

## **“The Truth As We Know It”**

Faith of God review

3/29/15

Today I want to address 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? 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, "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; as it is written."

God does have a particular religion that He authored through Jesus Christ. That faith (Religion) is Judaism! God gave to them the 'oracles (teachings) of God'.

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.

Let us look at some of the things that are basic in the Christian faith and we will see the connection to Judaism. God did not do away with the law of sacrifice! Under the old covenant, The High Priest the atonement once a year. Under the New covenant, God sacrificed his own son, Jesus, to be our atonement for sin for all time! 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.

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!

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!

Next we want to look at another principle teaching of the Christian church that has its roots in Judaism. That is that teaching on tithing and giving. The first tithe, (tenth) belongs to God. Tithing is first mentioned when Abraham paid tithe to Melchisedec, who is a type of Christ! He was King of Salem, which is Jerusalem, He is called King, (Prince) of peace, King of righteousness.

This principle is considered so important to God He calls it robbery if we refuse to pay it. Tithing is not giving! It is a debt we owe! Giving is what we do above the tithe. "

Tithing is an expression of our faith in God. Will He do what he said? Can I depend on Him to supply my need if I give the first and the best of my income to Him? Pro 3:9-10, "Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Next 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.

God said It *is* a sign between Him 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.

Jesus is our Sabbath rest, but that does not do away the need to honor Him on the Sabbath day. How did we get to where we are now with Sunday counted as the Christian Sabbath? We need to look into history to tell us the story. The early church based in Jerusalem led by the Apostles continued to honor the Sabbath on the seventh day. But as the church began to grow and many thousands of the gentiles from the Roman empire were converted to Christ there was a great push to abandon anything that smelled of Judaism. \

In the fourth century AD, the Roman emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity and made Christianity the official religion of the empire. His hatred for the Jews was profound! He made every effort to force the church away from anything Jewish. He said "Let us then have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd. ..All should avoid participating in the perjured conduct of the Jews."

In the first century AD there was great persecution and wars between the Roman empire and the Jews, the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus is just one example, so there was a push to separate the Christian church from the Jews.

As we can see by these examples, the change from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day, Lord's Day, was slow in coming and not brought about by Biblical truth, but by coercion and persecution. Also because of severe anti-Semitism by many of the early Christians of Roman, (Pagan) heritage.

Next I want to discuss the story of the biblical Passover. Passover is a pivotal part of the Christian faith because it tells the story of Jesus' death since it was on the exact day of the Passover when Jesus was crucified. Jesus is our perfect, unspotted, Passover Lamb, whose blood covers us as did the blood of the first Passover lamb cover the door posts of the children of Israel the night before they walked out of Egypt

At the last Passover that Jesus celebrated with his disciples, He instituted a New Testament Passover that was to remember Jesus' sacrifice. "We are to do this in remembrance of me." Now they were no longer just to remember the deliverance from Egypt, but also our deliverance from the slavery to sin.

Very early in Christian history the western (Roman) Christians began to

abandon Passover for the Easter celebration. Where did Easter come from? Did it come from Jewish (biblical) heritage, or did it come from pagan origins? The Roman (Gentile) Christians had a practice of incorporating pagan festivals—of pasting “Christian” names over them and calling them “Christian.” This was done to make “Christianity” more palatable and familiar to heathen worshippers, whom the Church was trying to attract.

Easter has its origins very early in human history and can be traced all the way back to the Tower of Babel. It was called by many names such as Astarte, Ashtaroth, Beltis and other names but they all have reference to the goddess of fertility. Hence the practice of the colored Easter eggs and the Easter Rabbit. According to Alexander Hislop, "Astarte (Easter)-worship was always associated with the worship of Baal or Sun worship. Astarte was Baal's wife." Notice that another name for Astarte was Ashtaroth. and was called the *queen of heaven*..."

Certainly we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! Without it we have no hope! It is the great promise that as He arose from the dead, being the first fruit of the resurrection, we too will one day arise from the dead, or be changed in the rapture! And live forever with Him in Glory! But should we as Christians let ourselves take part in something that is obviously of Pagan origins. Something that has been hated by God through the ages, the worship of the Sun god Baal and the goddess of fertility, (Ashtaroth.)?

Once again, it was the anti-Semitism of the period that forced the early Christians to abandon Passover for Easter

Listen again next week.

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.