

**The Faith of God - Part 2**  
**The Law of Sacrifice**  
**2/8/15**

Today I want to continue the thought of what The Apostle Paul called "The Faith of God." What is the preferred Faith, (religion) of God? If Jesus was alive today which church denomination would He be a member of? Would He be Baptist, or perhaps Methodist, maybe Church of God, or Assemblies of God. Would He perhaps be the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. I think all of us would like to think that Jesus would want to be a member of our particular church. But would He? I think it is important that we take a look at what the Bible says about who Jesus really was and what His religion was.

A careful look into the Bible does tell us something about this subject. Rom 3:1-4 tells us, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God, For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;...

Jesus did not come to start a new religion called Christianity, But rather He came to bring new life to an old religion. He brought a new covenant to put the law into our minds and hearts. He is our High Priest through whom we can enter into the Holy of Hollies. We can still enter into the very presence of God in the Holiest of all, The throne room of God through our High Priest, Jesus Christ. And now it is available to all who will come unto Him.

So when we receive Jesus as our savior, we become a part of the seed of Abraham through his son Isaac, the promised seed. The early believers were not called Christian until some after the Cross. They were simply considered another sect of the Jews and worshiped with other Jews in their synagogues.

We, as gentiles, were grafted into the Jewish olive tree and the truths that we celebrate have their roots in Judaism. We rejoice in the fatness and blessing of the tame (Jewish) olive tree. Rom 11:17-18 tells us, "And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakes of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, you do not bear the root, but the root thee."

It is important to note here that we were grafted into the tame (Jewish) olive tree, and that God did not abandon the tame tree and accept the wild (Gentile) tree instead. Note the fraise "you do not bear the root, but the root thee."

Romans 11:17 tells us, "And if some of the branches be broken off, (Because of unbelief) and thou, being a wild olive tree, (Gentile) wert grafted in among them, and with them partakes of the root and fatness of the olive tree;" Eph 3:6 we read, "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel."

So it is in Judaism that all the promises and blessings of the faith of Abraham, of the faith of our fathers, of the blessings promised to His people, the promise of Salvation, of healing, of the resurrection, of eternal life. of a personal relationship with our Father, God, through Jesus Christ.

Many of the customs practiced by the Christian church today have their roots in pagan practices that date back to ancient Rome that have merely had their name changed so that they now sound Christian. My question is, "is that the proper thing to have done, or do we need to look at them again and return back to the more biblical stand where these customs are concerned?" Another way of asking that question is, "Can we 'Christianize' something by simply renaming it, giving it a Christian name?"

Now let us look at Rom 11:16, ".if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches." In other words, "if the root or the origins of something is holy, (righteous) than the fruit of it is also holy." So if something has its roots in Judaism, then it can be trusted to be good and solid.

The reverse is also true. If our teachings do not have their roots in Judaism, then we need to question them to see if they can be trusted to be true or if they are some fable that has its roots in paganism.

The Apostle Paul warns us of the trend to accept fables as truth in the latter days. In 2 Timothy 4: He tells us to, "Preach the word;.. reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, because they have itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. "

Let us look at some of the things that are basic in the Christian faith and we will see the connection to Judaism. Under the old covenant, God required an annual blood sacrifice to pay for man's sins, called the atonement. Under the New covenant, God sacrificed his own son, Jesus, to be our atonement for sin for all time! No longer do we need to make personal sacrifices either animals or financial to pay for our sin. All the good works that we can do will not pay for it, In fact we cannot pay or earn our own salvation. It is a free gift! It is because of God's great love for us that he not only gave His own son to be killed, hanged on a tree, but he allowed Him to be beaten nearly to death to pay for the beating that should have been ours. Isa 53:3-5 says, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our grieves, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

And in Eph 5:1-2 Paul says, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor."

All we have to do is turn to God from our sin in repentance to Jesus! The price has already been paid! What an awesome plan! It is only after we are born again that God counts our good works as treasures in heaven! Eph 2:8-10 it tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

God has not done away with the law of sacrifice under the new covenant! Rather He asks us to sacrifice our lives for Him as Living Sacrifices! Rom 12:1 tells us, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Also in 2Co 5:14-15 it tells us, "For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

So sacrifice is still a part of Faith. We are to give ourselves to His service.

Listen again next week as we continue on, "The Faith of God."

Let me say again:

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?