

Christ and the Biblical Feasts

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In my Christian associations, I know quite a few saints who don't observe Christmas. It would be a mistake for observers to conclude that those saints don't believe in Jesus Christ.

The two main reasons that such people do not observe Christmas are (1) they believe that the Son of God was born in the autumn, and (2) they do not support the man-made traditions associated with the Christmas celebration.

But rest assured—my friends believe in God the Father and Christ the Son.

The purpose of this article is to discuss how Christ the Son is a central figure in the biblical feast days.

Our Passover

The first of the annual feast days is the Passover.

While the people in the Old Testament observed this festival with a lamb (Exodus 12:1-5), the New Testament Church of God has a superior Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7—"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

1 Peter 1:19—" [We have been redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

The symbols of the broken bread and the wine (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) remind believers that we are saved by grace.

Days of Unleavened Bread

The next annual feast days are called the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Since we are saved by grace, these days remind believers to consider their reaction to being saved by grace.

1 Corinthians 5:8—"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

In Ephesians 2:8-9, the apostle Paul described being saved by grace. In the next verse, he mentioned an appropriate reaction.

Ephesians 2:10—"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

In Titus 3:4-7, Paul described being justified by grace. In the next verse, he repeated an appropriate reaction.

Titus 3:8—"This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men."

Day of Pentecost

The next annual feast day is called the Day of Pentecost.

On this day in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit was given to Jewish converts. (Later, in Acts 10:44-45, the Holy Spirit was given to gentile converts.)

Paul called Christ the firstfruit (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23) and mentioned that there would be other firstfruits at His coming.

Paul described the Holy Spirit as a "seal" and a "deposit" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

Feast of Trumpets

The next annual feast day is called the Feast of Trumpets. This day describes the return of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52—"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17—"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Day of Atonement

The next annual feast day is called the Day of Atonement. This day reminds people that Christ is the High Priest.

In Old Testament times, the high priest went into the Holy Place to offer a sacrifice for himself and for the people (Leviticus 16:1-19 and Hebrews 9:7).

The book of Hebrews explains the greatness of Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 9:24-26).

Feast of Tabernacles

The next annual feast days are called the Feast of Tabernacles. These days picture the millennial reign of Christ.

To accomplish a time of peace, the book of Revelation describes the dragon being bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

The book of Revelation also mentions that those individuals in the first resurrection will reign with Christ during 1,000 years (verse 6).

Eighth Day

The next annual feast day is called the Eighth Day. This day pictures the time beyond the Millennium.

The book of Revelation mentions that there will be a judgment before a great white throne (Revelation 20:11-12).

The book of Revelation also mentions a new heaven, a new earth and a New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-2). At that time, the tabernacle of God will be with mankind in a spectacular manner (verse 3).

The apostle John described the blessing upon mankind.

Revelation 21:4—"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Notice how God the Father places great emphasis upon Christ the Son.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28—"Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For 'He has put all things under His feet.' But when He says 'all things are put under Him,' it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."