

Ethiopian Bible

Works or by Faith

The Ethiopian extra books, especially the Book of the Covenant material, often emphasize lifestyle rules, ascetic discipline, and works-based righteousness. That tone does not match Jesus' mission. His purpose was to glorify the Father by doing His will and to bring people into rest through faith. He never pointed people toward deprivation as a path to holiness. His life was obedience, not self-punishment.

His teaching directed people toward the Father's will, not toward human performance. The rest described in Hebrews is spiritual, not ascetic. Jesus never taught people to live without comfort, punish their bodies, or earn holiness through hardship. He taught them to follow Him, believe, abide, and do the Father's will. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. That is not works-asceticism. That is alignment with God.

Many Ethiopian extrabiblical texts lean toward works and severity. Not all of them, but the ones people highlight online often sound dramatic. They focus on strict lifestyle rules, harsh moral codes, physical deprivation, ritual purity, and community discipline. They present holiness as something achieved through hardship.

These writings often come from monastic traditions, ascetic communities, legal-focused interpretations, or cultural efforts to preserve ancient Jewish-Christian practices. They were not written by people living in the freedom Jesus described. They were written by people trying to guard holiness through rules.

There is a danger in confusing "ancient" with "authoritative." A book being old does not make it inspired, aligned with Jesus, part of the gospel, or spiritually healthy. Ancient communities wrote many things. Some were beautiful. Some were legalistic. Some were mystical. Some were burdensome. Age does not equal truth. Jesus Himself confronted ancient traditions that had drifted from the heart of God.

The gospel is not asceticism. The New Testament consistently rejects the idea that holiness comes from denying comfort, punishing the body, following severe rules, living like a monk, or earning righteousness through effort. Paul warned against self-made religion, severity to the body, and rules of "touch not, taste not, handle not." These things look holy but are not.

They create the appearance of devotion without producing the life of the Spirit.

Jesus' way is simple. Glorify the Father. Obey His will. Walk in truth. Live in grace. Rest in faith. Bear fruit through the Spirit. Ascetic works-religion is something else entirely. It denies comfort, follows strict rules, tries to earn holiness, punishes the body, fears failure, and maintains purity through human effort. These two paths are not the same. Jesus' daily life was about glorifying God, not performing religious hardship. That is the lens that exposes the difference.