But what if pig happens to be the main staple for a culture of people?" "What if they are hosting you? We have to eat what is put before us, right?" Listen, if a person is intent on following the Bible, *God will provide* a consumable food source that can be acquired, prepared, and consumed with cultural sensitivity, awareness of surroundings, and love and respect for people.

Conclusion: If you are "P-I-G positive," nothing I have shared in this paper will necessarily change your opinion – I know that. As the saying goes, "A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still." As far as what I've written on this topic, all I ask is that you keep an open mind to the *full* counsel of God's written Word – glean that which is good . . . and dispense with the rest. But before you file this in the "circular" filing cabinet, may I say, even if your eternity has already been secured in Christ for a long time, if you are not being challenged to walk closer to Jesus by following His Commandments, then it is likely you may not be growing in your faith. It doesn't matter if you have eaten pork products all your life, because – especially in the society we live in, there are many Biblically kosher options available to satisfy even the most voracious appetite. Every day we have an opportunity to align our dietary practices with His Holy Scriptures.

When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*"¹⁹

If you happen to hang your hat on these two commandments, then I have one other thing to say before I end. Torah – literally, God's "instructions/teachings" define for us the basic framework for how we are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. Torah takes it out of the subjective realm,²⁰ and correctly merges our expressions of love with God's objective standard.²¹

Moreover, wouldn't you agree that Jesus' inspiration was responsible for more than just two commandments²² in the "New Testament?" It is my firm belief that His inspiration is directly responsible for every "*Thus sayeth the Lord*" Commandment that ever made its way into Holy Writ. Therefore, when Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My Commandments,*"²³ it adds a greater depth and dimension to how we Biblically view the Scriptures and demonstrate our love for God.

¹⁸ Leviticus chapter 11 and Deuteronomy chapter 14:2-21

¹⁹ Matthew 22:37-40

²⁰ Judges 21:25

²¹ John 14:15

²² Matthew 22:34-40

²³ John 14:15

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Our basis for understanding how the commandments apply to us today, must always be filtered through the words of Jesus and the way He lived His life. Nowhere do we find Jesus eating unclean foods or encouraging other people to do so. If God-given dietary commandments had been done away with, surely Jesus would have told us so. In many ways, the recorded words of the Messiah are the "tuning fork" that brings harmony to the Scriptures and helps us to apply them to our lives. Listen to His instruction in Matthew 5:17-19:

Mathew 5:17-19: "I have not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls [obliterate or reduce to nothing] one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

We have before us both the blessing and the privilege to honor Jesus by following the dietary laws of Torah. Hence, there should never be any "Fear Factor" in our obedience to the Master of life. We should never be afraid to follow His Commandments to the best of our ability.

The Health Factor: Some have pointed to trichinosis and to other health reasons as the explanation for God's ban on pork. Others have said that products from pigs are repulsive. Health factors aside, and whether or not we think bacon and ham are repulsive is not the issue. I happen to like Lemon Meringue Pie. But if, for some unknown reason God said "Thou shalt not eat Lemon Meringue Pie" – I don't need to question His reasons, I just need to decide whether I'm going to obey Him or not! *"To obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams."*²⁴

We need to embrace the God *who is* – the One who has revealed Himself in His Word, not the God who suits our own predispositions – *the God of our own creation*. Voltaire once said, "God created man in His own image, and now man has returned the favor." Are we guilty as charged? Have we inherited teaching that misses the relational and lifestyle value of following God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength?

More and more people today are sensing a need to return to a Torah-centered, God-honoring lifestyle in the things that we say and do, and yes, even the things we eat!

In the final analysis, this whole discussion isn't so much about being P-I-G positive or negative, it is about being "G-O-D positive" in our obedience to His Commandments. In Revelation 14:12 His Word says, *"Here is the perseverance of the saints **who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.**"*

In embracing the God of Genesis through Revelation and continuing to love our neighbor as ourselves, we will one day hear Jesus say to us as He looks into our eyes and peers into our soul, *"Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your Master."*

Love always and shalom!

Pat

²⁴ 1 Samuel 15:22