

The Holy Days II
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
September 11, 2004

April 20, 2002, we discussed spring and its references in the Bible – we found that spring was a time of war ... fall, however, is a time of harvest – of reaping what you have sown

A magician is trained at deception – watch the right hand and you are distracted from the left.

Communications are similar. I can give a compliment to a person about ... what does that say about my opinion about their ... -- nothing! It may mean I have thought about it at all; it may mean I don't like it; it may mean I don't want to discuss it; it may mean I hate the thought of it.

Politicians are well trained at this form of communications. A few weeks ago, Nita and I attended a political meeting. The forum leaders talked about their proposed increase in taxes. They talked about the comparison of the resultant tax rates to others in the area. They did not talk about how many people they were adding to staff that were unnecessary or other expenditures that may not be needed.

The devil works this way also. Christmas is loaded with “good” things – Luke’s version of the Nativity is truthful; there is nothing wrong with talk about peace and good will toward men; gifts to family and friends are not inherently bad. However, the devil is not telling people about his ability to divert people from God’s teachings – about God’s holy days.

We are 2 days from another federal holiday – Labor Day. This nation has a multitude of holidays – MLK, Presidents’ Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving. There is nothing inherently wrong with these days. They all have some redeeming qualities and they all divert peoples’ attention from God’s Holy Days.

In the Statement of Beliefs of the Fairview Texas Church of God, we have a statement about the Holy Days:

11. HOLY DAYS

Seven Holy Days (also known as High Sabbaths) were set apart by God to be observed in three separate seasons of each year. They are Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Day of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. Each has historical meaning, future implications and Messianic revelations.

Last week we looked at the Old Testament verses that gave the initial directions about the Holy Days. We also looked at the New Testament Gospels and Acts to see that Jesus observed the same Holy Days.

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Hebrews 8, 9, 10 provide a strong New Testament view of the Day of Atonement. We will look at those chapters more closely in a couple of weeks.

Whenever the Sabbath and the Holy Days are discussed, we generally want to know what is prohibited on those days.

- **Exodus 20:**
 - 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 - 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
 - 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

- **Leviticus 23:**
 - 3 (*Sabbath*) 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.
 - 7 (*First Day of Unleavened Bread*) 'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary (occupational) work on it.
 - 8 (*Last Day of Unleavened Bread*) 'But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary (occupational) work on it.'"
 - 21 (*Pentecost*) 'And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary (occupational) work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.
 - 25 (*Trumpets*) 'You shall do no customary (occupational) work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'"
 - 28 (*Atonement*) "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.
 - 35 (*First Day of Feast of Tabernacles*) 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary (occupational) work on it.
 - 36 (*Last Great Day*) 'For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary (occupational) work on it.

In 1984, when I was doing my initial, independent study of the Sabbath and the Holy Days, I went quite radical. I would not even shave or shower on the Sabbath. I have heard many people talk about what "not to do".

Matthew 12:

- 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

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- 2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"
- 3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:
- 4 "how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"
- 5 "Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?"
- 6 "Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.
- 7 "But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.
- 8 "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."
- 9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.
- 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" --that they might accuse Him.
- 11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"
- 12 "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."
- 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

I now believe it is all about attitude. It is wrong to even pump gas into your car on the Sabbath if you do it with the wrong attitude. It is not wrong in and of itself.

Let's now look at what traditional Christianity has to say about the Holy Days.

Harper's Bible Dictionary:
Feasts, Festivals and Fasts:

- "In the NT: In the Gospels report that Jesus observed the Jewish feasts
 - **(John 5.1)**, After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
 - **7.2**, Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.
 - **10**; But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.
 - **Matthew 26:17-18**), 17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"
 - 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.''"
- and a tradition recorded by Paul reports that Jesus transformed Passover for his followers into a ritual remembrance of his death

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- **(1 Corinthians 11.24)**.and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- Aside from that, however, the NT contains few regulations pertaining either to fasts
 - **(Matthew 6.16-18** does not prescribe fasts, it simply gives advice to those fasting); 16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.
 - 17 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,
 - 18 "so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
 - but see **Mark 2.20** 20 "But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.) or to festivals.
- Those that are observed by Christians have grown out of the traditions of the life and practices of Jesus and the experiences of the church; for example, Christmas, to celebrate Jesus' birth
 - **(Luke 2.1-20)**; 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
 - 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.
 - 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.
 - 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
 - 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.
 - 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.
 - 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
 - 8 ¶ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
 - 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.
 - 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.
 - 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
 - 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

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- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
- 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
- 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."
- 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.
- 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.
- 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.
- Epiphany, the appearance of the Magi
 - (**Matthew 2.1-12**); 1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
 - 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."
 - 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
 - 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
 - 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:
 - 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"
 - 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.
 - 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."
 - 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.
 - 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.
 - 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young

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Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.
- Lent, Jesus' temptation in the wilderness
 - **(Matthew 4.1-11;** 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 - 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.
 - 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
 - 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
 - 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,
 - 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"
 - 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"
 - 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
 - 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."
 - 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
 - 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
 - **Luke 4.1-12);**
 - 1 ¶ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,
 - 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.
 - 3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."
 - 4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"
 - 5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.
 - 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You,

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and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

- 7 "Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."
- 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
- 9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here."
- 10 "For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,'"
- 11 "and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"
- 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"
- Easter, Jesus' resurrection
 - **(Mark 16.1-8);**
 - 1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.
 - 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.
 - 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"
 - 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away--for it was very large.
 - 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.
 - 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.
 - 7 "But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."
 - 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.
 - Ascension Day, his ascent into heaven
 - **(Acts 2.9-10);**
 - 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
 - 10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
 - **should have been Acts 1.9-10:**
 - 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He

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- was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
 - and Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - (Acts 2.1-11).
 - 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
 - 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
 - 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.
 - 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - 5 ¶ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
 - 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.
 - 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"
 - 8 "And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?"
 - 9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
 - 10 "Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
 - 11 "Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
 - Because the cardinal event of the Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus, occurred on a Sunday, Christians turned to that day, rather than the Sabbath (Saturday), for their regular worship.

Matthew 5:

- 17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.
 - "... He came to fulfill the OT in the sense of bringing to completion its predictions, and in giving the true interpretation to its moral precepts."
- 18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot (*the smallest letter*) or one tittle (*the smallest stroke in a Hebrew letter*) will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Nothing was done away – it was given its true meaning.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,

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according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Deuteronomy 12:

- 28 "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.
- 29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,
- 30 "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'
- 31 "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.
- 32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Do not be deceived by what is not being said. Look to the Bible for God's plan.