

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 48, December 10, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.*”**

FULL Salvation— Unveiled at Bethlehem and Calvary!

(Philippians 2:6-8) [JESUS], “⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, ***He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*”**

(Psalm 89:15, Amp. Bible) “Blessed/happy/ fortunate, to be envied are the people who know the joyful sound, who understand and appreciate **the spiritual blessings symbolized by the feasts;** they walk, O Lord, in the light and favor of your countenance.”

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26) For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, ***“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”***

In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the **new covenant in My blood. *This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.***”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes!”

If you and I were living back in the Old Testament times— all that they did in the celebrations of these SEVEN feasts **pointed to what God would do when He sent His Son.** These feasts and all the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament era were designed to convey one primary message— namely that God is holy and that only by the shedding of innocent blood can sin be forgiven and fellowship with God be restored and experienced.

In this article, we will view the Old Testament verses from the NEW TESTAMENT advantage point— NOT OF SHADOW but of fulfillment and substance. **FOLLOWING NEW TESTAMENT revelation and example— we will connect THE BIRTH of Christ with the CROSS of Christ! Like a lighthouse,** the Scriptures which unveil the Feasts of the LORD, shine forth to remind all of God’s redeemed children **of God’s so great salvation— a salvation that has a**

- (1) Definite beginning;
- (2) Definite process; and
- (3) Definite climax which leads into eternity with God!

These Sacred Feasts unveil a ‘Spiritual Road Map’ for the Christian’s life— showing (1) where we’ve been; (2) where we are; and (3) where God is leading us! REALITY: It is so easy to get entangled in the cares of this life and lose a proper sense of purpose and destiny. We begin to wander. We find ourselves like a ship off course and CRASHING ON THE ROCKS OF SIN. **WE NEED A COMPASS, WE NEED A MIGHTY**

LIGHTHOUSE! *AT THE LORD'S TABLE, IN ONE SIMPLE, PROFOUND OBSERVANCE— WE REJOICE IN THE FULL BLESSINGS OF ALL SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD... as well as REJOICING in the miracles of Jesus at Bethlehem and at Calvary!*

I. LEVITICUS 23:4-5 - PASSOVER

For the Old Testament Israelites, Passover was a remembrance of the night when the death angel passed over their homes sparing the first born. **For New Testament Christians, the Passover marks the beginning of salvation.** The Passover lamb beautifully pictured Christ –John 1:29... *“Behold the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.”* 1 Cor. 5:7— *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”*

God's message in the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same: Not when I see your good works or your golden rule living... NOT WHEN I SEE YOUR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE— but *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you!”*

***** REMEMBER:** The Israelite deserved death as much as the Egyptian; AND WE deserve death and Hell as much as anyone! Do you see that? Only when you do, will you flee to Christ for His blood to pay your sin debt!

By the way, **JESUS DID NOT PAY IT TO SATAN.** Rather, God the Father satisfied His own holy wrath by the blood of His Son! Yes, we are delivered from Satan's grasp and kingdom of darkness. The devil must release us. And SIN'S penalty is not only paid, and God's holy wrath satisfied; but sin's power is broken!

CRITICAL QUESTION: Have you ever come to Jesus with all of your sin; and cried out in similar fashion as the tax-collector:

“O God, be merciful to me a sinner?”

II. LEVITICUS 23:6-8: UNLEAVENED BREAD

In Scripture, leaven usually refers to sin. This feast pictured that those who were delivered from death by the shedding of and the applying of INNOCENT blood, have their sins forgiven! LET US RECEIVE THIS REMINDER FROM THE WORD OF GOD: *** **God has a claim on the regenerated life!** [I Cor. 5:6-8 ; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; I Thess. 5:22; II Tim. 2:19]

*** When Israel went out of Egypt by the power of God, Pharaoh and his armies pursued! **When a person becomes a Christian, Satan and his armies pursue. They call you back.** They will try to force you back to Egypt, back into the world of sin, self, and society! Christian friend, in our own strength we cannot conquer sin or self or Satan! IN OUR OWN STRENGTH, We cannot keep God's holy commandments— **Christ in us can! And so it is by Him, our High Priest, that we conquer (Ex. 13:14 & 14:14).** **Therefore:** 1. In obedient faith, let us put away all leaven of malice and wickedness (I Cor. 5:6-7). 2. In obedient faith, let us live a life of feeding on Christ who has no leaven. 3. In trusting faith, let us live a life of total dependence. **The LORD'S TABLE reminds us of all these things!**

III. LEVITICUS 23:9-14: FIRST FRUITS

The Israelites could not harvest any of their early grain crop until the first bundle of grain was cut and brought to the priest. The priest would wave it before the Lord to be accepted of God. For New Testament saints: **The resurrected Jesus Christ is the first fruits of them that slept (I Cor. 15:20-23).** He arose from the dead. He was accepted by God. And because He, the first fruits, was accepted— so we the rest of the harvest are accepted in Him— (James 1:18— of His own will begat He us with the Word

of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures). **Moreover, Rom. 8:23 tells us that we have the first fruits of the Holy Spirit!** It is by the Holy Spirit that we have even now the resurrection life of Christ and the blessed hope of future resurrection!

Now, the Feast of First Fruits was always held the third day from Passover: Christ was crucified on the day of Passover. He arose from the dead three days later on the Day of First Fruits.

When we experience a saving encounter with Jesus Christ, it is a spiritual participation in these first three feasts:

1. Passover— We are redeemed, delivered BY THE BLOOD SACRIFICE OF A SUBSTITUTE, A SIN BEARER— OUR SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Christ became our Passover Lamb. THROUGH HIM, WE were and ARE DELIVERED from wrath/slavery/guilt. But that is not all: WE ALSO EXPERIENCE,

2. “Unleavened bread”— that is, we are separated from sin. We put away sin and feed on Christ. HOW COULD IT BE OTHERWISE?

3. First fruits— we are consecrated. We are accepted in the Beloved because of His resurrection and we are set apart for Him. We are not only saved from the world, the flesh, and the devil, but we are consecrated— Saved to a new life in Christ. **But that’s not all!**

IV. LEVITICUS 23:15-16: PENTECOST

This feast is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. It was seven weeks or 50 days after the presentation of the bundle of First Fruits. This was originally a sort of harvest festival of thanksgiving after the people had gathered the harvest. The ancient rabbis, right or wrong, later concluded that God gave the law to Moses on

this day. So this festival came to be regarded as the season of the giving of the law.

But more significant and certain is this:

1. Jesus died on Passover.

2. Jesus was raised on First Fruits.

3. And the Holy Spirit came exactly on the day of Pentecost!

**** Are you beginning to see the relevance of God's sacred calendar of redemption?

And the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost for express purposes: To indwell and fill and baptize believers.

John 14:16-17—He shall be in you. Acts 1:5; 2:4 **Why?**

1. To empower the believers for the evangelizing of the world (Acts 1:8).

2. To form the body of Christ (Jew and Gentile— I Cor. 12:13).

3. To enable and empower every Christian to keep God's holy law (Ez. 36:26-27).

4. To teach us all that Jesus said. To glorify Jesus. To unveil the future

(John 14-16).

5. To manifest in/through every redeemed sinner a miraculous orchard of fruit (Gal. 5:21-23).

6. To release through every Christian a glorious array of ministering gifts

to build up the body of Christ. **Oh, glorious full salvation!**

NOTICE: All of these events happen at the beginning of the Christian life:

1. Passover— Deliverance from judgment and Satan.

2. Unleavened Bread— Separation from sin.

3. First Fruits— Consecration to Christ.

4. Pentecost— Indwelling power for a holy/bold/witnessing life.

We are living in the Pentecostal age. EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS, (FROM A BIBLICAL SENSE), A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTIAN! None of this is a second work of grace. ALSO: RIGHT NOW, we are living in an interval of time before the next great event of God's calendar. My, what a solid Rock foundation the Christian has: 1. Christ died for us. 2. Christ, our unleavened bread. 3. Christ raised. 4. Christ indwelling and empowering. **Our past is forgiven AND our present is empowered!**

But even that's not all! For in the fall of the year came the 5. Feast of Trumpets; 6. The Day of Atonement; and 7. The Feast of Tabernacles.

V. LEVITICUS 23:24: THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

In this present hour, the Christian lives with **soberness and with hope. Soberness:** Sound the trumpet! The judgment and wrath of God is coming. **Soberness:** Rev. 18:2-5. **Hope:** JESUS CHRIST IS COMING BACK! Rev. 19-22. **Living in the conscious awareness of Christ's second coming, (for the Christian), is a PURIFYING HOPE: 1 John 3:14!**

And... so, we come to the LORD'S TABLE— UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS!!

VI. LEVETICUS 23:27: THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

In the Old Testament, this was a sacred day of cleansing from sin. Today, in Christ, because of Calvary, we are already cleansed from both the **penalty** of sin and the ruling **power** of sin. But one day, when Christ comes, we shall be delivered from even the **presence**

of sin and **possibility** of sin (Rev. 7:15-17; Rev. 21-22; I John 3:1-3).

No wonder PAUL CRIES OUT— Galatians 6:14:

“God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!”

VII. LEVITICUS 23:34: THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Here is consummation, completion, rest, and fellowship with God. Here is ruling with and rejoicing with Christ forever; sitting at His feet. And beholding His face (Rev. 22:1-5; **Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 3:13-14**)

Yes, the sacred Feasts of the LORD, (in the New Testament fulfillment of them!), CALL US to delight in God and in SO GREAT SALVATION!

*** I AM SURE that the LORD GOD is pleased to use these glorious FULL SALVATION CELEBRATIONS to help keep us from SHIPWRECK.

*** They give us a yearly ROADMAP so that every week and throughout the year, saints in Christ are reminded of— WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WHOSE WE ARE, AND THAT WE ARE ON A JOURNEY HOME!

PASSOVER is first! A ‘perfect lamb’ had to be slain and the blood applied! ***THEY ALL POINTED TO the day when GOD WOULD send the Perfect Lamb, HIS SON! ONLY IMMANUEL, God with us, can be THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY the sin of the world!***

AT THE LORD'S TABLE, we will celebrate the PERFECT LAMB OF GOD who came, and lived, and died, and AROSE, who is Ascended, who is seated at the right hand of God, who INTERCEEDS, and Who is COMING BACK.

JESUS IS AND WILL BE THE PERFECT FULFIMMENT OF all that the SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD shadowed!

THIS SUNDAY, December 15 ... we will SING PRAISES unto the LORD; SCRIPTURES WILL BE READ; and the Gospel will be preached — as we GLORY in GOD'S PROVISION of JESUS, who humbled Himself and came to Bethlehem ON THE WAY to Calvary!

AT THE LORD'S TABLE... WE WILL CELEBRATE GOD'S GLORIOUS FULL SALVATION— The glorious truth set forth in ALL SEVEN FEASTS and Bethlehem and Calvary ARE a vital part of THE LORD'S SUPPER!

Biblical Reality: Neither Jesus nor anyone in the New Testament EVER called for any special observance as to ANY EVENT in the life and ministry of Jesus— Not for His Birth, Not for His Resurrection, ETC.! ONLY 'THE LORD'S SUPPER': ***“DO THIS in remembrance of Me!”***

Grace and Peace in Christ!

James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

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SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

WEDNESDAYS:

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**

→ **Enter via IRON STEPS, side door.**

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

→ [NO WEDNESDAY SERVICES ON DECEMBER 25!]

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY: NEXT MEETING** scheduled for **JANUARY 7th 2020 @ 11:00am; NEW STUDY ==> LESSONS FROM WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE!** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[Under AWNING, open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am]*

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:** EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am:** **(DECEMBER STUDY: 50 REASONS WHY JESUS CAME TO DIE!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... DOUBLE DOORS, under the drive-thru awning. **[DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!]**

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER, 2019
December 15, 22, 29

ALL SUNDAYS: ** Sunday School at 9:30am / ** Worship at 10:45am

ADDITIONAL NOTES... ABOUT EACH SUNDAY:

- 1. THIS SUNDAY, December 15—** DURING the worship hour,
*** **The Choir and others...** will share music and Scriptures, as we REJOICE in the BIRTH OF CHRIST];
**** WE WILL PREACH the Word of God; **and**
***** **Conclude with the LORD'S SUPPER!**

[Some Home Groups may meet in the Evening]

- 3. December 22— NO** evening service
- 4. December 29— NO** 5TH Sunday Evening Service