**Apostle Paul's writings**

Apostle Paul wrote many of his letters in opposition to Pharisaism which promoted the deception that Life (aka Salvation) comes through the works (For Example, Physical circumcision) of the law. It must be noted that the commandments in the laws of God and the works of the law are 2 different things.

The Pharisees lacked faith while they praised the works of the law (Physical circumcision, fasting, Tithe) they did. The Pharisees and the Sadducees never kept the commandments in the laws of God (John 7:19, Acts 7:51-53, Matthew 23:1-3, 23-24). This is because of their lack of faith in both God and his law given through Moses. The Pharisees followed Traditions of the Elders which nullified the word of God (Matthew 15, Mark 7) by breaking the commandments given through Moses.

As Jesus Christ said to them, "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” (John 5:46-47).

If a person doesn't believe in God, then he is not going to keep the law of God. Through this process, Sin enters through law. People become aware of sin through law. For example, when a person learns the commandment "Do not steal", he/she is also learning that "Stealing is a sin."

But if the person doesn't believe in God, then he will not keep the commandment "Do not steal." So when he/she steals, he is violating the commandment "Do not steal" and sin comes through law as a result of breaking this commandment.

So Life (aka Salvation) is through faith. The word "Khya" in Aramaic means "Life" or "Salvation." The word "Life" in Aramaic is also used for Salvation.

The Pharisees and some men from Judea promoted the false teaching that you need to be physically circumcised in order to have Life (Acts 15:1-5). This false teaching promoted the teaching that it doesn't matter if you believe in Jesus Christ (Yeshua Meshikha in Aramaic) or not. You need to be physically circumised in order to have Life. Apostle Paul opposed this. Apostle Paul taught that you must believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31) in order to have Life. So Salvation comes through faith. And not through the works of the law (For example, physical circumcision).

Ancient Israelites got physically circumcised. But they never had faith. So they never circumcised their hearts. Because of this, they never inherited the land of Canaan with the exception of Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:30). God also told through Prophet Jeremiah that he will punish the people who were physically circumcised since they never circumcised their hearts (Jeremiah 9:25-26).

We must apply our faith in our actions by obeying the laws of God.

As Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 2:13 - "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous."

Apostle James wrote in James 2:24 - "You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone."

The Gentiles knew very well about what is taught in the law of Moses since the law of Moses had been preached in every city from the earliest times and was read in the synagogues on every Sabbath (Acts 15:21).

So on the top of all of the commandments and dietary laws, the only thing that the Gentiles had to keep was to abstain from food polluted by idols, from fornication, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood (Acts 15:28-29).

So from this time period onwards, Apostles began to teach that any person who follow Jesus Christ must not get physical circumcised and not to follow ceremonial laws (aka laws about sacrifices) since ceremonial laws were fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul's opposition against the physical circumcision on the gentiles can be seen in his letters (Romans 2:25-29, Galatians 5:2, 1 Corinthians 7:18-19).

Apostle Paul teaches that circumcision is circumcision of the heart by the Spirit (Romans 2:29). It must be noted that Apostle Paul's concept of faith includes applying faith through keeping the commandments of the law. Apostle Paul's concept of love includes applying love through keeping the commandments of the law.

1 Corinthians 7:19 (NIV) - "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God’s commands is what counts."

Romans 13:8-10 (NIV) - "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."