

The Good News

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Did Paul Preach a NEW KIND of Christianity?

So many are asking about Paul's instruction to Gentile converts. Did Paul teach against the Sabbath and Holy Days? Here is an answer you have probably NEVER seen in print before!

By Herman L. Hoeh

YOU HAVE been born into a *confused* world which is filled with *confused* teaching.

Many of you have been taught that Paul instituted a *new kind* of Christianity to the Gentiles. You have been told by some that Paul abolished the observance of ALL days. Yet others say that Christ commanded "Christian" days for His church.

Who is right? To understand the truth, we must first acquaint ourselves with the *inspired* practice of Jesus and the *true church*.

Examples from Christ

Paul tells Gentile converts in Ephesians 5:1 to be "followers of God." But does the Bible give us examples of HOW to follow God?

It certainly does. The Father made it clear how each of us is to live, by sending His Son into the world to set us an example. Peter tells us that Christ set us an example that we should follow his steps—I Peter 2:21. "The man who professes to continue in Him is himself also bound to live as He lived" said John. (I John 2:6, Weymouth trans.)

The first thing to remember is that we must abide in the practices and teachings of Christ. We are *bound* by the Word of God to follow his example.

New Covenant Minister

Perhaps you have heard that Jesus

spent three and one-half years of his ministry preaching an Old Covenant message? That's not what your Bible says! The law and the prophets were preached *until John*, and from that time on, the Gospel was preached—the New Testament message (Luke 16:16).

Jesus Christ is the minister of the *new* covenant based on better promises than the old (Heb. 8:6; 12:24). The message Jesus preached—the very words of the gospel—is the way of life Jesus *practiced*. Jesus did not do one thing that we should not be doing today. He condemned those who "say, and do not." (Mat. 23:3). Everywhere we find Jesus living according to the message he preached, and *commanding his disciples to follow his steps*. The works He did we are to do also (John 14:12).

Jesus preached and lived a New Testament message *in opposition to the Jews*. If we claim to abide in Christ, we ought to walk even as He walked—follow his example!

Which Days?

Jesus set the pattern for the way we are to obey the Father. So let's examine it before we turn to the teaching of Paul to the Gentiles.

What was Jesus' custom about observing *days*?

Luke 4:16 shows Jesus attending service on the sabbath day before he began to preach. He had come to "Naza-

areth, 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." Here we see that from childhood, Jesus customarily went to the synagogue—the Jewish name for the church—on the sabbath.

Since this article is to explain the teaching of Paul to the Gentile converts, a full explanation of Jesus' example need not be given. But to understand it completely, write for the booklet "Which Day is the Sabbath of the New Testament?"

There are dozens of scriptures in the Bible where Jesus showed the people how to keep the sabbath as God intended. It is lawful, Jesus said, to do good on that day, because the Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:27).

Remember, Jesus was setting an example for the *New Testament* church. Jesus observed also the passover, and festival of unleavened bread before he entered his ministry! (Luke 2:41,42). And he continued to so do afterward (John 2:13, 23 and 6:4). Other festivals of God are mentioned, as the Festival of Tabernacles, to which the Apostle John devoted *an entire chapter*, the seventh.

Not once did Jesus tell us we should not observe these days. He set us an example by keeping them. *No where can you find He offered sacrifice on these days, either*, except the passover. He sub-

stituted for the lamb the symbols of unleavened bread and wine.

But was all this preaching just for Jews?

Nailed to the Cross?

There are all varieties of *arguments* by those who "can't see it." So you have probably heard that even though Jesus DID NOT ONCE DURING HIS WHOLE LIFE preach against the days God instituted, they were abolished by his *death*.

If that were so, the Holy Spirit could not have inspired the Apostle to say that the day *after* the death of Jesus was a high day or annual festival (John 19:31) and that the seventh day was *still* the sabbath according to the fourth commandment (Luke 23:56).

Then all of Jesus' preaching would have been *for nothing*, and whose example are we to follow?

But, perhaps the apostles changed the days? Did Paul tell the Gentile converts to keep different days?

The Apostles' Examples

Here is what Paul told the Gentile converts at Corinth: "Be ye followers of me, *even as I also am of Christ* (I Cor. 11:1)."

And to those Gentile-born at Philippi, he wrote: "*Be followers together of me . . . so as ye have us for an example* (Phil. 3:17)." And to the once pagan Thessalonians he wrote: "For ye, brethren, *became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus* (I Thess. 2:14)."

Here are conclusive texts that GENTILES, on being converted are commanded to follow the examples of the Apostle to the Gentiles "as I also am of Christ," and to follow the example of the churches of God *in Judaea!* Those were composed of *Jewish members!*

Did Paul follow the example of Jesus?

Could Paul have lived any other way than that of Jesus? For he himself said: "Christ liveth in me." And Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever! Jesus doesn't change. He lives the same kind of life in us as he lived in Paul—the same life He, himself, lived when preaching the Gospel in person.

But can we be sure we are following Christ's example when we follow the teachings of Paul? Certainly.

It was Paul's *manner to keep the sabbath* just as it was *Jesus' custom!* "But that was to Jews," many will say (Acts 17:2). Of course, but did you ever read where the *Gentiles* asked Paul, AFTER THE JEWS HAD GONE OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE, to preach to them *the next sabbath?* Here, as recorded in Acts 13:43-45, was Paul's great opportunity to tell Gentiles to meet him some *dif-*

ferent day if the Sabbath were changed!

But what happened? Paul didn't say any such thing; but, instead, met with them "the next sabbath." Everywhere Paul followed the example of Christ in keeping the sabbath, even when among Gentiles!

Many of you are right now thinking of several texts where the first day of the week is mentioned. But did you ever stop to notice that in every text it was a common *work day?* You can't afford to delay writing for Mr. Armstrong's booklet "Which Day is the Sabbath of the New Testament?" which explains *every one* of these texts.

Did Gentiles Keep Festivals?

We see now that Paul kept the sabbath among Gentiles, but surely he wouldn't have taught the Gentile converts to keep the annual festivals of God? That's another fable you've been told!

After the handwriting of ordinances were abolished, we find the true church filled with the Spirit of God on the annual festival of Pentecost! (Acts 2:1) The passover and days of unleavened bread were kept by the churches in Judaea (Acts 12:3). And we have read where Paul praised the *Gentiles* in Thessalonica for following the churches of God in Judaea!—The *Jewish* brethren!

But does the Bible record that the annual holy days were *held* where the Gentiles lived—long after those rituals that were nailed to the cross were abolished? Yes, indeed.

The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to write in Acts 20:6 that the days of unleavened bread occurred in far off Philippi! The disciples sailed away "after the days of unleavened bread."

In I Corinthians 16:8, Paul told the Gentiles he was intending to be at Ephesus, a Gentile city, the day of Pentecost. If this is not enough proof, then let's turn to I Cor. 5:8 where *Paul commanded Gentile converts* to observe one of these festivals.

"For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: therefore . . ." what? Read it! "Therefore let us *keep the feast, not with old leaven . . . but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*"

Here and in I Cor. 11:20-34, Paul is instructing the Corinthians how to keep the passover and the festival of unleavened bread. They are commanded *not to use leaven* on those days. But instead of taking unleavened bread according to the letter of the law as the Jews did, Paul admonished these Corinthians to obey according to the spirit, by using unleavened bread—the symbol of righteousness—with a *pure heart* in sincerity.

This rapid sketch of the practice of

Jesus and the early church, which was guided by the inspiration of the Apostles, shows the PRACTICE of real Christianity as it began.

But what about those three texts that Paul wrote to Gentile converts? Don't they say that these days were abolished?—And that Christians departed from grace by observing them?

Esteeming One Day Above Another

In spite of the Biblical evidence already presented, many people firmly believe that Paul said it didn't make any difference which days we keep if we keep them to God as best we believe in our own human reasoning. Is that what Paul really said? Let's see.

"One *man* esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be *fully persuaded* in his own mind." Romans 14:5, 6.

By taking these verses out of their setting, people make Paul say something altogether different. Does he say to observe Christmas, Easter, Lent, Good Friday, Sunday, or the Festival of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven? Does he say here that Jesus did away with the very days He kept?

Does Paul say "*God* esteemeth one day above another" and "*God* esteemeth every day alike"? It doesn't say "God," but "one *MAN* esteemeth one day above another." This tells us what certain *MEN* thought, not what God says!

We are not to be *judged* by what *men* think, but by the word of God! John 12:48 reads: "The word that I have spoken, *the same* shall judge him in the last day." Jesus is not going to judge you by what any *man* believes, but by the words *He* spoke!

Next, notice that these saints at Rome, having differing opinions, were forbidden to *judge one another* as unworthy of Christ. "Who are you that judges another man's servant? to his own master he stands or falls. Yes, he shall be help up: for *God is able to make him stand.*" (Rom. 14:4)

Paul is *not* sanctioning or *condemning* any particular days, but warning the saints not to judge one another and cause strife for having differing opinions about things *they did not yet understand clearly.*

"Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Does this give license to believe whatever you want? God commands: "Lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5) How are you going to be fully assured in your own mind UNTIL YOU KNOW WHAT GOD SAYS IN HIS WORD? "The holy scriptures . . . are able to make you wise to salvation" Paul wrote Timothy. (2 Tim. 3:15) By

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IF YOU DIE...

Will You Live Again?

You are going to be surprised by the NEW FACTS you will learn about the resurrection in this article—facts you have NEVER been taught, but information which your Bible has ALWAYS contained.

By Dr. C. P. Meredith

YOU recall how man in great physical danger fights for his life! He exerts almost *superhuman* energy to save himself and does not give up until all strength is gone!

But what about DEATH? It is the *opposite of life*. It takes away this very *mortal life* that you would defend with all your strength!

All people down through the ages have had to die, but this is not a satisfying answer when you yourself have to face it.

IS DEATH THE END OF EVERYTHING? Just what is the chance of YOUR coming back to life, of living again? Your *only* hope of living again is by a *resurrection*. But what is your ASSURANCE, if any, of such an occurrence?

Where can you look for such assurance? You can look to the Bible! It will give you the answers to those *important life and death* questions that no human mind can give! It is the revealed WORD of GOD.

Predicted Far in Advance

As usual, with *great events*, God has made the resurrections known for hundreds of years in advance! Job, fifteen hundred years before Christ, said "Though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh will I see God." (Job 19:26). David said, "God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me." (Ps. 49:15). These two were speaking of their own *future resurrection to immortality*.

Isaiah 700 years before Christ, prophesied Christ's resurrection; for in Isa. 26:19 he says "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise." Also, David says of Christ's resurrection, "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (the grave); neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy one to see corruption." (Ps. 16:10). All *these* resurrections are resurrections to IMMORTALITY!

But Daniel, about 500 B.C., has FORETOLD that there is going to be, IN THE FUTURE, a resurrection which can also be followed by a sentencing to eternal death—to everlasting contempt—"And at that time shall Michael stand up—

and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:1,2)

But even BEFORE Isaiah and Daniel prophesied the resurrection of Christ—in fact *practically at the very time God formed man*, God, referring to Christ's coming said, "I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (the seed) shall bruise thy (Satan's) head—" (Gen. 3:15). Satan *deceived* Eve into eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6), the penalty of which was *death* (verse 3). Had Adam and Eve not eaten of this tree, they would likely have eaten of the tree of life (Gen. 2:9) and they and we *could have lived forever*. A just God made it possible that through woman's seed—Christ (Christ had no earthly father) all mankind could again have a chance to eternal life through a resurrection from death. (1 Tim. 2:14 and Isaiah 7:14). Romans 5:10 says "If—we were reconciled to God by the *death* of his son—we shall be saved by his *life*."

Do you get the significance of this? We are saved "—by his (Christ's) *life*." The HOLY SPIRIT! Christ had this by being *begotten of it*. (Psalms 2:7; Matthew 1:20). WE *who repent* and are baptized *receive* it as a gift! (Acts 2:38). We weren't born with any immortal soul, we must receive eternal life as a *gift*. Now we are beginning to see why Christ's *resurrection* was as important as the shedding of his BLOOD for the forgiveness of our *past sins*! It means that IF the same *life* (Holy Spirit) is in US that was in Christ, God CAN and WILL RESURRECT US TO IMMORTALITY; for Romans 8:11 says "If the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) of him (God the Father) that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he that raised Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit (Holy Spirit) that dwells in you."

No wonder the RESURRECTION OF JESUS was such an *important event* to the whole EARTH! IT WAS TO PROVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN A PER-

SON WOULD CAUSE A RESURRECTION TO IMMORTALITY AFTER DEATH!

Bible Based on a Plan

The *preachers* today DO NOT GRASP THE FACT that the WHOLE BIBLE deals with ONE SUBJECT ONLY—THE FORMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD by GOD the FATHER!

It can also be called the *family of God*. It will be a family of SPIRIT BEINGS with God the Father at the head; Christ will be the eldest son, and those who are finally saved at the resurrection will be the other sons. (See parables on Kingdom of God—Matt. 13 and Mark 4).

THE RESURRECTION TO IMMORTALITY represents THE VITAL TRANSITION FROM THIS MORTAL BODY—BY BEING BORN AGAIN—INTO THE SPIRIT FORM AND ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD! "—except a man be *born again* he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

With such a close-knit message as this to tell, can ANY PERSON say the old testament is done away, or say that Paul's writings should be left out or only preach from sections here and there? THE ENTIRE BIBLE is ONE COMPACT UNIT and drives hard toward the subject it has to reveal, once it is PROPERLY understood!

As we go on now to study the various RESURRECTIONS, let us keep in mind how the MASTER-MIND, God the Father, reveals HIS PLAN to us. *It will build our FAITH in the resurrection!* We will KNOW that we are in a world that is running according to a PRECONCEIVED DEFINITE PLAN!

Resurrection of Jesus Christ

From the time Adam and Eve sinned, God *foretold* the coming of ONE who would again give man an opportunity to immortal life, and foretold of his descent through Abraham. HE who was to give US the *opportunity* of a RESURRECTION TO ETERNAL LIFE—CHRIST!

Christ was TO BRUISE the SERPENT'S HEAD (Gen. 3:15); his origin to be through Abraham (Gen. 12:3); and to be through the *Judah* branch of Abraham (Gen. 49:10); and the *Pharez*

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branch of Judah. (Gen. 38:28,29,30).

David foretold Jesus' resurrection about 1,000 years B.C. (Ps. 16:10), and Isaiah about 700 years B.C. (Isaiah 7:14 and 26:19). Christ himself foretold that his *resurrection* would occur the **THIRD DAY**—72 hours (not less than 2 days—36 hours, as the *churches today teach*) and **IT HAPPENED IN 72 HOURS!** (Read our booklet "Does Easter really commemorate the Resurrection?")

Now, let us look back over these happenings—a sequence of events, prophesied always *well in advance*, and extending over a period of *four thousand years* and always fulfilled! Should not this inspire *your CONFIDENCE* in the **ONE**—the **SUPREME GOD**—who saw that these events were prophesied, and saw that they **ALWAYS CAME TO PASS?** Whatever God says by His Holy Word, the Bible, *will be done!*

The resurrection of Christ was an entirely *different* type of event than has ever happened on this earth before or since. The *pagans had taught about immortal souls* and that people returned to life after death in various other forms (i.e. reincarnations), but they could never produce **PROOF**. Christ, before his crucifixion, *raised many of the dead* back to life to fill out their *natural life span*. (Matt. 9:24,25; Matt. 10:8; Luke 7:15; Ju. 11:44).

These *resurrections were all, only for*

a short return, to a **PHYSICAL LIFE** and were of no great importance except to the ones involved!

But on Christ's resurrection depends the **RESURRECTION** and **ETERNAL LIFE** of **ALL OF US**; for 1 Cor. 15:17,18 says, "If Christ be not raised, *your faith is vain*; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are *perished*." Doomed to eternal death!

Do you understand it? Had Christ been an *ordinary* mortal man without the Spirit of God, he would have **SINNED** sometime during his life and *could not* have paid **OUR DEBT** for sin! "The wages of sin is **DEATH** . . ." (Rom. 6:23) **ETERNAL DEATH!** His sin would have taken *his own* life and God would not have *resurrected* him! He would have had no life left to **PAY FOR OUR SINS**—**WE COULD NOT EXPECT TO BE RESURRECTED TO ETERNAL LIFE!**

It took on **UNUSUAL HUMAN BEING** to go through life without sinning. He was known as *the Messiah* (Jn. 1:41)—the **ANOINTED ONE**—one who was to come to **REDEEM** the people. He was **BEGOTTEN** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** (Luke

1:35—the power which strengthened him against temptation **FROM BIRTH!** 1 Cor. 15:17 says "If Christ be not raised, your faith is in vain."

Suppose Christ had died but *set no time* as to when he would be resurrected and suppose further, that after a year or so his body *disappeared*. **YOU AND I WOULD HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT WE WOULD EVER BE RESURRECTED and BECOME IMMORTAL!** His body might only have been stolen.

But Christ *has given us the evidence!* When the Scribes and Pharisees asked Christ for a **SIGN** (of his being the **Messiah**—or **Savior**) he said he would be **THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS** in the grave (Matt. 12:40)—**NOT** one and a half days as the churches today believe, but **THREE!** By this teaching of a day and a half the devil is trying to take our very evidence of a salvation hope away from us.

Christ arose the *third* day! He was crucified late Wednesday afternoon and arose late Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon. (Our booklet "Does Easter really commemorate the Resurrection?" clearly explains this.)

The thing that confuses people is that they mistake the Sabbath that is mentioned as drawing on in Luke 23:54 for a **WEEKLY SABBATH** whereas it was actually an **ANNUAL SABBATH**—which happened to fall on *Thursday* in A.D. 31. After this came their **WEEKLY SABBATH** on Saturday. Between these days the women bought and prepared spices (Mark 16:1).

God has seen to it that these two **WORLD IMPORTANT EVENTS**—the **Crucifixion** and the **Resurrection**—have been well witnessed! Christ's healing and miracles had attracted a large following. People were interested in him wherever he went. On the day of His crucifixion a large multitude was present. (Matt. 27:24)

Mary (Jesus' mother) and the other two Marys and John were present (Jn. 19:25,26) also.

As Christ said he would rise the third day the chief priests and Pharisees took great precautions to see that his body did not disappear by being stolen by the disciples, so a guard was set and a great stone was rolled over the sepulture entrance. (Matt. 27:63-66)

Christ's body did disappear though! (Jn. 20:1) He had been **RESURRECTED** from the dead **THE THIRD DAY** and Mary Magdalene (John 20:14), the disciples (Jn. 20:19), and after that about 500 people *saw him at one time!* (1 Cor. 15:6). Fifty days later in Jerusalem a large number gathered from all over the world to observe Pentecost and await the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2).

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of **The WORLD TOMORROW!**

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From this point, the news "of the resurrection was spread by the apostles" (Acts 4:2), and their converts. Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, says that *the resurrection* is one of the best authenticated facts in all history. Also Gibbon says "... it is no wonder that so advantageous an offer (resurrection and eternal life), should have been accepted by great numbers of every religion ..."

THE WORLD WAS CONVINCED OF THIS RESURRECTION TO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF BEING!—to immortal life in the family of God.

Resurrection Is Necessary

You have probably been *taught* that you have been born with an immortal soul which goes immediately to heaven, purgatory or hell when you die. This is NOT TRUE! YOUR BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH IT! "The first man is of the earth, earthy—" (1 Cor. 15:47)

The SAME word "NEPESH"—which means *flesh*—whether of animal or man was translated "*creature*" in Gen. 1:24 where it was associated with animals, and "soul" in Gen. 2:7 where the Bible speaks of *man* becoming a LIVING SOUL!

In other words, *both animal and man* are composed of ONE THING—the SAME THING—MORTAL FLESH, and, as born into this world, one has no more an immortal soul inside him than the other! (Ecc. 3:19,20)

No one would contend that any beasts are *in purgatory* or *eternal torment*.

Another passage, that shows that ANYONE THAT DIES GOES TO HIS GRAVE AND IS THERE NOW, is Acts 2:29 which shows that David is *now* in his sepulture, "... David ... is both dead and *buried*, and his sepulture is with us unto this day."

Now notice this: if anyone is in heaven, purgatory or hell where most preachers today say they are, then they are STILL ALIVE; THEREFORE THEY COULD NOT BE RESURRECTED—for the very word "RESURRECTION" itself implies that those resurrected were DEAD!

THEREFORE A RESURRECTION is NECESSARY if a person who once died is *brought to life again*! How sadly and without reason have the Bible teachings been distorted! WE COULD NOT ATTAIN IMMORTALITY and GOD WOULD BE DEFEATED IN HIS MAIN PURPOSE OF CREATING MAN—the CREATION OF A SPIRIT BEING! BUT WE DO HAVE THIS HOPE OF A RESURRECTION!

Bible Teaches Resurrection for All

"... There shall be a resurrection of the dead, *both* the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). Paul said this when he was being tried before Felix. Do you grasp the *meaning* of this? EVERYONE

is going to be resurrected!

"... the hour is coming, in which *all* that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28,29) Daniel 12.2 gives the same thought—A RESURRECTION FOR EVERYONE.

Many Resurrections

NOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN FOR A SURPRISE! Undoubtedly you are going to learn of *one* resurrection that you *never heard of before* and possibly *two* or *three*! Yet they are in YOUR BIBLE. The things that are in the BIBLE are just *not being taught today*!

The First Resurrection

The FIRST resurrection of man TO IMMORTALITY that has *ever* occurred in this world (except Christ's), will occur when Christ comes at the LAST TRUMP. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 describes this: "For the Eternal himself shall descend from heaven with a great shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump (LAST TRUMP) of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Eternal in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Eternal." (But they will go *immediately* to Jerusalem to start their 1,000 years rule. Read Zechariah 14).

This is the resurrection *just ahead now*! 1 Cor. 15:51 thru 56 describes this same resurrection and Rev. 11:15 describes the blowing (sounding) of the "last trump" which ushers this period in. Read these verses!

The JUST DEAD will be raised *by the power of God* exerted through the *medium* of Jesus Christ (John 6:44). These are they WHO HAVE REPENTED (i.e. turned from *their* former ways), been baptized, received the GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT and were overcomers to the end (Acts 2:38 and Romans 8:11).

(NOTE! This HOLY SPIRIT is a GIFT that is given ONLY TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY TO RECEIVE IT! This is the NEAREST thing we *ever* have in this life to the IMAGINARY IMMORTAL SOUL that people WRONGLY THINK *everyone* is BORN with!)

Of this resurrection, Rev. 20:6 says, "Blessed is he that hath part in the FIRST RESURRECTION: on such the SECOND DEATH (i.e. the eternal death) hath no power ..."

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them ..." (Rev. 20:4). This is the resurrection to the SPIRIT FORM (1 Cor. 15:44) just described. Now notice verse 5,

"... but the REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED."—all *but* the GOOD DEAD stay dead through the 1,000 years! There are *no* resurrections in the millennium of those long dead!

A *thousand year* period follows Christ's second coming and during this time Christ RULES THIS EARTH. (Isaiah 11; Jeremiah 31:1-18; Ezekiel 36). This one thousand years is the time represented by the *Feast of Tabernacles* (Lev. 23:34 and Exodus 23:16) in GOD'S HOLY DAYS. It is a time when God REALLY BEGINS IN EARNEST TO SAVE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE END OF THIS AGE AND INTO THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Another Resurrection

At the *end* of the thousand years, during which time Christ has been ruling this earth and the earth has been full of the knowledge of the Eternal, (a condition that *certainly has not been present* up to now), there will be *another* resurrection!

Matthew 13:24 thru 30 and verses 36 thru 42 (the parable of the tares), describes this HARVEST! Note verse thirty "Let both grow together until the harvest ..."

Also note verse 39 "... the *harvest* is the end of the world ..."—or consummation of the *age*—the one thousand year age and the time of RESURRECTION *which will follow*. Matthew 25:31 thru 34 describes the salvation of the world during the millennium and this RESURRECTION also!

Now you are REALLY GOING TO GET A SURPRISE! Yet it is only WHAT YOUR OWN BIBLE TELLS YOU *if* YOU WILL READ IT!

Most of you have been told by the churches ever since you could remember that if anyone is NOT SAVED IN THE PRESENT LIFE then he is ETERNALLY LOST!

But what about all those MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of PEOPLE back there who were BORN BEFORE CHRIST'S TIME WHO NEVER HAD THE CHANCE OF SALVATION because CHRIST had not yet come to MAKE IT AVAILABLE?

REMEMBER that the BIBLE says "If *the Spirit* (the Holy Spirit) of him (God the Father) that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ shall also quicken your mortal bodies by *his Spirit* (the Holy Spirit) that dwelleth in you." BUT—THE HOLY SPIRIT from the Father WAS NOT AVAILABLE to people on the earth *until* after Christ ascended!

Christ *had* to ascend unto heaven *first*! Christ said in John 16:7 "For if I go not away the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The *Holy*

Spirit FIRST CAME TO THIS EARTH TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEN *fifty days after* Christ was crucified! It came on the day of PENTECOST (Acts 2:1-4).

THESE MILLIONS are NOT LOST FOREVER!—They NEVER were called to be saved! God is a JUST GOD and he has PROVIDED A WAY whereby they CAN BE SAVED!

Also, what about the great number since Christ's day who have shown very little interest in religion and have died? ARE THEY LOST FOREVER? No, because *they have never had a chance* to salvation. *They are blinded.* God is NOT trying to save many *now.* He has BLINDED them! Read Romans 11:5,7,8,25. Acts 7:42, Isaiah 28:13, Matthew 13:10,11, 13.

Now notice WHEN GOD IS GOING TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE THEIR FIRST CHANCE FOR SALVATION! *Note this carefully! You have probably NEVER heard it explained before in its TRUE meaning!*

"... Ye shall know I am the Eternal, when I have opened your graves . . . and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land . . ." (Ezekiel 37:13-14). This is speaking of *ancient Israel*—a people who had been scattered among the nations almost 150 years before this was written!

WHEN does this take place? It can not take place before Christ returns to earth at his second coming because that will bring about the FIRST RESURRECTION. It WILL NOT take place then but only after *one thousand years have elapsed* from the time of the *first resurrection* because as we have already seen (please refer to First Resurrection) only the GOOD will be RESURRECTED then! (Also Rev. 20:5.)

Therefore THERE ARE ONLY TWO CLASSES THIS RESURRECTION CAN POSSIBLY REFER TO—the *evil* dead who have knowingly rejected the truth and the dead who *never had a chance!* The *evil* dead are those who DELIBERATELY DECIDED they did not want to be *ruled by God.* There is NO REASON to give them a *second chance* to attain immortality! *They had their chance and turned it down!*

Therefore IT IS THE CLASS OF PEOPLE, THE VAST BLINDED MAJORITY, WHO NEVER REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO ACCEPT GOD'S WAY OF LIFE, WHO ARE RESURRECTED!

Read what Revelation 20:11-12 says about this RESURRECTION: ". . . and I saw a great white throne . . . and I saw the *dead*, small and great *stand* before God . . ." these people are *STANDING*—A RESURRECTION—". . . and another book was opened which is the book of *life* . . ." they are given LIFE—". . . and

the *dead* were *judged* out of those things . . ."

IT IS THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!

Even the WORST of the sinners who *never had a chance, will be in this RESURRECTION* for even the inhabitants of SODOM will be there! "When thy daughters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate . . . then thou (Jerusalem, refer to Ezekiel 37) . . . shall return to your former estate." (Ezekiel 16:55.)

Isaiah 65:20 indicates ALL will live to be a hundred years old in this age at this time.

God is *indeed a just God* (Deut. 32:4) and ALL WILL HAVE THEIR CHANCE TO BE SAVED!

The Final Resurrection

Revelation 20:13,14,15 describes the FINAL RESURRECTION in which the sea, death, and hell ("Hades"—the grave) give up *their dead* to be judged. These are they who, after being begotten by God, rebelled, and those who have lived contrary to God's way of life and have refused to repent, be baptized, and thus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. These are cast into the lake of fire which is described in verse 14 as the SECOND DEATH. It is the EVERLASTING DEATH!

Why So Many Resurrections?

At first glance it seems strange that there are so many resurrections, but let us examine. God the Father is forming a *spirit family* of his very own from us mortals here on this earth, but he is also seeing to it that we develop into BEINGS OF CHARACTER—beings that can ULTIMATELY BE TRUSTED WITH THE GREAT POWER THAT GOD WILL GIVE US!

This will take TIME in order that man may learn that HIS (MAN'S) OWN WAYS of doing things, *guided by his own natural tendencies*, ARE WRONG and that he MUST be guided by God's laws in ALL his activities or only WRETCHEDNESS and DEATH will result! We are *just starting* to see the terrible end results now of man's *own way* of running this earth!

God is going to enlarge his KINGDOM gradually. An increasing number will be given immortality at each resurrection. Only those who *qualify* to become a spirit being and are changed into spirit can enter into this kingdom; for 1 Cor. 15:50 says "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God."

Matthew 13:31-32 describes the manner of growth of this kingdom: "The kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God) is like to a grain of mustard seed . . . which is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the *greatest* among the herbs, and becometh a tree . . ."

Only ONE person has been *born* into this kingdom *so far*—this is Jesus Christ. This was done by his *resurrection* to immortality. (Romans 8:29; Col. 1:18).

These resurrections to immortality which are to GIVE BIRTH to the rest of the citizens of this spirit kingdom have not started yet, but will start at Christ's *second coming!* When these do start, there will be a shorter space between each succeeding resurrection.

These people who are transformed into spirit beings, will be used to *govern* the mortal beings here on this earth. These spirit beings of the KINGDOM will be rulers, priests, and judges. (Rev. 1:6; 20:4; 1 Cor. 6:2.) Ultimately ALL mortal men MUST be in THIS SPIRIT KINGDOM or CEASE TO EXIST! ALL of the Bible does start to MAKE SENSE once God's PLAN is UNDERSTOOD!

The Glorious Hope—The Good News

No wonder the apostles who were all *witnesses* to the *resurrection of Christ* to immortality (Acts 2:32; 3:15) were so joyous that they went diligently up and down the land preaching this *hope.*

From the "Portfolio"

By Owen Smith

Here are some entertaining extracts from our campus newspaper the "Portfolio" which should give you an insight into our life. This paper is put out by the Journalism class under the direction of Professor Walker, for the students only.

* * *

"Tote that dirt; water those camellias; plant those trees; clean these grounds up, make it snappy!" yells Mr. Allen or Mr. Cole. "Work," that's the word; work for a living, and work for a cause.

A college that gives you work to enable you to go to it. A college that makes you proud of it, and makes you feel a part of it because you helped make it what it is. You planted those flowers; you watered that lawn. You cleared that land; and you shaped that contour. It's a part of you, and you are a part of it.

* * *

Mr. Emile Mauler-Hiennecey is giving an advanced course in French that will take up the study of journalism, radio script writing and public speaking along with present-day customs of other mass communication media of France.

Dick Armstrong is the only student who has enrolled in the class so far.

The subject material covered will be analytical rather than creative. Several French newspapers will be subscribed to, and radio stations in Paris are being addressed through correspondence to obtain radio scripts and analyze methods of broadcasting in France.

An OPEN LETTER to those baptized last summer

Are you really living a
Christian life? Apply this test and see.

By Rod Meredith

THIS IS an open letter to all of you well-remembered people who were baptized last summer.

Every time I remember those pleasant summer days and nights when you and Raymond McNair and I came together before God in the performance of His command to be baptized, I think of many things that I would like to say to you.

So I am beginning this article at 11:20 p.m. on a Saturday night. I feel that God has given me the essence of an open letter or article. I hope it will help and inspire every one of you brethren and co-workers whom Raymond and I cannot recall without having a feeling of love sweep over us. We both feel that we truly met God's own people on the tour last summer. You were wonderful to us and we will never forget the many kindnesses you showed us.

How You Came to Know

God brought us together last summer and I know that he had a great purpose in it. As we met you brethren on our tour through the South and Midwest—we realized more than ever that this was the work of the Creator. Each of you was in different circumstances, each had a different background, yet somehow God had opened each one of your minds and hearts to realize that true Christianity was much more than you had been taught in the "popular" churches.

You wanted a *real* and a *genuine* relationship with your Creator and your God, and the "World Tomorrow" broadcast had helped you make a start in this direction. You learned through a true minister, Mr. Armstrong, that God's kingdom, in addition to abounding grace, has system, and law and order. You became willing to repent of breaking God's laws. Through your own personal Bible study and prayer, you had come to realize that God Almighty gave us his laws because He wanted to show us the right way to live a full, happy, and abundant life.

Yes, you knew that God gave us those laws out of LOVE, and you were willing to turn from your past ways and to begin obeying God. Raymond and I count it a great joy and blessing to have been privileged to meet and talk with you, and to

baptize many of you—knowing that this was the first step toward a life of real accomplishment, love, joy, and peace of mind. We should all thank God that He has shown us the WAY to real peace and happiness!

Here in this world we see people groping and struggling for peace and joy, yet they *will not* obey the laws that a loving God has set in motion to produce those very results. Their churches, their pastors and leaders are *blinding* them and preventing them from discovering this *way* to everything really good and worthwhile.

Let us rejoice then that God has seen fit to call us out of this Babylon of confusion, and to give us the realization that the principle of LOVE, as expressed in the ten commandments, is actually the key to real deep-down human happiness. When you think about it, it's just "common sense," isn't it? Yes, God's truth is so plain that a little child can understand if he will study with an open mind. Yet the world goes on with its philosophy of greed, competition, WAR, and hate. How thankful we can be just for the knowledge that LOVE and OBEDIENCE to our Heavenly Father is the only genuine *key* to successful, happy living!

Do You Find This Hard?

But a lot of us find even these simple truths *hard* to practice. Many of you have written us of your problems. And let me confess, brethren, that all of us here have many problems in Christian living too. I often find myself trying so hard to live up to the letter of the law that I neglect to show forth the love and kindness toward others that I should. Do any of you have problems like this? How many times do we get so intent on the battle with our own human nature that we forget to help the other fellow with his problems? It gives one a guilty feeling when he realizes this. Yet it seems *almost* impossible to fight the battle with oneself and the world around us at the same time.

Aren't a lot of you having trouble overcoming your own bad habits and faults? And don't you often become discouraged at your seeming lack of ability to live a full and happy life, and to show

forth the love and "good works" that you know God desires?

Well, there is a way out of this predicament!

The Way Out of This Trouble

Brethren, let us realize first of all that God has called us for a definite purpose. He has predestinated us to become his own children (Ephesians 1:5) and he has purposed that we should be partakers of the *divine nature* (II Peter 1:4).

Yes, we are to have the very *nature* and character of our heavenly Father implanted within us. Doesn't a human child have the nature of its father? Certainly! And God has given us this as an *exact type* of our birth as one of His own children. As a child of God, we will inherit the very nature and attributes of God!

How else could we ever obey Jesus' command, "Be ye therefore *perfect*, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"? Many of us are just beginning to realize the *tremendous* meaning in these words! We are to grow spiritually, "unto a *perfect* man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Is YOUR Life Exciting and Full?

What a CHALLENGE this is to make the most of our lives!

God has commanded us to live full, exciting and productive lives just as Jesus Christ did. Why should we tremble at this command? God stands *bound* to help us! Christ said that God is *more willing* to give us the Holy Spirit than we are to give our hungry children bread (Luke 11:13).

We can face life *completely* unafraid! God has promised that if we seek *first* His kingdom and righteousness, all our material needs will be added (Matthew 6:33). Christ said that even the very hairs of your head are all numbered (Luke 12:7) and then said FEAR NOT! Why should we fear while we *know* that God is protecting us, guiding us, and providing all our needs?

Nearly everyone in the world today is seeking some kind of *security*. But as God's own begotten children, we have the *only* real and unfailing security *there is*.

With this knowledge then, let us face

our troubles *squarely* and without fear. We find that the true Christian life is a time of many trials and tests, don't we? But that is the WAY God is *building our character!* Don't hard work and exercise help build physical strength? Well, God is sending us through a spiritual "obstacle course" to strengthen us spiritually.

Here's ONE Test

Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:12, "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." In I Peter 3:12-19, Peter tells Christians not to think it strange because they are going through a fiery trial, but to REJOICE inasmuch as they are partakers of Christ's sufferings. Yes, we should be *happy* that we have these momentary trials to help build within us a holy and righteous character which will last throughout eternity.

Knowing that God is doing all these things to strengthen us, we can face life with renewed courage and *enthusiasm*. Let us put the Ten Commandments and God's other laws in *practice* in our daily lives. Yes, I said *practice*, because we won't be able to do this perfectly at first. When we begin to become serious about these things, many of our erstwhile friends and relatives will make fun of us. Perhaps some of their criticism will be justified, because we often tend to become too serious or sometimes even sanctimonious about our beliefs when we begin trying each day to *live* them.

You Are the Only Light in the World

But we can grin and bear it, can't we? Rome wasn't built in a day you know. It takes *time* and *experience* to learn to use the proper judgment in living by God's laws. We need these problems to strengthen us for the bigger ones ahead. We are helping to build the most valuable and lasting thing there is—the *character of God*. That is why God is putting us through this experience of material life.

Christ said that his followers are "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth." We should be continually helping others with our time, money, or prayers. It is our duty to give to those who are really in need; to visit the sick; to comfort those who are in distress. We are to be an example or a "light" to those about us (Matt. 5:13-16).

How should we go about this? Brethren, here is where we have to put faith and courage to *work*. Every true follower of Christ should try to develop his talents and abilities so that he can be more of a light to his fellow men.

Yet Perhaps Poor and Uneducated

Many of you are in poor financial circumstances and some have not had very

much of this world's education. This is true because God is not now calling many wise and wealthy of this world. But God has given each of you many "talents." Are you studying and developing those talents so that Christ may say, "Well done," when He returns?

Remember that you are to take Jesus as an example. Do you think he used sloppy speech? Didn't he have a good knowledge of world affairs? Wasn't He neat and clean in appearance and courteous in manner? If you will study the life of Christ carefully, you will see that he was truly an educated, cultured man. Even when Christ was only 12, the learned Pharisees were "astonished at his understanding" (Luke 2:47).

If we are to be "perfect" even as God and Christ are, we will have to acquire new knowledge of how to live and conduct ourselves. No matter what our station in life, each of us should try our best to improve. By doing this, we will then be able to help others much more effectively. They will respect our judgment more in *spiritual* matters because they see the good results it has brought in our *material* life.

The Challenge of Real Christianity

This is really a challenge to *grow*, isn't it? Yet if we are to be kings and priests in the kingdom of God, we will all have to multiply our present talents and abilities many times. We *will* do this with God's help!

Remember that, "unto whomsoever *much* is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48). So those of us who have had more education and opportunities will be expected to accomplish much more than those less fortunate. But we are all commanded to develop the talents that God has given us, and to use them in His service.

Make a fresh start! Don't be afraid to begin learning all over again the worthwhile things you only half-learned years ago. Get the books you need to improve your knowledge of the English language, history, and of other vital subjects. Learn more about your job so that you can be a more profitable workman or farmer. This will probably mean an increase in your responsibility or pay. This is God's way! It will enable you to serve others more and to glorify God by the example you set.

Do you catch the vision? We are building the characters which will fit us to be kings and priests with Christ (Rev. 5:10 and 20:6). "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (I Cor. 6:3). So let's give ourselves completely to God. The very purpose of life is to *change* and *grow* better each day. Let us continually ask God's help in this. "For with God nothing shall be impossible," as is

recorded in Luke 1:37.

The Big Test

BUT, in the very process of developing our own characters, a *tremendous responsibility* has been placed on our shoulders! God has given us a job to do *together*, as co-workers with Christ.

Christ said, "And this gospel of the *kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the end come." Notice that this was not a gospel *about* Christ, but the "good news" or gospel of the kingdom of God. All of us who are sincerely searching for truth realize that *as yet*, there is only *one* source proclaiming this true gospel in any large or national manner. This is the "World Tomorrow" program.

That fact doesn't fill us with the *zeal* it should! A lot of brethren don't fully realize yet what this means. It means that God has called some of us to fulfill *the most important mission on the face of the earth* at this time! That's one way God develops His *character* in us.

After being here at Ambassador College and seeing this great work in action, I realize more than ever the job ahead for *every* true Christian. To the best of our knowledge, God has raised up no other work to fulfill this commission of Christ to proclaim His gospel as a *witness to all nations*. Most of us are just common, humble people, but God has somehow seen fit to open our eyes to His truth—and lay on our shoulders the responsibility of carrying out this world-wide mission.

YOU Must Help Change the World!

Don't be a timid soul! God will show us the way, but we have to do *our* part. Doesn't this sound like something that will give life new meaning? *You* and I, all of us collectively, are trying to reach the *whole world* with a message! It is a *startling* message of a new WORLD GOVERNMENT which will soon be set up by Jesus Christ.

People won't like this message! But it will be the means of bringing thousands of them to repentance. We will each be having a *part* in changing the thoughts and the lives of every person on earth!

Think about it!

Who could ask for a better chance to live a truly worthwhile, happy and exciting life? And we have God's promise that he will *protect* and *guide* us as we carry out this Divine commission.

So let us go about our task with *enthusiasm*. We should each strive daily to put God's love to work in our lives. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, unto God which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). We

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HOW to Observe God's Festivals

Here is a clear, simple explanation
showing how YOU can keep God's festivals

By Herman L. Hoeh

HAVE YOU been *robbing* yourself of happiness? Have you been cheating yourself of one of the greatest joys of living?

Like so many others, you probably have been *surprised* to learn for the *first time* that God wants to *keep you happy*. He isn't the stern God He has been pictured. One way God has provided for our happiness—our great joy—as well as growth and development in the true Christian life, is an opportunity for fellowship at His festivals with those whose hearts God has filled with His Spirit.

You have read in previous issues of "The Good News" exactly *WHY* these festivals are to be kept, and *WHAT* their significance really is. Here's an article telling *how* you can observe these Holy Days. If you have missed previous articles, send for them immediately so you will understand the truth with hundreds of others.

Purpose of Festivals

Investigators have proven that *you* need a weekly day of rest. But your Heavenly Father knew *that* long ago. He *created* you that way! That is why God gave the weekly Sabbath as one of His festivals! (Lev. 23:2,3.) But men have substituted *their* weekly holidays in place of God's.

Did you know that research men have also "discovered" that we human beings need *annual* periods of rest so that we can be *more efficient*? Get the most out of life? God knew *that* long before our modern investigators, too! He *created* us that way! That's why He instituted the annual festivals. But God also knew that *YOU* need to spend these seasons in *DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM*, not just by yourselves.

These festivals are so arranged that *you* can have *TWO* annual periods of eight days, one in the spring, the other in the fall, when you can be *free* from the worries of life and share the happiness of many others who have learned that God's ways *pay*. On them and the other Holy Days, *God meets with us*. On other days of our choosing, He is not in our midst because we are not gathering together "in His name" or by His authority. No wonder the world doesn't know God!

There is no time in all the year as joyous as these festive seasons! They are not yokes of bondage as many have been deceived into believing, but days or-

daind to keep you *FREE*—if you follow the *LAW OF LIBERTY* with your whole heart (James 2:12). By keeping the Sabbath and the annual Holy Days (memorials of creation and the plan of God) you are *FREED* from the superstitious, ignorant beliefs of men, who try to cover up their own unhappiness and dread of life with their own "holidays," and who *confuse you* as to the Will and Purpose of the Creator.

What Is a Festival?

A festival, or feast, as ordained by God is a time of rejoicing, both spiritually and materially. The Sabbath is a *weekly* festival, a period of rest from our usual labors, with everything possible prepared the day before. There will be future articles explaining *how* to keep the Sabbath as *God* intended.

The annual festivals are not always rest days, however. The passover is a festival but *not* a sabbath day. The intervening days in the major spring and fall festivals are not sabbaths either. *All* festivals are *COMMANDED ASSEMBLIES* or convocations called by God, in which we are to meet at the place *He chooses*.

In this age, however, God realizes that many of his people are unable to assemble on the Sabbath or even on the annual Holy Days. We are to worship the Father in Spirit and truth no matter where we may be (John 4:21-24). But when it is possible to assemble we are *commanded* to do so. Many brethren who find it impossible to meet on the weekly Sabbath are able to do so on the annual Festivals.

Last year a family, very dear to all of us, thought they could not afford to attend the feast of Tabernacles. Because of neglect, when the time came they realized what it meant to spend these days alone and not in the presence of God when they could have done so. Now they are joyously planning to assemble on the festivals this year. So don't let God find any of you *cheating yourselves* out of the precious joys of meeting with His people.

MEN are especially commanded to appear *with offerings* during the three seasons of the year, at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles. The whole family is *commanded* to come whenever possible (Deut. 16:11, 14 and 16). Jesus and his brothers and sisters came with Joseph and Mary at the Passover and the

days of Unleavened Bread (Luke 2:41, 42).

God wants the men especially because they are the heads of the homes; but today when many women are converted and their husbands not, they should come to the places God makes possible for the brethren to meet. Each year a mother and daughter come about seventeen hundred miles to assemble on the Festival of Tabernacles. If they can do it, God certainly can open the way for you to do the same, especially as most of you don't have nearly that distance to travel.

How to Observe the Passover

As most of you know, the Passover comes the day before the great spring Festival of Unleavened Bread. It is *not* a sabbath day; work may be done on it. The Passover is a very serious time of the year. Jesus set us the example on the day of his death so that we today might know how to keep the passover.

For the explanation of how *YOU* can keep this commanded ordinance, whether with the brethren or in your own homes if necessary, be sure to write Mr. Armstrong. *This is very important* so you will know *where* and *how* to observe it.

Also, if you haven't already written, ask for the booklet explaining when and how often to keep the passover (or, as popularly called, the "Lord's Supper").

Although the passover is the day before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, it was customary to use unleavened bread on the passover day as well (Luke 22:7). No leavened bread is ever to be used with the passover service—which is wrongly called "communion," "eucharist" or "Lord's supper" (Exodus 23:18). The morning after the passover service, which is still the same day (all these days start at sunset, *not* at midnight) is probably the most convenient time to remove any leavening agents or leavened bread.

Be sure that all leaven is removed from your premises. Don't store it in some other room. Removing leavened products which cost a few cents is just one way God has of testing you to see how much you prize true happiness above the money and pleasures of this age. By following His will, God will give you more in this life in return for your loving obedience (John 10:10).

It is wise to arrange your purchases

so that when the passover comes there will be little to discard. If you do have some left that is suitable to give to neighbors or friends, that may be done. Remember, there is nothing wrong with leaven, it is merely used as a symbol of sin in the festival. There is nothing wrong in bestowing it on unconverted friends or neighbors who do not understand the meaning of the feast.

Perhaps some of you are wondering what leaven is. A leavening agent is any substance that is used to puff up or produce fermentation causing dough to raise. Yeast, soda, baking powder, cream of tartar are such products. Bread, crackers, some prepared cereals, cakes and some bought pies contain leaven and should be discarded. Home made pies, cereals, and unleavened bread are to be used for the festival following the passover. Cakes with *beaten* egg white are leavened and should not be used.

At first it may seem strange to do without leaven in a festival, but once we come to know the mind of God and Jesus Christ, we see the lesson of obedience it teaches. Happy are you if you do these things, Jesus said (John 13:17).

As there are many products containing leaven, be sure to examine the labels of all products on your shelves. As will probably happen, there will always be some leavened material that somehow escapes! A very good type of the hidden sins that we don't always discover upon conversion. We must always throw away this forgotten leaven—a type of sin—upon discovering it.

Festival of Unleavened Bread

Here is the great spring festival, midway in the first month of the sacred calendar, when the people of God are to assemble with one another and rejoice over the wonderful year ahead. The feast is a seven-day period in which we celebrate with God, who has separated us from the troubles that overtake the world, and who has opened up a new way of life that is full, abundant and without those needless worries.

Whenever possible, Christians should gather together for the passover and the entire seven days of Unleavened Bread as God makes possible. The festival, although seven days long, has but two annual Holy Days or Sabbaths, occurring on the first and last days of the feast. The intervening days are not sabbaths or convocations.

Annual sabbaths differ from the *weekly* Sabbath in that cooking for the occasion may be done on them. But all other forms of work are not to be done as the festival is meant to be a time of restful rejoicing. Exodus 12:16 reads: "No manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must

eat, that only may be done of you."

Although the intervening days are not sabbaths and work may be done on them, time on these days, when voluntary meetings of joy are held, is spent in good fellowship. As some of you will not be able to assemble, be sure that the usual routine does not stop you from realizing the purpose of the occasion—a time of laying aside your labors and rejuvenating yourself spiritually and physically. The entire festival is meant to be a special period of happiness, free from your customary duties of life.

The Use of Unleavened Bread

In this feast, no leavened bread should be in your homes and no leavened products should be eaten. Use UNLEAVENED bread instead, *together with the customary meals*. God wants you to rejoice *especially* on these days, so give Him thanks by preparing wholesome food with UNLEAVENED bread. If some of you have never tasted unleavened bread before, you have a surprise coming.

Children should be trained by their parents to eat unleavened bread during these days, and also TAUGHT THE MEANING FOR SO DOING. This will always be a wonderful experience for them, because most children have never tasted nutritious unleavened bread, which can either be bought, or baked very simply in your own home. Unleavened products are sold in most all stores near you. Just ask the grocer, or look on the packages to see that no leavening is contained.

If some of you would enjoy baking your own unleavened bread, be sure to write for the recipes, if you do not already have some.

If families are divided, with only some converted, difficulties may arise. Perhaps you are a husband or a wife whose family does not follow God. Don't let that worry you, because God took all your troubles into account when He ordained these days. It is a test to see how well you do His will and how much consideration and love and patience you can give to those who have not changed from their wrong ways. Never force your will on others. This festival is a matter between you and God.

You will not have these worries with members of your family when you assemble with brethren. But if this is not possible, you might need to take the example of a co-worker from Texas. He was in partnership with another man who would not approve of the festival. Rather than cause undue difficulties, he went into another town for the festival, rented a neat, inexpensive room for the festival and rejoiced with God alone.

And when he returned there was perfect harmony! Most of you will not find that necessary as there are many more brethren now with whom to assemble. It is so much more enjoyable to meet with the saints or remain at home; but still it is infinitely better to be alone in peace than with angry attitudes surrounding you.

If God has not provided you the monetary means through the second tithe, whether your own or others, then, of course, you will need to observe these days at home. First, explain to your family if they do not understand. If they do not object thanks be to God. You may have to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves in explaining the matter, however.

If opposition might develop, it would be well before saying anything, to delight unconverted members of your family with unleavened products so that they will not think anything strange when you first mention it. It is surprising how many people know little or nothing about unleavened breads, but who enjoy them from the very first. Perhaps if the unconverted really enjoy it, nothing need be said about the festival and you can use unleavened bread for the entire week.

Where the entire family serves God, all leaven must be removed by the beginning of the festival. If unconverted members are in the family, all leaven should be removed if they do not object. But if they object to the will of God, rather than provoke wrath, it is better to reckon the house as the others property and not remove the leaven. Doing otherwise would *involuntarily* impose your religion on the unconverted. However, a wife can take all leaven from the kitchen shelves and place it where no objections would be raised. You wives should not bake or buy leavened bread for unconverted members of the family; nevertheless, allow others perfect freedom to eat it if they purchase it.

When living with the unconverted all these troubles can be avoided by attending the festival with the brethren. Of course, there might be limiting circumstances, especially if there is a new born child. In I Samuel 1:21-23 we are given an example of Hannah, the mother of Samuel, who, when her son was first born, was not able to attend the passover and feast.

The first annual Sabbath or High Day of Unleavened Bread is the only NIGHT convocation that is commanded, except the passover (Exodus 12:42). It is a night to be much observed, for the great wonders that God does for us in making it possible to live His way of life. What could be more pleasant than beginning

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Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have those puzzling queries, needing only a short reply, solved. If yours are not here, then write them to us. As space permits they will be printed if an answer is possible. Of course, questions demanding lengthy replies cannot be placed in these columns.

Edited by the Students.

What Does "Not Under the Law, but Under Grace" Mean?

Does grace do away with the law? If you keep the law, have you "fallen" from grace?

Most people are *confused* by those who claim to expound the words of Paul. You may hear one group quote one set of scriptures telling of the law, and another group quoting verses mentioning grace. That is the wrong way to study the Bible. *All* scripture is given by inspiration.

What does "grace" mean? Webster defines it as *mercy, favor, unmerited kindness, an exemption or pardon as from a penalty.*

It is by *grace*, the undeserved *pardon* of God, that you are delivered from the penalty of sin.—Romans 6:23. Christ paid the penalty in your stead. If you accept the grace of God, who permitted His Son to die in your stead, to free you from sin, then you are under grace. You are under an unmerited pardon, not "under the law."

"What then? Shall we sin (that is, transgress the law—I John 3:4) because we are *not under the law*, but under grace?" Romans 6:15. That's what Paul asked! Shall we sin—shall we break the law? Remember, sin is the transgression of the law—I John 3:4.

What is Paul's answer? "God forbid." "How shall we, that are dead to sin (transgressing God's Law), live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1,2.)

If we are under grace, the pardon of God, we are not to live in sin, we are not to break God's law. If we break God's law by sinning, then we come *under the law*. It is *over* us. It has a claim on our lives. It is only those who *keep* the law that are not under the law; it has no claim over their lives.

Grace does not do away with the law; it pardons our sin, making it possible for us to *keep the law* through the Holy Spirit that is given to those that *obey* God—Acts 5:32.

Wouldn't it be ridiculous for a judge to grant a pardon to a criminal and then tell him to commit the same crime again? Yet that is exactly how ridiculous most people make God's grace. They turn the grace, the pardon, of

God into lasciviousness, license to do evil.

If grace could abolish the law, then there would be no more sin, because there is no sin where there is no law—(Romans 4:15). And if there were no sin, there would need be no grace—no pardon of God—to deliver us from the penalty of breaking the law.

Christ died in your stead and mine so that we could *obey* God unto righteousness and not serve sin. As long as we were under the claim of the law because of transgression, sin had dominion over us, we were its slaves. But now we are free to obey the law unto righteousness—Rom. 6:16.

Does God Hear Sinners?

Everyone has sinned and cut himself off from God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he *will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:2).

God hears not sinners (John 9:31). He will have no fellowship with those who sin. He hears only those who do righteousness. But if *everyone* has sinned, then there must be *a way* for sinners to come to God, or else we could never become righteous. How can sinners seek GOD?

The prophet Isaiah tells us *the way* sinners come to God. "*Seek ye* the Lord while he may be found, *call upon him* while he is near." But how do we call on God? How do we seek Him? "Let the wicked *forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man *his thoughts*; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6,7). Let him *repent* of transgressing God's Law, and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour from its penalty. Christ is THE WAY.

That's how you can come to God. *For sake* the way you have been living, start to *obey* God. Once you REPENT of going the wrong way YOU ARE NO LONGER A SINNER IN GOD'S SIGHT. He will hear you and give His Holy Spirit to you, if you *obey Him* (Acts 5:32). You must be willing to forsake your ways and thoughts and go the way of God. Then He will hear you because you "keep his commandments and DO

these things that are pleasing in His sight" (I John 3:22).

Do the Commandments Forbid ALL Pictures and Statues?

Are you one of those who have been confused about the meaning of the second command? "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."

As is always the case, we must compare scriptures to give us the keys that will unlock the true meaning of this command. In Num. 21:9 God actually commanded the Israelites to make a BRAZEN IMAGE of a serpent. Whosoever had been bitten by a serpent, upon beholding the brazen serpent was healed. Now would God have commanded the Israelites to make this image of a snake had it been sin, and then healed them when they carried out His injunction?

But when the Israelites later started to worship this brazen serpent and burned incense to it, it had to be destroyed. King Hezekiah, a God fearing king, "Broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made." (2 Ki. 18:4). This proves that any image or replica is an idol *when it is worshipped*.

God gave the Israelites divine instructions concerning the building of the tabernacle and the temple. He had them make likenesses of flowers, almonds and pomegranates (Ex. 25:31; 26:31).

If we were to apply the command to prohibiting everything that man has made how absurd it would really be! If we did this, we would not be permitted to make more than one machine, tool, implement or gadget of any kind, for if we made a second that would be making a likeness of something that was in the earth.

But now go back to the beginning of this question, and read the second Commandment again—or read it *all* in your Bible. God does not forbid the *making* of images or pictures *only*. Look at Exodus 20, and especially verse 4. There is no period at the end of verse 4. It is not the end of the sentence. Verse 5 is *part of the same sentence*. And verse 5 commands us not to bow down to, or serve, or *worship* any image or picture.

No place in all the Bible has God given any prohibition against making or possessing a picture or statue. In *every* passage the command is against *worshipping* the thing. If a mother *worships* a picture of her child, then that worship is idolatry. Otherwise it is not. It is never the *thing*, but always our *wrong use* of things which constitutes sin.

What Did Paul Preach?

Continued from page 2

studying the word of God to prove all things, and by holding fast that which is good (I Thess. 5:21), YOU BECOME FULLY PERSUADED IN YOUR OWN MINDS concerning what God says.

"Able to Stand Before Him"

God is able, said Paul, to make these saints stand before Him in the judgment, *by revealing to them the words by which they will be judged.* It was for this very reason that Paul was writing to these saints at Rome, some of whom were weak in the faith, not having acquired perfect knowledge. He says: "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, to the end that you may be established (Ro. 1:11)."

It is so plain. Here were converts at Rome, still weak in the faith, who were divided in their regard of days. Paul told them not to sit in judgment of one another, but to follow peace, because God would judge them, after setting them aright through more perfect knowledge which Paul was going to preach to them. In the meantime they were to act in accordance with the best they knew from God's word, not man's word.

This did not give them liberty to do as they pleased. They were to obey God, or perish if they disobeyed after the knowledge of the truth had come. For to him that knows to do good and doesn't do it, it is sin. (James 4:17)

What Were These Days?

But what days was Paul referring to?

By reading these verses in their setting, rather than taking them out of their context, let's determine the answer. Paul is writing to the saints at Rome, both Jew and Gentile. He admonished them to receive those who are weak in the faith (Ro. 14:1), not to dispute with them over unimportant matters and sit in judgment on them. Some of these recently converted Gentiles, being weak in the faith, refused to eat meats, subsisting on vegetables mainly.

The reason for this is explained in I Corinthians 8. Most meat that could be bought had been offered to idols. Therefore some, with conscience of the idol "ate it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse (I Cor. 8:7,8)."

So here were saints who had not yet learned that there was no harm in eating meat offered to idols previously by others provided it was done to God with a

clear conscience. These Gentiles at Rome had been converted and *had given up idolatry*, but still held superstitious beliefs in their minds, thinking that the idol was something *real*.

But why should Paul have broken into his dissertation about eating meat or refraining from eating it?

Because in connection with the old pagan idolatry, *were numerous days observed as idolatrous festivals.* These days were consecrated to deities of the state religious cults and were "unlucky" because of the influence of the gods! These civil and religious days were "regarded as unsuitable for many purposes, both public and private: for battles, levies, sacred rites, journeys and marriages. We are told that they owed their unlucky quality to the pronouncement of the Senate and pontiffs." (From *Rest Days* by Webster, p. 171.)

So These Weren't God's Days After All!

As many as *one third of the days* of the old Roman calendar were marked as "unlawful for judicial and political business . . . and . . . on which the state expected the citizens to abstain, as far as possible, from their private business and labour." No wonder Paul spoke of "every day!"

Here at Rome were recently converted Gentiles who had given up idolatry, but who still believed idols were real beings, and hence would not eat meat offered to them. They also continued to regard superstitious beliefs that certain days were better than others, or that all days were alike—unlucky. These Christians *no longer observed these days* in the old idolatrous manner—that would have been sin. But they still regarded or judged some days to be above others, as though the day had natural qualities of good or bad about it. It was a common superstition of the time, hard for new Christians to root out.

And how many "worldly" as well as religious people still have similar beliefs today! Such as "unlucky" *Friday the thirteenth!*

Paul was going to Rome to enlighten their honest minds so they would give up this foolish regard of heathen days.

There is nothing here referring to the Sabbath or the holydays of God which Paul commanded to be observed by the Gentiles. It is merely a plea to tolerate honest beliefs held in ignorance.

The Letter to the Galatians

But what about the festival! Paul mentioned to the Gentile converts in Galatia?

Among these people were *Gentile deceivers*, professing great knowledge and philosophy, who deliberately

wormed their way into the good graces of the heathen converts trying to turn them backward *into their former ways.*

That is why Paul said in Galatians 4:10,11: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

What is this that Paul is saying?

Read it again!

Did he say, "Ye observe the Sabbath and holydays"? NO! But Paul SAYS you are observing "Days and months, and times, and years."

It does *not* say the holy days and sabbath! *Nowhere* in all the Bible can you find one text calling God's occasions by the names "days, months, times and years"!

What Days Were These?

Notice the entire chapter—yes, the entire Epistle to the Galatians. In the first three chapters Paul speaks to those in the congregation who are beguiled into *Judaism which Jesus condemned as the tradition of the elders.* Judaism made the laws of God of no effect! But in the fourth chapter Paul *ceases* to speak about Judaizers. He is now writing to the GENTILE converts, those who "were in bondage under the elements of the world." Gal. 4:3.

"Howbeit then *when you knew not God, you did service to them which by nature are no gods.* But now, after that you have known God, HOW TURN YOU BACK AGAIN to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire AGAIN to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years." I am alarmed about you, he concludes!

Here were *Gentile* converts, who in times past did not know God, who were cut off from Him (See Eph. 2:12), who "were slaves to gods which were no gods at all." They had been serving demons and idols, not the Living God. False teachers were coming among them, perverting the true gospel, beguiling them *to turn again to their former ways.* Paul was alarmed. They were departing from the gospel and RETURNING to *what?* "Days, and months, and times and years."

Pagan holidays! They couldn't be returning to God's festivals. They never heard of them before Paul preached about them.

These Galatians were not observing the occasions God instituted, but the old pagan days—days which were creeping into the church in Paul's day and now masquerade under Christian sounding names. Paul denounces such vain practices.

Here is the beginning of the observance of *pagan* days by the church and God's condemnation of it. "Many of the

holy days in the religious calendar of Christendom were *borrowed*, as is well known, *from the festivals of ancient paganism.*" (*Rest Days*, p. 306.) We are NOT TO LEARN the way of the heathen (Jer. 10).

Christians are here admonished to quit following *modernized* heathen celebrations that are for no good use or purpose—counterfeit days that are attempts to fill the void in the lives of religious people.

What Are "Times"?

Turn to Leviticus 19:26 and Deuteronomy 18:10,14 where Moses, according to the command of God, told the Israelites *not to observe* TIMES. This is ABSOLUTE PROOF that the days Paul is forbidding are pagan and not God-given. To observe *times* originally was a heathen practice of divination often attached to the heavenly bodies. In Greece it developed into *regular seasons*.

Some church leaders today try to make you believe Paul was condemning Jews for returning to the Sabbath and days of God, which they claim were in the Law of Moses. But the Law of Moses forbade observance of "Times." Paul was writing to *Gentiles* "who wanted to return to observing the "days" associated with "Times"—Gentile days—Sunday, Easter, Christmas, etc.

The Catholic Church "father," Chrysostom, admits that these superstitious *times* which Paul forbids, were practiced by "Christians" in his day, but *without the idols* as in days of old. He says: "Many were superstitiously addicted to the observance of *times*, and made divination and conjectures upon them . . . In the celebration of these *times* (they) set up lamps in the market-place, and crown their doors with garlands."—From *Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church*, pp. 1123, 1124.

Besides *times*, the Greeks observed special *days* in honor of the dead. "The rites took place on the . . . unlucky *days* accompanied by complete idleness and cessation of business." From *Rest Days*, p. 79.

During the *months* of the year, festivals were held in honor of the Greek gods, Apollo (April, October), Zeus (February, June), Artemas (April), Bacchus (January) and many others which you can read in the *Encyclopedia Americana*, article "Festival."

Also certain *years* were set aside quadrennially and biennially during which were national idolatrous feasts and the celebration of the Olympic, Isthmian, Nemean and Pythian games. Every one of these were connected with idolatrous worship and ceremony.

Paul was forbidding the return to these practices by Gentile converts—

not the days Jesus observed, setting us an example that we should follow his steps. Many of the present holidays of christendom were celebrated in the heathen world *when Paul and Christ were on earth*, but they refused to observe them.

Holy Days and Sabbaths

Although speaking of Gentile practices in the two preceding epistles, Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, certainly is speaking of the days God instituted. In Colossians 2:16 Paul is *thought* by many to have abolished these days. Let's see if he did.

First, stop to consider! Is it logical that Paul would have commanded the Gentiles in Corinth and elsewhere to observe these festivals, and then contradict himself by telling the Colossians not to observe them? Yet most Christians would make Paul just that inconsistent.

The truth is *so plain* here in Colossians. What is Paul writing to the saints in Colosse? "Let no *man* therefore *judge* you . . ." Does this say: "God has abolished these"? Look at the verse again. It says, "Let no *man* . . . *judge* you" concerning these matters. To *judge* is not to *abolish*. Paul is warning the Colossians not to let any MAN judge them about certain matters. Why?

"But why do you judge your brother? . . . for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ . . . So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:10,12.

God is the Judge! Not *man*. It is by the WORD OF GOD that we are all going to be judged, not the ideas of man. (John 12:48.) Since we are to live as those who are to be judged *by the word of God*, then we have to go to *other passages of scripture* to find HOW GOD WILL JUDGE US with reference to meats, drinks and festive occasions. In Colossians 2:16 Paul does NOT mention anything being *abolished*. He ONLY says that we are *not to let men judge us* with regard to these things. It doesn't matter what human beings think, but it does matter what GOD THINKS.

So let's examine the scripture to see what God's standard for Christians is.

Traditions of Men

Paul begins the second chapter of Colossians with warnings against those who were seeking to beguile the church after the philosophy and traditions of men (verse 8). Then he mentions that both Jews and Gentiles have been *reconciled* to God by the death of Jesus Christ and both have become circumcised in the heart. But how could the Gentiles, *uncircumcised in the flesh*, come into this relationship to God to-

gether with physically circumcised Jews?

By the fact that Christ was circumcised for them, thus "blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." (Col 2:14.)

Now what was this *handwriting of ordinances* that was *against* men? Evidently the same as mentioned in Eph. 2:13-16 which put "*enmity* between Jew and Gentile." But what is it?

The ten commandments? No.

They are NEVER called ordinances. They were written by the Finger of God, not by the hand of Moses. They constitute the law of liberty (James 1:25), holy, just and good (Ro. 7:12). The sabbath, one of its points, was made FOR MAN, not *against* man (Mark 2:27) This law could not have been meant by Paul because it is not abolished but eternal (Ps. 111:8) and BY IT WE ARE TO BE JUDGED according to the apostle James (Jas. 2:12).

Could the *handwriting of ordinances against us* be the statutes which ordained the holy days forever? No. The entire 119th Psalm, the longest in the Bible, and *inspired* by God, proves that the statutes and judgments of God, *which define sin* and regulate human relations, are *eternal, good, making wise the ignorant*. These were *not against us* but for us. So the laws regulating the holy days, as well as the sabbath, are still in force and by them we shall be judged.

The *passover* was instituted as an ordinance, and Jesus commanded his disciples to observe it forever. Paul commanded the Gentiles at Corinth, as we have seen, to keep this ordinance. (I Cor. 11:2,20-34.)

If the commandments, statutes and judgments of God were all made for us, then the handwriting of ordinances which were AGAINST us must have been the ritualistic laws "added because of transgression, *till* the seed should come to whom the promise was made." Gal. 3:19.

Here it is at last! A group of laws *added until* a specific time because of *transgression*. Since there must be a law *before* there is *transgression* (Rom. 4:15), it is no wonder that this "handwriting of ordinances" was ADDED. And it was added BECAUSE OF transgression, yet *it could not justify* the person who performed *its works*! It was a yoke! (Acts 13:39; 15:10.) Therefore this handwriting of ordinances was not commanded the Gentiles. (Acts. 15:24.)

But what were the specific laws included in these ordinances? Hebrews 9:10-15 has the answer!

These handwritten ordinances of Moses, given to Israel for a limited time only, *not forever*, "stood *only in meats*

and drinks, and diverse washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them UNTIL the time of reformation." This is a system of physical rituals relating to the Levitical priesthood, drink offerings, sacrifices and physical precepts regulating bathing when unclean. These ordinances were to cease as soon as *the sacrifice that could take away sins* would be offered. Once a sacrifice purges sin, there is no need of offerings for sin. (Heb. 10:2.)

So we see that Paul is telling the Colossians to know the word of God so thoroughly that they could *refute* any MAN who would dare to sit in *judgment* of them for accepting the sacrifice of Christ rather than the offerings of the law contained in ordinances.

"In Respect of"

What does the Apostle mean when he tells the Colossians not to let any *man* judge them "in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days"?

This verse does not say as some hold *foolishly* that the sabbath is binding but *not* the holy days and new moons? Neither does it say that *all* are abolished?

This verse states ONLY that Christians are *not* to allow any MAN to *judge* them "in respect of" these days. There is *no* statement here about *anything* being abolished. The Moffatt version makes this very plain: "So let none take you to task . . . in connexion with observance of festivals or new moons or sabbaths." It does *not* read: Let none take you to task because these days are abolished. Not at all!

It says *just the opposite*—let no *person* take you to task or judge you "in the matter of" or "concerning" or "in connexion with" the *observance* of these occasions. It is GOD who shall judge you *in connexion with* the observance or "in respect of" these days.

The phrase "in respect of" is used by Paul (according to Thayer's *Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 401) "where the writer means to intimate that there are other matters, to be separated from that which he has specified." That is, Paul is speaking of a *particular* matter concerning these days—"in part" as the marginal reading of the King James Version is. It is *in connexion with the sacrifices* held on these days that Paul wants the Colossians to understand they must not allow men to judge them. It is *the manner of observance* that enters Paul's mind.

Paul has just been mentioning the *ordinances* that were consummated in Christ—no longer in force. Converts are not to offer sacrifices on these days because the ordinances regulating the sac-

rifices are abolished. But that doesn't abolish the *days*!

No! Because these days began to be instituted BEFORE the ordinances prescribing sacrifices and offerings were ADDED.

The weekly and annual sabbaths were NOT instituted for the purpose of sacrifice. God says: "For I spake *not* unto your fathers, *nor* commanded them *in the day* that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." (Jeremiah 7:22,23.)

God commanded *no* sacrifices (except the passover, which is still continued under different symbols today) when he revealed the holy days to Israel. Israel was then in Egypt, ready to be led out. Sacrifices were placed on these days, *later*, AS ON EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK, EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, because of transgression. (Exodus 29:38.) With the sacrifice of Christ having taken place, Paul wants the Christians to know that they are not to be judged by the handwriting of ordinances regulating these rituals.

But *the days are still to be kept holy* because they were instituted as *everlasting* statutes, *not* by the handwriting of ordinances, which was abolished with the death of Christ.

The sabbath day began at creation, and the annual festivals began to be instituted as MEMORIALS OF THE PLAN OF GOD *before* the old covenant was made and *before* sacrifices were imposed to teach men the need of Jesus Christ and the power of the Spirit of God.

Shadows

Paul continues his thought in Col. 2:17 by speaking about *shadows* of things to come; "but the body is of Christ." What could Paul have meant by shadows?

"Shadows" are mentioned in several places in Hebrews. Priests who offer gifts "serve unto the example and *shadow* of heavenly things." (Heb. 8:5.) And again: "For the law having a shadow of *good things to come*, and not the very image of the things, can never with those *sacrifices* which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." (Heb. 10:1.)

These two verses show that the shadows were the *sacrifices* and ritualistic offerings made by the priests according to the law. The BODY that casts the shadow is *Christ*, but the shadows—the continuous round of offerings, sacrifices and washings—were "not the very im-

age" "of the heavenly things" which Jesus Christ is now performing for us at the right hand of God as our High Priest. (Heb. 9:11.)

Contrary to what many believe, *the Bible nowhere speaks of the sabbath, the holy days and the new moons as shadows*. They are *memorials*. See Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23 where they are called thus. But we do find that the entire book of Hebrews is written to show that the shadowy physical ordinances once performed by the Levites have been abolished and *changed* into the spiritual precepts of the priesthood of Melchizedek, in which Christ, as High Priest, is reconciling those who are now called to God.

How plain these verses are in Colossians when we understand the Bible as a whole!

Feasts to Cease?

There are yet certain texts in the Old Testament often misunderstood on this subject. There are two verses in Lamentations which speak about God causing the sabbaths and solemn feasts to be forgotten and unattended. (Lam. 1:4; 2:6.) This does not mean that God abolished his festivals because of displeasure with them. Because of the sins of the people in *breaking* these days (Ezek. 20), God was going to punish Judah by taking from her the blessings of having these days.

Far from abolishing them, *Christ kept them, the early true church did*, and Judah and Israel will keep them in the millennium: "O Judah, *keep thy solemn feasts*." Nah. 1:15.

Not only will Israel be observing the festivals of God, but the GENTILES ARE GOING TO BE FORCED TO!—for their own good. Read Zechariah 14 where heathen nations will have to come before the Eternal of Hosts to keep the Festival of Tabernacles or be smitten with drought and disease.

Gentiles are going to be blessed for keeping the sabbath in the millennium. (Isaiah 56:1-8.) And "all flesh (shall) come to worship before me, saith the Lord" from sabbath to sabbath (commanded assembly) and from new moon to new moon (laboring day with voluntary assembly). (Isaiah 66:23.)

Whose Sabbaths Does God Hate?

Some claim that God says that He hates *His* sabbath, new moons and festivals!

Where can you find one text where God says "MY" sabbaths and festivals "I hate"? Every time "MY" sabbaths and festivals are mentioned, God *rebuked* the Israelites for breaking them. (Ezek. 20:16.)

God does not say He hated these oc-

casions in Amos 5:21 and Isaiah 1:10-15, nor in Amos 8:10 and Hosea 2:11! Look again; does it say "MY" feasts and sabbaths! NO! It reads: "I hate, I despise YOUR feast days, and . . . YOUR solemn assemblies." "YOUR new moons and YOUR appointed feasts my soul hateth: for they are a trouble unto me."

These were not the days God instituted, but *man-appointed* ones—pagan days observed in Israel and "Jewish" days in Judah after the traditions of the elders. Ancient Israel and Judah seldom kept God's days. He says they "changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and MY STATUTES more than the countries that are round about: for they *refused* my judgments and my statutes" which commanded the festivals. (Ezekiel 5:6.)

If anyone doubts that they really did change these days to some of their own making, turn to I Kings 12:13-33: "And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah . . . even in the month which he *devised of his own heart.*"

Israel changed God's calendar of festivals by appointing *her own* sabbaths, *her own* festivals and added another day to the new moon. Judah followed Israel's example and profaned them every way possible. And the days that they did not change they perverted. No wonder God abhorred these counterfeits—THE SAME AS HE HATES THE COUNTERFEIT DAYS OF CHRISTENDOM TODAY—Christmas, New Years, Easter, Sunday observance—days which *came from idol worship of the heathen* and which caused Paul so much concern.

An OPEN LETTER

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should each study and develop our talents. At every opportunity we should help others and set a *good example* before them. Then we should place our tithes and generous offerings in God's work. Be constant in prayer for God's people, for God's *true* ministers, and for His work.

Let's DO the Job

There's a JOB to be done—and *we can do it!*

Let's start *now* to really live! In overcoming ourselves, in serving others, in zealously helping in the work of God, we will gradually acquire more of *God's character*. We will be building something that will last *forever*.

Yes, we will have persecutions and tribulations. So did the apostle Paul. Read about his trying experiences in II Cor. 11:23-33. Then read what he says,

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are *not worthy* to be compared with the *glory* which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). Paul literally based his life on this firm belief! How do we endure our little trials in comparison?

Why should we ever doubt or be overcome by personal trials? Let us take renewed faith from the inspired words of Paul, "And we know that *all things work together for good* to them that love God . . ." (Rom. 8:28). Things are BOUND to turn out right if we serve God in love and faith! Christ said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more *abundantly*" (John 10:10).

So with God's help, let us live the life of joy and accomplishment that He intended. Ask God for the love and faith to live by His word each day. Spend *more time in earnest prayer and fasting*. Muster the COURAGE to see it through when things get "tough."

If you are after "security," the world has none to offer; if you are after happiness, the world has *proved* that its ways end up in misery and death; but if you earnestly want to acquire the *character of God*, then no hardship or obstacle will be able to stop you. Remember Christ's words, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Therefore, let us "be *strong* in the Lord, and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). Our lives should be full of joy and interest both in learning and obeying God's will and in fearlessly and zealously carrying on His work. That's what I mean by "*Courageous Christian Living*." This outlook should give new meaning to our lives. So let's put it to work!

How to Observe

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a festival with an enjoyable dinner in thanks to God?

Pentecost

The next festival when all are to gather is the Day of Firstfruits or Pentecost. It usually occurs a few weeks before summer. Unlike the miscalculations of many Jews, Catholics and Protestants, the day of Pentecost always occurs on a Monday. If you want to know how to *count* the fifty days to Pentecost, write for the article explaining it in a previous issue of "The Good News."

Pentecost is an annual Holy Day in which no work is to be done except for what a person must eat. There is to be a convocation held on the day, just as we find in the example of the disciples on

the day of Pentecost in A.D. 31 (Acts 2:1). Did you notice how important God deems it that we meet together on this day before the summer's work fully begins?

There were devout men in that day of slow transportation who came from Rome, Persia, Libya and Egypt to Jerusalem. If those men, perhaps with their families too, could make the trip, how much more should we do so as we see the crisis at the close of this age approaching!

As with every holy day when any of you are unable to gather together in an assembled convocation, there should be a great deal of Bible study alone. In that you might be keeping this day alone with opposition from the family, be very considerate of the others by giving the day a festive atmosphere. Let then all enjoy the bounteous material blessings of God in a feast, avoiding, however, any statements that would precipitate religious strife. Let them see that the Holy Days which God set in motion are so much more enjoyable than the burdensome holidays which our modern society has incorporated from the rites of the ancient pagans by way of an apostate church.

The Day of Trumpets

As autumn approaches, there is another single Holy Day—the Day of Trumpets. It is a Sabbath day when no work should be done except what is permitted on an annual High Day. If any of the annual Sabbaths falls on the weekly Sabbath, then the annual Sabbath takes precedence and we are allowed to prepare meals on that day.

Although there is no direct command to have all men assemble on this day or on the Day of Atonement, the examples of Scripture would indicate that as many as possible should gather together. It has been possible for several brethren to assemble with distant members of the church for all the fall festivals. Since it is not always possible, God does not demand the assembled presence of all on this day or the Day of Atonement.

The Day of Atonement

A most unusual day is this! Imagine God commanding one fast day for His people annually.

The Day of Atonement is a *commanded fast*. Leviticus 23:28-32 explains that there is no work whatsoever to be done on it. God's people are to congregate whenever possible, as on the preceding Holy Day.

Even though no one is to partake of food or juices, there is no specific prohibition on water. A fast is a fast, whether it be with or without water. Both kinds of fasts are mentioned in the Bi-

ble. See the example of Moses.

No explicit instruction is given infants either. Nursing infants were assembled in a special fast (Joel 2:16) but there is no indication that they did not nurse. Since fasting has a *meaning*, little children should be taught to fast *when they can comprehend the fact that God commands it*, and *not* before. Once a child starts to fast, never let him have food that day, lest he develop a weak will. It is worse for a child to start turning back on what he should do, than not to have known about it at all.

We are to neglect the usual meal on the evening of the Day of Atonement (remember, God's days begin at sunset), partaking in *moderation* of the evening meal that follows the Day of Atonement. Be careful not to eat the usual amount of heavy foods.

If some of you have never fasted for the first time—Jesus says to fast often—there might be slight physically uncomfortable reactions. But how small are these compared to the heart-warming desire to do the will of God.

Since God instructs that no work whatsoever be done on this day, be sure that all preparations for the day have been previously made so that unconverted members of your family will not have cause to complain.

The Festival of Tabernacles

The greatest and most joyous festival is without doubt the Feast of Tabernacles, when men, women and children are expected to attend. What can be more wonderful than, after a hard summer's labor, with much of the winter's store in, that we should rejoice before the Lord of Heaven and earth? As we read in Nehemiah 8:9-10 of all the festivals in general: "This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep . . . Eat the fat (ani-

mals), and drink the sweet (wine), and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto the Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH."

The Festival of Tabernacles is a time when we are to be separate from the world, rejoicing as in a festive dance, before God who has given us every wonderful material and spiritual gift in the past year. Sorrows that we may have suffered are to be laid aside, allowing not one heavy cloud of human problems to weight our minds down. Lay them aside and give God honor by declaring his wonderful kindnesses to your family and the brethren.

Although the festival itself is only seven days long, the last annual Holy Day coming immediately after it makes it customary to refer to all eight days as part of the same festival. On the first and eighth days no work is to be done except what is required for meal preparation, and assemblies are to be held where possible. If you are alone because of some *great* unforeseen circumstance, be sure to study your Bible, and especially the law, these days.

The intervening six days are to be celebrated in the same manner as are those of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Work is permitted on them, although God does not intend you to do the usual routine. That is why the festival was given—to relieve you from your normal duties so you can rejoice with the brethren. It is to defeat the purpose of the festival if you merely rest on the two High Days and neglect the entire festival as a whole period of supreme happiness. So be sure you attend, as God commands, in the place where He places His name.

One of the brethren who heard of the festival of tabernacles for the first time,

was in the midst of peanut harvesting. He decided that if God wanted him to meet where the other brethren were gathering, the Lord of the earth would protect his crop. Wonder of wonders, it was perfect weather until the very last peanut was harvested in December. God never fails to protect and prosper the person who serves Him. We never need to be worried about problems "back home." God makes that promise in Exodus 34:24!

For the few of you who may not be able to attend the Festival of Tabernacles, there is another part of the occasion that must not be overlooked. This feast is especially intended to separate us from the world, to give us an atmosphere of joyous rest from the many problems of life. That is why, *if it is possible*, booths or tabernacles should be constructed if you are away from the world, rather than dwelling in your own home. Of course circumstances will not permit some of you to do this, just as some of you are unable to assemble on the Sabbath.

But if God grants the means to do so there can be little greater pleasure for you or your children than to construct booths or lean-tos according to the instructions given in Lev. 23:39-44 and Nehemiah 8:13-18. Since booths are commanded when possible, it is naturally understood that they should fit the climate, heavier, water-shedding and more durable in cooler areas, just as campers would build them to live in.

If any of you have transportation problems, or personal or financial difficulties, that make it seem physically impossible to attend these festivals, please write us and we shall be so glad to answer your letters. Also, if some of you have been especially prospered, kindly notify us, just as the early church did (Deut. 14:24-27 and Acts 4:34-37).

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