

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES MILLENNIAL REVIVAL MEETINGS

Last week we talked about the future judgments of God, leading up to the millennial kingdom of Christ. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he told them that included in their prayers they should pray for this:

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

What exactly is it to pray "Thy Kingdom Come..."? Are we not praying that the Lord would come quickly to this plane to set up His Kingdom on Earth? Do we really believe he is going to come, do we really believe that His will will be done on earth as it is being done in heaven?

What a glorious day that will be.

Last week we shared how in that future kingdom that will indeed come to earth, there will be great changes on this planet.

We shared how in that Kingdom there will be:

1. WHEN JESUS COMES BACK THERE WILL BE A PERFECT GOVERNMENT SET UP IT WILL BE PERFECT BECAUSE THERE WILL ONLY BE PERFECT LEADERS.

A. THAT PERFECT GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIST OF RESURRECTED SAINTS.

2. IN THAT DAY THERE WILL BE GREAT LONGEVITY OF LIFE.

Isaiah 65:21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

Isaiah 65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: **for as the days of a tree are the days of my people,** and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

3. IN THE MILLENNIUM THERE WILL BE A RESTORED PLANET ENVIRONMENTALLY.

Isaiah 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Amos 9:13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

4. IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM HOLINESS AND GODLINESS WILL BE MANDATED WORLDWIDE. IT WILL BE A TRUE THEOCRACY.

A. THERE WILL BE NO SECULAR WORLD. EVERYTHING WILL BE POINTING TO THE LORD AND HOLINESS.

B. PROPHECY SHALL CEASE AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR THE LORD WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF THE PEOPLE.

5. THERE WILL BE A WORLDWIDE MANDATE TO ATTEND THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

**WHICH BRINGS US TO THIS MORNING'S MESSAGE:
THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES A UNIVERSAL MILLENNIAL REVIVAL MTG.**

Now in that perfect Kingdom of all the religious feasts, there will be one that will be universally celebrated, and in fact mandated for the world to celebrate. No doubt today the greatest holiday of the year is Christmas. Christmas is a time that it seems everyone celebrates.

In the Millennium the world wide religious celebration will be the feast of tabernacles. In fact, so important is this feast that in that day any nation that does not send representatives to Jerusalem and are not represented at this special feast will be punished severely.

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.

Now we are in the times of the gentiles, and a time we call the church age. In this economy or dispensation we usually teach and preach that we are not under the law but we are under grace. This is true, Paul the apostle clearly taught this. But how is it then, in the Millennial kingdom Christ is going to mandate that every gentile nation in all the world come to Jerusalem and celebrate and Honor the Lord at the feast of tabernacles?

There is something about this special feast that transcends, time, culture, and dispensational barriers. Why? Why we should as is the Lord going to punish any gentile nation that does not send representatives to Jerusalem to worship at this yearly feast?

Why the observing of the feast?

There were seven feasts, but it seems that only one feast will be mandated for every nation of the world to observe. Consider the seven feasts:

1. **Passover** Which was fulfilled by Jesus on the cross.
I Cor. 5:7 ...Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
2. **The Feast Of Unleavened bread:** This is a feast picturing sanctification.
Come out from among them and be ye separate.
3. **Feast of First Fruits**, was fulfilled when Christ was resurrected,

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

4. **Feast of Pentecost**, Was fulfilled at Pentecost, when the church was born at this feast.
5. **Feast of Trumpets**, Will be fulfilled at the rapture.
6. **Day of Atonement**

This feast is yet to be fulfilled. It will be fulfilled when all Israel's sins are covered and Jesus sets up His throne of Judgment to Judge the nations. All the nations sins will be covered. God atones for the sins of the nation .

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.

7. **Feast of Tabernacles**

Now this feast alone, out of all the others, will be perpetuated in the Kingdom. The question we should ask is why is this feast so important that the Lord would want all peoples of the world to observe it? Jew and gentile alike. In fact, you will have to observe it in that Kingdom if you're saved and will be there, you will have to be a participant in keeping this future feast.

Now the first notable difference between this feast and the others. All the other feasts will have been fulfilled prior to that 1000 year period. This feast actually is fulfilled in the kingdom. That may be one of the primary reasons it will be perpetuated for all those future years.

This is the feast that will yet be fulfilled in the millennial Kingdom. Christ will dwell me men on earth..

I. WHAT WAS THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES?

Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a Sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a Sabbath.

Leviticus 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

Leviticus 23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

Leviticus 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

This was a time that all the men of Israel, were commanded to meet at Jerusalem, and dwell in booths.

The booths were to remind them that for 40 years they dwelt in tents in the wilderness.

1. Why booths?

God did not want them to be too fancy.

A booth anyone could build. All they needed was palm branches. The booth only needed to last a week.

2. This feast was mandatory and the dwelling in booths was mandatory.

II. What was the purpose of living in booths?

Leviticus 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Booths are temporary dwelling places, little huts. It could be a tent.

But in this case God specifies that the booths are to be made of tree branches.

These booths would be the most primitive of dwellings.

In the Philippines, we saw squatters who lived in little booths and huts. Palm branches, tree branches, etc..

This feast was designed to remind the children of Israel of their humble beginnings.

Deuteronomy 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Humility is a lesson often forgotten. We need to remind ourselves.

III. OF THE THREE MANDATORY FEASTS FOR SOME REASON THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT.

Though the gentile church is not under obligation to keep the feast of tabernacles, someday in the millennial Kingdom Jesus will require it of everyone.

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.

Because of this there would seem to be some kind of universal lesson that everyone can learn from the feast of tabernacles, Jew and Gentile alike.

This is a feast that is to be celebrated universally in the Kingdom.

IV. WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL LESSONS THAT EVERYONE CAN LEARN FROM THIS FEAST?

1. The spiritual significance of the 7 days of this feast.

Seven is God's number of creation and completion.

All things were created in 6 days and in the seventh day God rested.

So the principle of the sabbath is based off of the sabbath day.

The seventh year is the year of rest and blessing.

Israel dwelt in booths for a short time and then they entered into the promised land.

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

2. Many Jewish and Gentile theologians believe that in the 7th Millenium the Messiah would come and set up His Kingdom.

Methodious wrote in AD 300:

We find the following reference to the feast of Tabernacles:

For Since in six days God made the heaven and the earth, and finished the whole world and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, so by a figure in the seventh month, when the firstfruits of the earth have been gathered in, we are commanded to keep the feast of tabernacles to the Lord, which signifies that, when this world shall be terminated at the seventh thousand years, when God shall have completed the world, He shall rejoice in us. Then when the appointed times shall have been accomplished and God shall have ceased to form this creation, in the seventh month, the great resurrection day, it is commanded that the feast of our tabernacles shall be celebrated to the Lord.

Methodius, Bishop tyre, Ireanaeuas and many other church fathers, beloved that the seven days of this feast were symbolic of seven thousand years of History God has planned for his creation, the last day being the sabbath day of the Lord.

So this truth is a universal truth not just limited to the nation. Our Lord will require the whole world to celebrate this feast.

3. *MANY BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF SPACE BETWEEN THE DISSOLVING OF THE NATION ISRAEL AND THE RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM.*

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hosea 6:2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4. *The Dwelling in Booths is a reminder that everything in this life is but temporary.*

Il Peter 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

Il Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

Il Peter 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

Il Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Il Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Il Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Il Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

Il Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

Il Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

The dwelling in booths is significant because we dwell in this tabernacle only for a short time and then on the 8th day of the feast everyone dismantled their little booth and it was all over.

If these early Church fathers were right about that last Millennial rein on earth and this feast being symbolic of this, and the booths in God's creation is this world, then on the eight day God will tear down this temporary booth.

WHAT DO WE READ IN SCRIPTURE?

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

II Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

On the eighth day of the feast everyone took the branches and burned them and went on and dwelt in their houses.

This is a picture of the fact that we are actually living our lives in temporary booths. On the eighth day God will make a new heaven and a new earth and we shall all have eternal tabernacles to dwell in.

So important was this lesson that when Jesus comes and sets up his Kingdom on earth, He commands that every one of every nation come up to Jerusalem and celebrate this important feast.

5. Today God commands His people to assemble together to reinforce in our lives spiritual truth.

Do this in remembrance of me, communion.
Baptism.

Leviticus 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

When I first came as Pastor back in early 80's we used to always have our Vacation Bible School for children in August. Almost all the adults in our church were involved in the programs. We put on skits, had lots of gifts and fun activities for the kids. We would have lots of kids at this event but few kids would come back because we couldn't maintain this type of program every week. So when the kids came back to regular Sunday School, they often would be disappointed and not come back every week. It was then that I meet Bill Stewart and decided to change from doing just a Bible school to having a family Bible School week. the Kids would meet in the church and we would try to have parents come and have a revival meeting in the tent.

Back in the year 2001 we moved our meetings from August to July. It just happened that we scheduled by chance that meeting in the seventh month and the meetings started the 15th day of the month. I was studying my Bible when I read this passage that God was going to mandate that the whole world Jews and Gentiles alike come and celebrate this great feast.

Leviticus says:

Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

The first day of this feast was to be a Sabbath. The Sabbath was the day that God's Old Testament saints worshipped and the last day was to be a Sabbath.

It just happened to fall that year 2001 that we started our meetings on a Sunday, our Christian Sabbath, so to speak, and ended our meetings 8 days later on a Sunday. This set in motion the idea to always try to have our tent meetings around the 15th of July.

Now that is hard to do because the Jewish calendar which will be re instituted in the Millennium had uniform days of the week. So the 7th month the 15th day was always a sabbath. The days were set up so the feasts always fell on the right days of the week. Our heathen gentile calendar does not do that. This is why the Bible calls the days we live in as the "Times of the Gentiles"

This year the 15th of the month is the Saturday of our meetings, which causes our meetings to be earlier than normal. I was amazed that God led us to have these meetings in our gentile calendar the same days as the Bible commanded the children of Israel in their jewish calendar. This set in motion the tradition to always try to have these meetings around the 15th day of the seventh month which is July in our calendar.

6. The Children of Israel Failed To Consistently Obey The Lord In Keeping this and the other feasts.

All 490 years that Israel neglected to keep this great feast, as far as we know they never observed this feast properly.

Maybe they felt it was too inconvenient to dwell in booths for a whole week.

Maybe they thought just as long as they get together, or do some little religious get together that would satisfy the Lord.

In either case:

Leviticus 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Leviticus 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

Leviticus 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Leviticus 26:34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Leviticus 26:35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

GOD BROUGHT THIS TO PASS IN THE DAYS OF JEREMIAH AND GOD'S JUDGEMENT FELL ON THE NATION BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KEEP THE SABBATHS AS HE COMMANDED.

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:12 And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 25:13 And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

II Chronicles 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

God kept perfect records and after the 70 years Israel was careful to keep the feast days as commanded.

If you want God's blessing you need to follow God's commands.

V. Consider some great events that took place during this week.

1. Solomon dedicated the temple on this week.

II Chronicles 5:2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

II Chronicles 5:3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

II Chronicles 7:8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

II Chronicles 7:9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

II Chronicles 7:10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

15th - 22 and the 23rd day he sent them away. This was the feast of tabernacles. Though he kept a feast, there is no indication that the people dwelt in booths as they should.

2. WHEN THE CHILDREN RETURNED TO THE LAND THEY KEPT THIS FEAST.

Nehemiah 8:13 And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

Nehemiah 8:14 And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:

Nehemiah 8:15 And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

Nehemiah 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

Nehemiah 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Nehemiah 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Notice since the days of Joshua they had not kept this feast.

I wonder how many things we neglect to do that the Lord wants us to do?

How sad!!!!

CONSIDER NOW BY WAY OF APPLICATION TO US TODAY:

What was the purpose of this feast:

Deuteronomy 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

Deuteronomy 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

Deuteronomy 14:24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

Deuteronomy 14:25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose:

Deuteronomy 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

God wanted His feasts to be a time of rejoicing, a time of eating, and even notice, He said bring all thy soul lusteth after.

Sometimes some more spiritual people may criticize some of the carnal activities we do at our tent meetings. Giving away gifts, singing, special music, gifts, door prizes, picnics, hay rides, barbecue chicken dinner, and refreshments.

This is that part - all thy soul lusteth after.

God wants us to have a good time that week.

So don't be a dead head. God even allows you to enjoy yourself during that week. Now we are not in the millennium but we certainly can try and keep the pattern and in His church keep the pattern. We might as well get used to it we will be supervising this feast in the millennium for 1000 years.

Under the new covenant, we know we are not under the law, but the law should be written in our hearts. So we should do by nature those things which are written in the law. So consider the following:

- A. God wanted His people to get together for a week and do something different: Dwell in booths, temporary facilities.
So that is what we do tent meeting week.
- B. God mandated His people to all be there during that week and even take off work to be there.
So we plan a year in advance to have these meetings so you can plan this into your schedule.
- C. God wanted his people to celebrate that week and have carnal activities.
Deuteronomy 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,
- E. God wants us to give extra to support his ministers that week.
So we spend extra money that week for these meetings.

Deuteronomy 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

Now what is sad is that many people will not support this week of meetings, and they will have all kinds of excuses for that. Has anything changed from the days of Israel? Today we are under this command.

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.

In the local church, this week is when we as an assembly decided to assemble ourselves together to fulfill the spiritual purpose in our little gentile way to keep the spirit of the feast of tabernacles. I must say it is an imperfect reflection of the original intent but nevertheless I think it would please God anyway.

Let me invite you out to our tent meeting week. Let's let it be our imperfect little feast of the tabernacles in our little gentile church way! I hope you will support these meetings. You might as well get used to having a week of meetings for the Lord if you're saved. Some day when we rule and reign with Christ we will mandate that everyone attend this feast.

EVENING MESSAGE THE NEW TESTAMENT MANDATE

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.

I. CONSIDER WHAT THE WORD ASSEMBLING MEANS:

What does it mean to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is?

The best way to understand what something means is to look it up in a dictionary. The best Bible dictionary I know is Strong's. What is great about many of the Bible tools that we have available to us today is that you really do not have to know Greek to find out what the true meaning of the words mean in your English Bible. As we look up the word "assembling" ourselves together in Strong's, we see it comes from a compound Greek word.

☐ episunagoge, ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay'; from 1996; a complete collection; spec. a Chr. meeting (for worship):-assembling (gathering) together.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

☐ episunago, ep-ee-soon-ag'-o; from 1909 and 4863; to collect upon the same place:-gather (together).

What is interesting is that the word sounds a lot like the word Synagogue

Here is the Greek word for Synagogue:

sunagoge, soon-ag-o-gay'; from (the redupl. form of) 4863; an assemblage of persons; spec. a Jewish "synagogue" (the meeting or the place); by anal. a Christian church:-assembly, congregation, synagogue.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

☐ sunago, soon-ag'-o; from 4862 and 71; to lead together, i.e. collect or convene; spec. to entertain (hospitably):-+ accompany, assemble (selves, together), bestow, come together, gather (selves together, up, together), lead into, resort, take in.

The Synagogue was the Old Testament place of gathering of God's people for worship. We get the idea of gathering together in the church from the tradition of the Synagogue.

Paul is saying to the New Testament church we are under the command to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is.

Some people stopped attending church. They became irregular in their attendance.

II. CONSIDER JESUS EXAMPLE OF OBEYING THIS COMMAND:

Consider the greatest example of perfection in every area of a persons life. That person is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. He would be the perfect example of obedience in every area.

We read of Him:

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his **custom was**, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luke 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Then our Lord explained these verses and notice the reaction of the people in the Synagogue.

Luke 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Luke 4:29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

Luke 4:30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

Now after this did Jesus stop attending the Synagogue? NO NO NO.

I often see people that have had bad experience in a church and after that their church attendance starts to wane. They become sporadic in their attendance. They see no need to be faithful any more. They skip Sunday Evening services, and prayer meeting night.

Let me ask you, why did Jesus attend the synagogue all those years? Did He need to learn anything from the Rabbi's? Did He get anything out of the message? In fact, why did Jesus have to be baptized? John even said, I don't need to Baptize you. What did Jesus say,

Matthew 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

If Jesus was faithful in all things what makes you think you can slack off?

Consider now:

III. The Biblical Purpose of Assembling ourselves together.

1. We need to assemble ourselves together so we can be encouraged to love each other.

HOW ARE WE PROVOKED TO LOVE?

How can we love each other when we never see each other?

How can we express love to each other?

When we gather together we learn about each others needs?

When we assemble ourselves together.

We learn how to pray for each other.

Someone says, no one cares for me. How can people care about you when they never see you in church? No one knows what is going on in your life.

We are commanded to assemble ourselves together so we could learn to love each other.

2. We need to assemble ourselves together so we can be encouraged to do good works.

What are some of the good works that people can do?

I Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Good works and giving go hand in hand.

When we help others in the needs it is a good work.
In church you learn about needs people have, whether missionaries or people who have emergency needs.
People who need help in this area or that.

When we give of our money to the Lord's work this is a good work.
In the church we have opportunities to give. If we don't attend church we are not going to give.

I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

In the assembly we learn about the needs of God's people and we have opportunity to do good works!

A few months back we went on a missions trip to help a preachers widow who was in need. We went together and we did a good work.

3. WE ASSEMBLE TOGETHER TO PROMOTE UNITY AND ONENESS.

The beauty of the church is seen when a group of people work together in love and unity to serve the Lord.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

God established a Church and gave men who could officiate in the roles of spiritual leadership to direct and teach and guide so that God's people could be joined together in unity of the faith.

There is an ocean of ideas out in the world that could toss us about. We need to be focused and directed in the word of God, so that we do not enter into a state of spiritual confusion.

God ordained Spiritual teachers are given to the church for this purpose. In the Church we open the Bible and read and teach the Bible and say, this is what the Lord says about this subject and that subject, let us not be tossed to and by the liberal media and atheistic educational systems. They are not going to teach the word of God. It is the church's job to teach and direct according to the Scripture.

ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE GOD SAID SO.

ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WILL PROVOKE US TO LOVE GOOD WORKS AND UNITY.

ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BRING GOD'S JUDGMENT!

IV. WHAT IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR NOT ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER?

It is the same punishment that God will give in the millennium for people who do not come up for the feast of tabernacles.

THERE WILL 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.

No not physical rain. There will be no spiritual rain.

1. THERE WOULD BE NO RAIN BECAUSE RAIN IS A SYMBOL OF SPIRITUAL BLESSING AS WELL AS PHYSICAL BLESSING.

Do we not sing, THERE WILL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS?

Hosea 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Rain is a picture of blessings.

So God promises blessings to those who obey Him.

There are some blessings that can only come from God.

God sends blessings to those who obey His ordinances.
And one of His ordinances is to not forsake the assembling of yourself together as the manner of some is.

Only God can send the rain.
Only God can send you the blessings.
There are some things that only God can give you.

The word of God is likened to water that flows. Rain is essential to seeing crops grow.

Those who reject God's Word.
Those who disobey the Lord
They wind up losing out on the blessings so God with holds the rain.
God will withhold the blessings.

When we forsake the assembling of ourselves together, God withholds the rain from our lives.

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

James 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

And what does our text say,

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.

So much the more as ye see the day approaching..

That day is coming soon. It is approaching very soon.

Are you living for him, this life is but preparation for that day. Sad it is that most people live for the present day. How sad that is, there will be many regrets.

I like what we read about Jesus. It says, AS HIS CUSTOM WAS. He went up to the synagogue. We are all sinners, and as sinners to live a holy and spiritually healthy life we need to follow good habits. Assembling ourselves with regularity is one of those good habits.

I think the physical is a picture of the spiritual. The reason many of us are sick physically is because of bad habits in our life. We are destroying ourselves by the way we live. As I have

gotten older I have developed some health problems. My wife and I have consulted with some experts and they have shared some things that have helped. Basically those things require discipline in our lives and changing some unhealthy habits. We thought what do we have to lose so we implemented these changes and they are working.

Do you want Showers of Blessings, do what the Word of God says you should do? Make assembling yourself together in God's church a healthy spiritual habit. Come every service, be faithful. God will pour out to you the early, and later rains of spiritual blessings.