

From the West Meadow
Pastor Wes Higgins

We have just returned from celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles—eight days filled with music, laughter, fellowship, food, worship, prayer and teaching.

I know most Christians today know nothing about “the Feast”, as we call it, nor about any of the other festivals that God gave to His people. What a shame. We celebrate Christmas, and Easter, and All Hallows Day, and others, declaring that Christ is victorious over these days with their pagan roots. Yet, except for small groups gathering here and there, the few Holy Days God calls His go virtually unnoticed.

The Holy days are so important to God that He laid them out at creation, with the lights in the firmament (Genesis 1:14). God gave glimpses of them to Adam and Eve, and Abraham (Genesis 4:3-4; chapter 22); God revealed them in detail to Moses for His people to observe, and proclaim (Leviticus 23). God’s feasts are written about throughout the books of Kings, and in Nehemiah 8. The prophet Zechariah foretold the whole world keeping them (Zechariah 14). And in the New Testament, Jesus, the apostles and the early church observed God’s feasts (1 Corinthians 5, Mark 2, John 2, John 7 & 8, Acts 2, and more...) Paul wrote that their substance is found in Christ (Colossians 3:16-17). Revelation tells of the final prophetic fulfillment of God’s feasts—from Jesus the Passover “lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8), to the return of Christ in the “Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10).

As pointed out by Paul, the “holy convocations” of God (as Leviticus 23 calls them)—are all about Jesus Christ and God’s plan of salvation for mankind. What separates mankind from God is our violation of His laws. The Bible calls this “sin”, the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4 King James Version). All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), but in order to have a salvational relationship with God, sin must be dealt with. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did just that when He came to earth, lived as a man, and died for our sins. The day He died was the first convocation of the year, Passover, memorialized from the “foundation of the world” just for that purpose.

God’s salvation plan shows how He deals with the “sin” problem. Following Passover, the days of Unleavened Bread teach us our responsibility: to put sin (represented by leavened bread) out of our lives, and put Christ—represented by unleavened bread—into our lives. And since putting sin out is not something natural or easy, God gave us help on His Holy Day Pentecost. On that day God revealed to the world first His character in the form of Ten Commandments given at Mt. Sinai, and then our Helper, His Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Even with all of this, God’s salvation plan for mankind is not yet finished.

There remain four holy days in God’s plan. They picture and teach the return of Jesus Christ, the Day of Trumpets (Revelation 1:14); the saints coming face to face with God, the day of Atonement (Hebrews 10:19-25); Christ ruling the world as King of Kings, the Feast of Tabernacles (Revelation 19:16); and the 8th Day of the Feast, the last holy day of the year, the coming of the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21 and 22).

God in His wisdom laid out His plan for the salvation of man revealed through a series of joyous, happy celebrations. What a shame so few people take the time to celebrate God’s feasts.

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