

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMAND TO ASSEMBLE
7-8-18

Each year before our tent meetings I try to review the biblical teaching concerning the feasts of the Lord, and the pattern as given in the Bible of assembling together for special services, or in the case of Israel the feast celebrations.

In the New Testament under the new covenant we are not under the law. We should have the law of God written in our hearts, meaning as we pray and study God's word God will speak to our hearts.

There is a biblical mandate. We are not under the law, ceremonially, but there was a purpose for the law.

We are not sabbatharians, we do not keep the sabbath.
But we should honor God and not forsake the assembling of our selves together.

THOUGH WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, NOR ARE WE OBLIGATED TO KEEP THE CEREMONIAL LAWS. YET STILL WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FEASTS AND SABBATH LAWS AND SEEK TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH KEEPING THE PATTERN OF THESE OLD TESTAMENT ORDINANCES.

We should understand the purpose of these feasts and sabbaths, and we as a church should try to inculcate into our church calendar meetings that fulfill the spiritual purpose of these special holidays.

This is the purpose of the sabbaths & there is a purpose for the feast days.
That purpose is as relevant to us today as it was in the Old Testament.

I. CONSIDER THE PURPOSE FOR THE LAW FOR US TODAY.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Once you learn the basic rudiments from the school master you are then qualified to live in the real world and apply what you learned.

Life is not a series of do this, do that lessons like you have in school. It is real life application that we need to apply what we learn from the school master. We don't throw away what we learned from the school master when we graduate, we now apply these things to real life.

In Christ we should do by nature from a spirit of love what the Bible mandated in the Old Testament. In school we learn that $2 + 2 = 4$ and $10 - 8 = 2$. In real life we purchase an 8 dollar item hand the attendant a 10 dollar bill and expect 2 dollars in change. Today we do by nature what the law teaches in a practical way.

If you think you are a good christian and you find it hard to attend church on a regular basis, you are deceiving yourself. Remember, Jesus did not forsake the Synagogue even when they tried to kill Him. Neither did Paul. Any excuse you have for not attending church does not hold water.

NOTE WHAT JESUS SAID EVEN ABOUT THE PHARISEES.

Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Matthew 23:2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

Jesus kept the law and kept the feasts.

Salvation does not come from keeping the Law, but the pattern of the law and the purpose for the law.. is clearly given in Scripture.

It is the Spirit of Christ that gives us the Spirit of the law and only by receiving His spirit can we truly understand the purpose for the law.

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

When we receive the gospel and are saved we receive Christ's Spirit, and the Spirit of Christ in us teaches us the true meaning and purpose for the feast. All the Old Testament laws, feasts, and ordinances point to Christ and directed people to Christ. HE FULFILLED ALL THE LAW.

HOW DOES THE LAW BRING US TO CHRIST?

- 1. The Law Shows Us How Far Short We Fall From God's Standard.**
- 2. The Law Shows Us Our Need For God's mercy and Grace.**
- 3. The Preaching of the law should draw men to Christ.**
Through humbling us so we see our need for His provision.
Through convicting us so we will call on Him to save us.
Through causing amazement so we see His miraculous provision.
- 4. After we come to Christ, we by nature will desire to obey the law of**

God not out of obligation but out of love. We now are free to obey Christ from the heart.

Illustration of sabbath: Just being under the law will bring us a curse.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

WHEN UNDER THE LAW WE ARE CURSED IF WE DO NO OBEY HE LAW.

Numbers 15:32 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

Numbers 15:33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

Numbers 15:34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

Numbers 15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

Numbers 15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT 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.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

The judgment comes from rejecting the New Testament message of salvation. This will bring a far greater judgment.

When the law is preached it will bring joy in the hearts of those who desire love Christ. It will encourage our hearts to want to serve Christ in a deeper way. It amazes us and we will marvel how it points to Christ and shows the supernatural nature of the word of God.

We are not under the law to keep the ceremonial law.
But in the spirit we will desire to keep the purpose for these laws.
and feasts from a heart of love.

Now apart from Christ there is no reason to do anything spiritual.
Apart from Christ there is no reason to come to church.
Apart from Christ, nothing we do here makes any sense at all.

II. CONSIDER IT IS COMING TO THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT SAVES AND NOT JUST PREACHING AND TEACHING THE LAW OR THE BIBLE.

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.
John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

1. IT IS THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST THAT SAVES AND CHANGES PEOPLE, NOT BIBLE STUDY OR LEARNING THE BIBLE ALONE.

In 1974 when I got saved, what drew me to salvation was how so many people, I marveled at one thing, how it was that so many people could claim Jesus Christ could have effected their lives in such a powerful way. How could this be?

Let us never forget salvation is wrapped up in one thing and one thing only.

***SALVATION IS WRAPPED UP IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.
NOT IN CHURCH, OR ANYTHING ELSE.***

Catholic Church, to them salvation is wrapped up in the Church and the ordinances of the church. I went to a funeral of a family member and the priest said at the funeral that my relative was saved in Baptism. Because of their baptism they were in heaven.

What crazy doctrine. Through her baptism she was saved?
She is in heaven because she was Baptized and had faith.
In other words, these church ordinances saved her. Salvation was wrapped up in the church. NONSENSE. The priest said:

Now she is a Saint, and as a saint we can pray to her???? She can intercede for us??? NONSENSE.

2. SALVATION IS WRAPPED UP IN CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE.

I John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

I John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Coming to Christ is what brings us to salvation.

We often say, it is not what you know it is who you know.
THIS IS TRUE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

Many a theologian has gone to hell knowing much but never having been saved.

Many a religious leader has gone to hell never having known Christ as Saviour.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

III. CONSIDER, THE MAIN PURPOSE FOR ASSEMBLING OURSELVES TOGETHER IS TO PROMOTE THE LOVE AND UNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN CHRIST.

Why do we meet and worship on Sunday instead of Saturday?

The Bible says, remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

The Sabbath day was the 7th day of the week not the first day.

THE REASON WE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY IS BECAUSE ALL THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO POINT TO CHRIST.

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT DAY WE ASSEMBLE AS LONG AS WE DO IT FOR GOD'S GLORY AND HONOR.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The ordinances of the law concerning worship and assembling involved:

THE SABBATH WORSHIP Weekly the 7th Day.

The Feasts Seven times in the year.
7 major feasts.

The Sabbath Year Every 7th year the land should rest.

The Year of Jubilee Every 7th Sabbath year was a Jubilee and
all debts and slaves were liberated.

All this was wrapped to the LORD our creator who created all things and established a 7 day week.

So all of man's calendar should be a sacred Calendar.

Today all our calendar should still be sacred but it should be wrapped up in Christ.

That God rested the 7th day so God ordained that men should follow this example and rest the 7th day.

At the resurrection God made a new creation and when we are born again of the Spirit of God we become new creatures in Christ. So this truth is a greater truth than the creation of the physical world that we know.

In Adam we all die.

In Christ we are made alive.

Every one of the feasts have their fulfillment in Christ.

IV. WE ASSEMBLE TOGETHER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH TO DEMONSTRATE THE LOVE OF CHRIST AND TO EXHIBIT THAT LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER.

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.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

As we gather together and assemble together this gives us an opportunity to manifest our Love for the Lord and our unity and love for each other.

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Conclusion:

In Christ we are not under the law but under Grace. Therefore we should want to assemble ourselves together. We should want to please God from the heart.

When the the law is preached we should say. "Look how great our God is". Look how Christ came and fulfilled all these spiritual pictures".

We should want to be with God's people.

We should want to go to church.

We should want to learn more.

We do not have to legislate this. The preaching alone should convict and convince us of our need to serve and love Christ.

Look, when it is in the heart of someone to do something good or bad, given time and freedom they will find a way to do it. If people want to be in God's Church they will find a way to get there. All they need is an invitation.

ROM 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

ROM 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

ROM 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

ROM 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

ROM 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

ROM 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

ROM 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

ROM 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

ROM 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

These are beautiful verses explaining how from the heart the new covenant now will work in our hearts to make us want to do from the heart what the law tells us to do by the letter. The letter kills. The spirit makes us alive to want to do His will and to do what His law says.

PHI 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.