

Cut and Paste Christianity Part 7

A Rose by Any Other Name

Every year God takes us through a series of seven holy days to remind His church family of His plan for all mankind. These Feasts were established and confirmed in **Leviticus 23:1-2**- “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘Concerning the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, **even these are My appointed feasts.**”

Note, God does not say, these are the feasts of the Jews but rather “*these are MY appointed feasts.*”

Each holy day reveals important lessons for us to learn and grow in our hearts and minds and in our characters. This is our sixth season together as a small group of God’s family. It is a blessing to learn something new each year.

We call this time of year, the Passover season. We begin with the celebration of The Passover and continue with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Passover is probably the most important and solemn night of our year. We renew our spiritual covenant with our Creator through the observance and sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ. He bore all of the sins for all mankind once and for all as the perfect

sacrifice, The Lamb of God (**John 1:29, 36**). We are reminded throughout the Feast of Unleavened Bread of His sacrifice and what price was paid for our freedom from bondage while removing sin from our lives.

We are observing and following God's Plan of salvation for mankind through His ordered annual Feasts and Sabbaths and not the traditions established by men. With the first of the spring Holy Days now in the rearview mirror, we begin our countdown to Pentecost. While the first of the Holy Days are over, we carry forth the lessons learned this past week. I hope we all enjoyed the sharing this week of God's Word and take to heart His instructions for us to grow in wisdom and in spirit. I hope what we learned grows within our hearts as we continue this year's journey. I know our group has been blessed with some of His greatest cooks by the meals our members have prepared.

This week's thoughts actually came in a dream earlier in the week. "And it shall come to pass in the last days," says God, "that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"- **Acts 2:17**. Well I guess by God's Word, I qualify as an old man, although I haven't quite figured out how to act my age just yet.

In the dream, Robbie and I were speaking with a "Christian Evangelist" at a Seminar. We were quoting scripture that was contrary to what was being preached.

After numerous verses we turned around and the speaker was gone, he had fled.

Robbie had mentioned that anyone preaching another doctrine was to be accursed and he said he thought it was in Colossians. I said no, it's in Galatians.

Well, I'm not on the same scale as some of the TV preachers quoting scriptures accurately and at random and I didn't know which Book of the Bible it was in but when I woke up, the first thing I did was go to the Bible. There it was, **Galatians 1:8-9**- "But if we, or *even an angel* from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!" Please understand, that this is all in my dream but confirmed when I woke up. A pretty heavy word "accursed."

It means:

1. Abominable; hateful
2. Being under a curse; **doomed**. The doomed description really shows the seriousness of what it is to be accursed.

In looking closer at these two verses, I began to wonder just how in the world can anyone who professes to be a "Christian" miss so many of God's instructions in the His Word they supposedly know? Especially with a word like "accursed" being

part of the instructions. How can they build a religion on such falsehoods and outright lies that are not even close to what is in God's Word?

2 Timothy 3:15-17- “And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; So that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.”

Today, we often use the phrase “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” to indicate that things are what they are, no matter what name you give them. This line is a quotation from the play, “Romeo and Juliet” by William Shakespeare. It was spoken by Juliet Capulet while she was on her balcony. Now I'm not going to get into Shakespeare, but simply, there was a feud between her family and Romeo's family and she was in love with Romeo. Her lines from the play were:

“'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,

Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part

Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!

What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet;”

Juliet is saying that even if the rose has a different name, it would still have its beautiful fragrance. She was a highly intelligent girl and this speech is one of the most well known in all of Shakespeare's works. She was referring to that Romeo would still be handsome and her love if he was named something other than Romeo Montague. His characteristics and personality may have indeed remained the same if his name were Willy Wonka. I'm not well versed in the writings of William Shakespeare and my limited knowledge of him came to a peak in my 8th grade English Literature class. While this premise of the rose may hold true in a few applications, we know you can't slap a Jesus label on God's Word and call it Christianity. But yet we have nearly 30,000 denominations of so-called "Christianity."

A term more suiting for the churches of today would be "*churchianity*." It seems that so many have re-written the Word of God to fit their doctrine. And why not? There is no challenge to the lies they profess to their congregations. Much like politicians, if you tell a lie often enough it will be believed as the truth. It is so easy for folks to be deceived. I remember being one of the misled for so many years until God whispered to me and said, "Hey, you never read my Word for yourself."

Many years and denominations later, it's finally clicked but it *requires work* and *obedience to His Commandments*.

I have a King James Bible from the Holman publishing company. There is a page in the back of it after the index and concordance titled, "Plan of Salvation." The first sentence on the page under the title says, "What do you understand it takes for a person to go to Heaven?" Wow! This is right in the back of the Bible and by that statement means that the printers never read what's in it. They might as well have printed a Mad Magazine. I have "A Faithful Version" put together by Fred Coulter as well. Just as a reminder from Fred himself, please do not refer to "A Faithful Version" as "Fred's Bible. He made that clear during last year's Elder's Conference. It is the Word of God in its original order. Phone apps are available for both versions to aid in searching the scriptures if your Bible isn't handy.

As we were celebrating the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the world was observing Holy Week. Why call it Holy *Week* if they chopped down God's Commandments to observe His Feasts to just two days? In taking a look at Easter, we know that the term '*Easter*' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of *Astarte*, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess, the queen of heaven (**Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-19, 25**). The festival of *Pasch* (Passover) held by Christians in post-apostolic times was a continuation of the Jewish feast. From this "Pasch" the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as

part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity. The Greek word translated as *Easter* here is *pascha*. Properly translated everywhere else in the Bible as "Passover." Referring to this mistranslation, *Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible* says that "perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in our text."

Just think about these facts for a moment. Along with Christmas, Easter is considered a major "religious" holiday. Yet nowhere in the Bible, not in the book of Acts, which covers the history of the early Church, nor in any of the epistles of the New Testament, written over a span of 30 to 40 years after Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, do we find the apostles or any early Christians celebrating anything like Easter. So "Easter" *is* found in the Bible as part of the pagan religion God condemns (**1 Kings 11:5, 9-11**). Would Jesus turn over any tables in these churches of today? By His standards they are unrecognizable as churches. With the misleading information printed in God's own Word by the publishers, our spiritual wisdom and discernment is crucial to our growth. This historical information on the origins of Easter is abundant on line for everyone to research and read. But yet so many refuse to look. **Hosea 4:6** comes readily to mind, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children."

In looking at the Easter celebration, what did Jesus instruct His disciples to do?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26- “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; And after giving thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body, which *is* being broken for you. This do in the remembrance of Me.” In like manner, *He* also *took* the cup after He had supped, saying, “This is *the* cup of the New Covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in the remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you *solemnly proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.*” (**Luke 22:19**). This is hardly fitting with the common practices in most church denominations to offer “communion” whenever it is suitable. God’s Word specifically tells us that it is a solemn annual observance and to partake of it in an unworthy manner we will be judged accordingly. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you *solemnly* proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes. For this reason, *if* anyone shall eat this bread or shall drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, he shall be guilty of the body and *the* blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup accordingly. Because the one who eats and drinks unworthily is eating and drinking judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord.”- **1**

Corinthians 11:26-29. We can add to this, “Good Friday” as an observance of the

crucifixion of our Savior. **Matthew 12:40**- “For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, in like manner the Son of man shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.” By the words of Jesus Himself, He said He would be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. If He was crucified on Friday and arose on Easter Sunday, somebody made a huge math error or Jesus was lying and we know that is impossible (**Titus 1:2**).

Even the manmade holiday of Easter has been perverted which is as ironic as “keep Christ in Christmas” which we’ll save for a future writing. The pagan spring fertility symbols have been inserted to remove any reference to the resurrection of Christ. Bunnies, baby chicks and colored eggs? These are the adopted practices of so many of the Protestant churches of today. But because they hang a Jesus tag on it or the observances are okayed by the Vatican, they must be holy right? I’ve got a feeling that when the last trumpet sounds and the sky cracks, there will be a multitude of folks, preachers, pastors and priests alike, all begging to hide under a mountain. “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains; And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb Because the great day of

His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?”- **Revelation 6:15-17**. God is very specific in how we are to keep His Sabbaths and Holy Days. God is not a respecter of persons. (**Acts 10:34, James 2:1, 1 Peter 1:17**). Putting a Jesus label on Easter and negating God’s Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread is an act of disobedience.

As we so frequently mention, we must live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (**Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4**). Our Creator is all-wise and all-powerful. Everything He does is done for a reason and purpose. All of these reasons are for our best interests and out of love that we may obtain salvation and eternal life through His Son. So why would He do away with all of His plan for mankind developed before creation to have it nailed to the cross?

In Jesus’ own words, He said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled. Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”- **Matthew 5:17-19**.

Proverbs 29:18- “Where *there is* no vision, the people perish; but happy is he who keeps the law.”

Romans 7:12- “Therefore, the law *is* indeed holy, and the commandment holy and righteous and good.” God had intended that the law (its letter and intent) is to be *kept for all time*. If not, Paul would not have said the previous scripture to the Romans. God’s reasons and purpose is for our sakes.

1 John 2:17-19- “And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever. Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time. They went out from among us, but they were not of us because if they were of us, they would have remained with us; nevertheless, *they left* that they might be exposed *to show* that they all were not of us.”

Jude 1:4- “For certain men have stealthily crept in, those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment. *They are* ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the* flesh is from God. And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not from God. And this is the *spirit* of antichrist, which you heard *was* to come, and even now it is already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them because greater is He Who is in you than the one who is in the world.”- **1 John 4:1-4.**

2 John 1:8-11- “Watch out for yourselves in order that we may not lose the things we have accomplished, but *that* we may receive a full reward. Anyone who transgresses and does not continue in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. But the one who continues in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not say to him, “Welcome!” For anyone who says, “Welcome!” to him is partaking in his evil works.”

We may not yet be ready to turn over tables or shut down a loud-mouthed evangelist but we’d better be prepared with that ready answer. **1 Peter 3:14-17-** “Now on the other hand, if you do undergo suffering for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. But you should not be afraid of their terror, and you should not let

yourselves be intimidated; But sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope *that is* in you, with meekness and reverence; Having a good conscience, that, whereas they may speak against you as evil doers, those who are reviling your good way of life in Christ may be ashamed. For *it is* better, if *it is* the will of God, *for you* to suffer while doing good than *to suffer for* doing evil.”

As we have renewed our covenant this past week, remember the lessons we learned as we move toward Pentecost. Stay focused on the Word of God. Be aware of the enemy and his craftiness, avoid temptations that can lead to sin. Keep the leaven/sin out of your life. Be aware of false doctrines, **Colossians 2:6-8-**

“Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him; Being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, **exactly** as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Cut and Paste Christianity uses the guise of “Jesus” to perpetuate a lie. While a rose may retain its sweet smell by any other name, *any* deviation in the Word of God and calling it Christianity will never have the same pleasing scent to our Father in Heaven.

BL-04/23/22