

6-26-22

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PATTERN OF ASSEMBLING TOGETHER

Text:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Intro: Every year around the time of our revival meetings and DVBS meetings I try to review the biblical history of God's feasts and pattern of assembling together. The other day I was talking to a fellow about the Lord and he was bragging about how he lived by the 10 commandments. Then I said that is nice can you name them. He said, I can't name them in order. Finally he asked me to name them and I did. I tried to show him that none of us have perfectly kept the commandments and are guilty and sinners. He was a strong willed person and it was hard to get him to see he was a sinner.

I got to the 4th commandment.. remember the sabbath day and of course he had all kind of ideas. When I quoted what Jesus said, about some of these matters he said, "I don't agree with Jesus.." Pray for this fellow his name is Tom and I would like to get to see him get saved. With man it is impossible but with God all things are possible.

I say that to say, that everybody has their own ideas about what pleases God in worship. The only true source of understanding what pleases God in worship is the Bible.

We get our form of worship from the Bible and the nation Israel. Our churches are set up somewhat like the synagogues in the Bible. God gave his people Israel strict commands on how to worship and I believe we are not under the letter of the law in this area but we are under the spirit of the law. There was a purpose for the biblical ordinance and laws concerning worship. This morning I want to talk to you about that.

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not [in] the oldness of the letter.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.

The fourth commandment is "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Keeping the Sabbath was more than worshipping one day a week. When the nation Israel was sent into captivity Jeremiah mentions their neglect of keeping the 7 year sabbatical year and not just the weekly Sabbath!

There was a weekly Sabbath

There was a seven year yearly Sabbath this was called the Sabbath year

There was a 50 year Sabbath This was called the year of Jubilee..

There were feast Day Sabbaths.. There were 7 feasts..

These were in a pattern of sevens, remember the 7th day, the seven feasts in the year, remember the seventh year (the Sabbath year) remember the 7 x 7 years every 50 year would be the year of release from bondage. These were the Sabbaths.

Leviticus 19:30 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I [am] the LORD.

What was the purpose of the Sabbaths?

1. It was to give the people of God set days to worship God..
This included weekly worship
This included set times in the year to worship..
2. These ordinances were given to the nation so they as a nation could set aside time to worship God together. It was the nations calendar of activities for the year.

Now the church is called a foolish nation. The church is made up of people of various cultures, different nations, and different parts of the world. We need to worship God in the spirit of the law, and realize that Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the law and now we are free to worship him. Therefore I say we need to follow the pattern of the Old Testament Sabbath laws.

So if we follow the biblical pattern we should have weekly and set times in the year to sanctify days to the Lord.

I. CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF WEEKLY WORSHIP..

God told his people to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy!

Now in the Jewish calendar the Sabbath was the seventh day of the week based on the lunar calendar.

We as gentiles do not have a lunar calendar, and I submit to you that we cannot keep the Sabbath commandments as given in the Bible. The reason is simple.

In the Biblical Jewish calendar each month was established by the new moon. The new moon itself was a Sabbath day of worship. Then the Sabbaths were numbered from the first day of the month. The Sabbath was based on the seven days of creation and the seven days were based on the cycle of the moon.

So..

People that are Sabbath keepers, say we should worship on Saturday. The only problem with that is that Saturday is not really the 7th day of the week. It is only the 7th day of our Gregorian calendar week. The Jews based their calendar off of a lunar calendar which is truer to the order of creation.

In other words, according to the Lunar calendar the Sabbath always fell on the same day of the month:

1st day of the Month or new moon

The 8th day of the Month was a Sabbath..

The 15th day of the Month was a Sabbath..

The 22nd day of the Month was a Sabbath

The 29th day of the Month was a Sabbath

Then it started all over again with the first day of the month being a New Moon and Sabbath Day. It was a special day unto itself a day of rest!

I Samuel 20:5 And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow [is] the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third [day] at even.

So the feasts days always fell on the same days of the week according to the Jewish biblical calendar..

On the Biblical lunar-solar calendar, each lunation (or lunar month) always begins with a New Moon day, which is in a class of worship day all by itself. Six work days follow on the second through seventh of the month. The seventh-day Sabbath always falls on the 8th, the 15th, the 22nd and the 29th of every lunar month. This is the reason it is called a lunar Sabbath.

If we followed this today our Sabbath worship would fall all over the place in our Gregorian calendar. It would be confusion. This is why in the New Testament Paul clearly taught that we as New Testament believers are not under these ordinances.

If the Sabbath is based off of the days of creation this makes sense.. Yet nobody today is able to follow this today with any practicality. So in essence the Sabbath day that we call Saturday can in fact fall on any day of the actual week.

Our calendars are so messed up it is impossible to follow the Jewish calendar for us Gentiles. And in fact the Jews themselves have to modify the laws to fit into our contemporary calendar. And God does not want us to follow that calendar.

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Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.

Even the Jews in Israel today use a Hybrid calendar with a combination of the Lunar and Solar Gregorian. Their Sabbaths fall all over the calendar.

A calendar is set up for nations and peoples to establish an agreed upon way to determine time, seasons, days, and years.

Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

The day of worship God set aside in the Old Testament was to commemorate the creation and the completion of that creation.

The day of worship in the New Testament is to commemorate a greater creation that is the new creation.. Through Jesus Christ's resurrection.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So we should set a side one day a week to worship the one who created all things and gave us new life through his finished work on the cross.

So it is important that we keep the New Testament Sabbath day of worship. The New Testament command is to assemble often. In fact the early church assembled every day!

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

II. CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF THE YEARLY FEASTS IN THE BIBLE

Not only did God tell his people to sanctify one day a week to honor and worship the Lord, but also he told his people to set aside days in the year to worship the Lord. The Lord gave 7 feasts to his people. They were as follows

NAMING THE SEVEN FEASTS OF ISRAEL WHAT WERE THEY?

- 1. THE PASSOVER** 14th day of the 1st month..
- 2. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD** was to be observed 7 days starting 15th day 1st month.. lasting 7 days 15th thru the 21st
- 3. Feast of First Fruits..** wave offering to take place the 1st day of the week following the 1st sabbath after the Passover..
- 4. Feast of weeks or Pentecost..** 50 days after the passover.....
7 sabbaths after Passover.. next day is Pentecost.. SUNDAY..
- 5. FEAST OF TRUMPETS..** 7th month 1st day..
- 6. Day of Atonement..** 10th day seventh month
- 7. Feast of Tabernacles** 15th Day 7th month

Of these 7 feasts 3 were mandatory for all the men of the nation to attend..

These were the Feast of unleavened bread
The feast of Pentecost..
The feast of Tabernacles..

In fact if a person kept the feast of unleavened bread they could actually observe three feast in one week. The Passover, and feast of the first fruits all fell within one week around the time of the feast of unleavened bread. So God made it easy for the people to celebrate at least 5 of the feasts and consolidate travel time in the process.

Exodus 23:14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

Exodus 23:15 Thou shalt keep the **feast of unleavened bread**: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

Exodus 23:16 And the feast of harvest, **the firstfruits** of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the **feast of ingathering, [which is] in the end of the year**, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

Exodus 23:17 Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

Now we are not to be under the letter of the law but under the spirit of the law. In other words what was the purpose of these feasts. How are we to follow the spirit of these feasts. So as the New Testament church we should assemble with a purpose.

Most of the purposes of these feasts have been fulfilled in Christ.

Christ is our Passover.. and we now are a group of people who have purged ourselves of the leaven of this world.

Jesus was the first fruits... he arose from the dead...

Pentecost was the day the church was born..

Now the rest of the feasts are yet to be fulfilled..

The feast of Trumpets, is when our Lord will come and establish his Kingdom on earth. He will restore to this world righteousness.. and godliness..

The day of Atonement is when the sins of the nation will be atoned for .. This is when the nation Israel is cleansed and restored.. it is yet to come ..

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Romans 11:27 For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

When will God take away the sins of the nation and restore them to himself. It will be at the second coming of Christ. When that day comes all Israel shall be saved.

On the day of Atonement the high priest on this day makes a sacrifice for the sins of the nation.. He goes into the presence of God.. and offers up the blood of the sacrificial on the alter..

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Mark 15:38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

When Christ died.. this veil was rent.. and now Christ takes his sacrifice before the throne of the father for us all..

But the nation of Israel by and large have not received that atonement and are in their sins. But someday they will come to him..

Jesus is making preparation for his Kingdom..

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT IN THE 70th WEEK THERE WILL BE A RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY.. THERE WILL BE A FINISHING OF THE TRANSGRESSION..

THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED UNTIL ISRAEL RECEIVES CHRIST..

Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

After the tribulation or time of Jacob's trouble, all Israel shall be saved.

The final feast is called The feast of Tabernacles..

This feast will be fulfilled in the millennial Kingdom. It is the only feast that we read in the bible will be mandatory for the whole world to celebrate in the eternal kingdom.

There is something special about this feast. So important is it that the Lord is going to mandate that every nation send delegates to represent them and celebrate this feast. It is the millennial Kingdom feast! If a nation does not come up the Bible says, the Lord will judge them by not sending rain to their nation. They will suffer this blight all year.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that [have] no [rain]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

This feast would take place the 7th month and the 15th day of the seventh month. The 15th day would be the second week or Sabbath of the month.

In the spirit of this feast we set our yearly Revival Tabernacle meetings on the seventh month and starting the 2nd Sunday of this 7th month. We are trying to obey the spirit of the law in doing so. We know our seventh month and ancient Israel's seventh month were not the same.

III. WE NEED TO PERPETUATE THE SPIRITUAL PURPOSE OF THESE FEASTS

We have two major weeklong meetings at our church each year. We should have three.. but we are starting out with two. Truth is it is hard enough to get people committed to assembling for these two weeks let alone adding another week!

We have our Tabernacle Meetings the 7th month around the 15th day in the spirit of the feast of Tabernacles..

We also have our Missions Conference, the last week of October or missions month.

Now let me give the application to the study that I have given this morning.

1. First of all it is important that you set aside as a minimum a day to worship the Lord which for us in this dispensation is Sunday the first day of the week.

The reason for this is that it follows the Spirit of the law of Christ..

We give to him our best. The sacrifice of our worship on the first day of the week. We give him our best..

He will be pleased with that and will bless you for that.

God honors those who honor him..

We are commanded to worship him. This is not an option. It is a command of Christ. If you want to be blessed of the Lord give him the honor due his name.

2. Secondly, in the spirit of the law, not the letter of the law, let us set a side a week to honor the Lord.

Some would say, how can I afford to give him a week of my time. Isn't it amazing how if you fell sick everything would stop because you're sick. Many have been sick with Covid, and have had to quarantine for weeks to get better. Who is the one who controls all sickness and all things? You want his protection, his blessing, his help in your life. He alone can thwart off the devourer of our time and money. We need his blessing, his help. It would only take one little thing in your body to malfunction and you can find yourself laid up for weeks or even months.

There are things that only he can give you, and he wants to bless you and your family. He can't do that if you do not honor him like he said your should.

Remember that the Lord said in his Kingdom he would not send rain to those who failed to keep the feast of tabernacles. Rain is something only God can give. There are many things in this life that only God can give.. No one else.

The Lord said, those who refuse to attend his meetings will not get the rain. This attendance cannot be substituted by going online. It is required that you bodily attend. They had to physically come to the meetings. There will be no excuses for the nation that does not attend and have a representative bodily present. Back in that day to attend these feasts took great planning and effort. They had no cars, or easy way to travel.

I tuned a piano at an old Methodist camp meeting site. The lady that opened the tabernacle building for me told me that at one time there were 10,000 people that attended the meetings in that place. What a change in our society these days!

I just talked to a man who claimed he was going to be able to argue with God when he faced him. I told him have you ever been in court and tried to argue with the judge. The judge with a strike of his hammer could have you in contempt of court.

Contempt of court, often referred to simply as "contempt", is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behavior that opposes or defies the authority, justice, and dignity of the court.[1][2] A similar attitude toward a legislative body is termed contempt of Parliament or contempt of Congress. The verb for "to commit contempt" is contemn (as in "to contemn a court order") and a person guilty of this is a contemnor.[3]

There are broadly two categories of contempt: being disrespectful to legal authorities in the courtroom, or willfully failing to obey a court order.[4] Contempt proceedings are especially used to enforce equitable remedies, such as injunctions.[5] In some jurisdictions, the refusal to respond to subpoena, to testify, to fulfill the obligations of a juror, or to provide certain information can constitute contempt of the court.

3. Faithful attendance was mandatory in the Bible..

The Lord does not ask he commands..

I was in court one time and a lady was rambling on and on and the judge tried to stop her. Finally the judge slammed down his gavel and said, enough if you don't stop I am going to have you put in jail for contempt for a day until you calm down. The lady quieted down real quick.

We do not understand the power of God.

When Christ comes back, he is going to rule and reign with a rod of iron. There will be no arguments against him.

No our Lord will not put you in jail for not attending special meetings.. he just won't send you any rain.

Rain is what only he can give..

There are some blessings that only he can give. Blessings that come down from heaven. You don't want to be without those blessings..

Your faithful attendance is for your own good:

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Being under the preaching and teaching of the word of God will stir up in you a good spirit to produce love and good works in your life.

It will stir up and feed the Holy Spirit of God in your life.

It will encourage Scriptural learning..

It will encourage a ministry of good works in your life..

Get involved in helping out. It is an opportunity to serve the Lord. If is an opportunity to minister to others..

Some blessings only God can give. This is the rain..

Conclusion and Application for our lives:

We have our Tabernacle meetings and Bible school week schedules in July. We have two men traveling hundreds of miles to come. I believe in gas alone it is going to cost these men about \$1500 dollars to come here plus their time. Now I believe many people are going to say they can't afford to support these meetings in time. Neither of the men that are coming said to me that they can't come because it is too expensive.

Some would say, I can't afford to come to these meetings. Do you know the Lord said to Israel that everyone was to come and some were hundreds of miles away. It took some days to make the trip just to come to Jerusalem.

They had expenses to get rooms, and pay for food.

The nation neglected their Sabbaths and ultimately it cost them their homes, their nation., their liberty and some of them their lives and the lives of their children.

This is serious business.

Malachi 3:10 says that God can pour you out a blessing for obeying him

Malachi 3:10 prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it].

What does that sound like.. It sounds like God wants to pour out the blessings of divine rain on your life...

We are not under the law, but we are under the spirit of the law.

That spirit gives us liberty .. to set times to worship God that is better suited to our gentile calendar. I believe one of the most important meetings we have in the year is our calendar workday. This is when we set the dates for our times of assembly for the year. It is important, yet I notice, a lot of people don't come to that meeting. It is ironic that for the most part they are the same people that are hit and miss in their faithfulness to assemble themselves generally .

Consider, how faithful are you in obeying the spirit of the fourth commandment to keep certain days Holy unto the Lord. The one weekly day of worship which is Sunday.. along with the set a time weeks in the year to worship.

Consider what has been said and obey Christ's command.

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Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.