

## **The Faith of God - Part 4**

### **The Sabbath**

**2/22/15**

Today I want to continue the thought of what The Apostle Paul called "The Faith of God." Last two weeks we talked about the principle of Sacrifice, and tithing. The principle of tithing is still to be practiced in the New Testament Church. Tithing is not a gift to God, it is a debt we owe.

We understand from our study over the last three weeks that biblical Judaism was God's preferred Faith, (or religion) God gave to the Jews His teachings, the oracles of God as expressed in Romans 3:1-4.

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.

We, at The Church of God, have called this teaching, 'New Testament Judaism,' Certainly we all understand that Judaism is the foundation from which Christianity sprang. Jesus was a Jew, His parents were Jewish,

Joseph & Mary kept the Feasts of the Lord and it was during one of the Feasts of Passover when Jesus was twelve years old that He stayed behind and debated with the elders of Israel.

Today I want to look at another principle teaching of the Christian church that has its roots in Judaism. That is the teaching on the Sabbath. Christians around the world celebrate one day of the week as the Sabbath. That day for most Christians is Sunday. My question for us is "Is Sunday the day that God intended for us to Honor when He said in Exo 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.?"

The Sabbath was introduced in the Creation story. God made the earth and everything in it in six days and rested on the seventh day.

One of the most profound examples of God instilling the importance of the Sabbath in found in story of the manna that God fed the children of Israel with for forty years while the journeyed in the wilderness. The story is told in the sixteenth chapter of Exodus. God sent manna Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, with a double portion on Friday, but none on the Sabbath. If they tried to keep it over from one day to the next, it would spoil and have worms in it, except on Friday they were able to keep it over for food on the Sabbath and it would be good. Now God did not just do this once or twice, but this happened every week for forty two years! That is 2184 times! I believe God meant to impress upon the Children of Israel the need to honor the Sabbath.

Keeping of the seventh day Sabbath was strongly enforced and was considered a sign

that they were indeed God's people as is taught in .

Exodus 31:13-17 where we read, "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defiles it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It *is* a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Honoring the Sabbath was a key to God's great blessing in their life as told in Lev 26:2-6, "Ye shall keep my Sabbaths...: I *am* the LORD. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make *you* afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land."

Now the Christian argument is that that was intended for the Jews only, but that promise is extended to the gentile Christian in Isaiah 56 and 58 and read, Isa 56:2-4, and 6-7, "Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that lays hold on it; that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus says the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;

Note the phrase "choose the things that please me,"

Also the sons of the stranger,(Gentile Christian) that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and takes hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. ...."

Isaiah 58:13-14, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath,... and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shall honor him,...Then shall thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

This is one of the laws of God that Jesus modified under the New Covenant, changing it from a

strictly legal issue to a more moderate day of doing good.

In Mark 2:27-28, "And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath."

Also in Mar 3:2-4 we read, "And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he said unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he said unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace."

Jesus asks the question, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days?"

Also in the story of the impotent man by the pool of Bethesda. Jesus told him to take up his bed and walk on the Sabbath day. This would not have been allowed under the old covenant. The story is told in John 5:6-9 where we read, "When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he said unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steps down before me. Jesus said unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath."

Jesus is our Sabbath rest, but that does not do away the need to honor Him on the Sabbath day. He said in Mat 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light."

Hebrews tell us that we who have believed have entered into rest. Hebrews 4:3, "For we which have believed do enter into rest."

Why did the Christian church abandon the seventh day Sabbath for Sunday?

Be sure and tune in next week. I will attempt to show how the Christian church came to worship on Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

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?

Until next week, God bless you.