

"ESTABLISH YOUR HEART" BY STAYING ON THE "PATH OF LIFE" "FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD IS NEAR" JAMES 5:8.

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head as we ask God for understanding in our study today. This is the 4th lesson in a 6-part series from James 5:8 which says, "Be ye also patient; establish your hearts (place firmly your face toward God and His way of life, not our way or the world's way of life)".
- Say - In lesson one, we discussed God's purpose for us, our goal and reward. In lesson two we discussed the importance of developing the character of a Righteous King by learning to love the instructions and laws of God which lead us to Christ. We discussed the patience one must have as God's people live each day with the expectation that His coming is very near.
- Say - God reveals to us another way to "establish our hearts" so we are prepared for His coming by choosing to stay on His "Path of Life". He said, "I... have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both (you) and (your) seed may live" Deuteronomy 30:19.
- Say - God tells us, "Ponder (prepare) the path of thy feet (our way of living), and let all thy ways be established (be firmly fixed on God's "Path of Life)". Why does God instruct us this way?
- Say - Because, "In the way of righteousness (in the "Pathway" of God's instructions) is life: and in the pathway thereof there is no (2nd) death" Proverbs 12:28. It is on His righteous Path of Life we will reach our goal; there is no other way in spite of what the world's religions teach. The righteous "Path of Life" or "Plan of Salvation" or the "Strait and Narrow" way is revealed to His followers through God's Holy Days.
- Say - Let's take a look at each Holy Day; the first Holy Day or Feast day is the weekly Sabbath. The word Sabbath means to "stop" and "Feast" and "circle around" God. The weekly Sabbath is a day to come out of the world ruled by the "prince or ruler of this world", Satan, and "circle or gather around God" as in giving honor to Him, John 14:30. When we show honor to God, we are saying He supplies all our needs that He is the author of our salvation, 2 Tim. 3:15. The weekly Sabbath Day is not a day of business as usual or pleasure as usual in spite of what the world says.
- Say - All of God's annual Sabbaths or Holy Days are attached to the

harvests. In the springtime harvest there are three annual celebrations; a memorial to Passover, (which the world has wrongly changed to Easter), the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost.

Say – These springtime festivals are the first steps on the Path of Life in achieving the purpose for God’s creation and that is to make us in His image, and give us eternal life, Gen. 1:26. Passover pictures repentance which means to be deeply sorry for our sins against God. Passover is the observance by which God's called are reconciled unto Him by accepting His sacrifice as "the Lamb of God" upon repentance of their sins.

Say- Christ tells us, “Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh” (we will be joyous for our reward is great), Luke 6:21. Hunger means to crave, starving daily for spiritual food from Christ, (Strong’s, Gk. 3983, 3993). Why, because it is ETERNAL LIFE!! Listen to His promise, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness (his instructions and laws): for they shall be filled” (filled with the promise of eternal life), Matt. 5:6.

Say- Christ tells us in the next verse, “He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood (takes to heart all God's teachings and does them), dwells in me, and I in him (to remain as one). This is the only way of salvation, being “called of God” and through repentance, baptism and receiving God’s spirit (taught to us through living and understanding the Spring Holy Days) is what makes this all possible John 6:55-57.

Say - Days of Unleavened Bread picture being cleansed of sin through baptism as we symbolically "die" and or “bury” false doctrines, superstitions and all lawlessness which led to death. Now the penalty of death (2<sup>nd</sup> death) is removed if one endures until the end.

Say - By putting leavening, symbolizing the sin of arrogance, pride, division and envy out of our life and “feasting” seven days on Christ’s teachings, the Unleavened Bread, the “True Bread of Life”; and the “True Bread of perfection”, we begin to take on the attitude of a humble, willing, obedient servant of God as He makes us in His image.

Say - The Bible says, “Our iniquities (lawlessness) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” Isaiah 59:2. The Bible tells us "...sin is the transgression (disobedience) of God's laws" I John 3:4. But

when we use the power of God's spirit and feast on the "Bread of Life, then "...those that seek me early shall find me" and "nothing can separate us from the love of God, Proverbs 8:17, Romans 8:39.

Say - The Bible says, sin makes us arrogant and puffed up and we begin to compromise on the teachings of the Word of God. But when we use the power of God's spirit and feast on the "Bread of Life" and His teachings, we, "Put on mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and longsuffering" thus taking on the character of a righteous king, Colossians 3:12.

Say - Now repented and cleansed of sin, Pentecost pictures the receiving of God's spirit, the power by which we overcome Satan and sin in this world and God's spirit is what gives us the promise of eternal life, a part in the first resurrection and He calls us the "sons of God" and His "firstfruits", Romans 8:9, 14, 23, Ephesians 1:13, 14, Rev. 20:6. God gives His spirit only to those who are repentant and have a sincere desire to obey Him.

Say - In the fall of the year at "harvest time", picturing the "end of the world", Matt. 13:39, come the remaining annual Holy Days which picture the REWARD time for God's people, His "firstfruits" and the setting up of His Kingdom. The annual Holy Day called the Memorial of the Blowing of Trumpets or the Feast of Trumpets symbolizes the "last trump" announcing the return of Jesus Christ to this earth and the first resurrection of the dead in Christ and those that are His at His coming (all His firstfruits) to eternal life, Cor. 15:50-52, I Thes. 4:17, Matt. 24:31, Rev. 20:6. It is called "The Day of the Lord", Joel 2:11, 31.

Say - The Feast of Trumpets is a reminder for us of a future time, the "harvest time" or the "gathering" of His people, His bride He is calling now, or the "firstfruits" for the beginning of a new government upon this earth, called The Kingdom of God with Jesus Christ, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Rev. 11:15! The Feast of Trumpets pictures the REWARD time, the "PRIZE" of eternal life for God's people, I Cor. 9:24.

Say - This trumpet blast signifies the moment God's people will be changed or "born again" to spirit beings (immortal-unable to die) for the Bible says, "we shall be like Him and He is spirit" and thus the purpose or goal of God's "firstfruits", will be accomplished, I John 3:2, John 3:6, 4:24.

Say - The next Holy Day is the Day of Atonement. It is a fast day not a

feast or eating day. The object of this solemn ceremony was to FOREVER impress on the minds of God's People that the entire tabernacle, which is symbolic of our physical bodies, was stained by the guilt and consequences of sin and had to be "atoned or covered" for God to remain with His people. Now God's people are reconciled unto Him by accepting His sacrifice as "the Lamb of God" upon repentance of sins shown by the springtime observance of Passover).

Say - The Day of Atonement is the most solemn annual Sabbath day and symbolizes a time when the entire world will be cleansed of sin as God removes Satan, the author of sin and deception from the earth. The Day of Atonement will be a time when the entire world will finally realize who the true God is. The entire world will learn there is "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all" Ephesians 4:5, 6.

Say - Finally the prophesied Kingdom of God will be established on earth, Revelation 20:1-3, Zechariah 14:4, 9. The Bible tells us the fate of Satan during the 1000 year reign of Christ on this earth. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit (the abyss) and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years," Rev. 20:1-2 (Satan will no longer be able to deceive mankind).

Say-With Satan removed from sight along with his deception and all his evil influences, Christ, in the Kingdom of God, will begin to remove the hardness of the people's hearts, their stubbornness and human reasoning and teach them how to be sincerely sorry for their sins.

Say-While the Day of Atonement is a solemn Holy Day, in that it is important to be repentant of our individual sins and reconciled to God, we look forward to the time when Christ's atoning sacrifice will be made available to all people, the very reason He came and gave His life. The Bible says, "The Lord is... longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9.

Say - The next Holy Day is the 7-day Feast of Tabernacles which pictures the long awaited Kingdom of God and the 1000 year reign of Christ known as the millennium, Rev. 20:4. Finally a time of peace for the entire world as God, with justice and mercy, enforces His instructions and laws from Jerusalem; the law which was established at creation.

Say - The Bible says "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord" Isaiah 11:9. Included in this knowledge will be made known the "Path of life" revealed through God's Holy Days and all nations will come to observe them and together with Christ we will say, "This is the way, walk ye in it" Zechariah 14:16, Isaiah 30:21.

Say - God tells us why we are to celebrate His Feast. He says, "That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths (temporary dwellings), when I brought them out of the land of Egypt (symbolic of sin): I am the LORD your God" Leviticus 23:42-44. God wants us all to realize the miracle of our calling and deliverance was by His hand only!

Say - At the end of the 1000 years is the 7th annual Holy Day, called the Last Great Day, John 7:37 and called the "eighth day" in Lev. 23:36 both picturing the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection. "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" Rev. 20:5. This is the second greater "harvest" and is referred to as the "Great white throne judgment", Rev. 20:11-15.

Say -The Last Great Day pictures a time when anyone from the time of Adam who died not knowing the truth of God will be resurrected and, with the deception of Satan removed, all will be given the opportunity to answer God's call to come to Him and repent, be baptized and receive His spirit and gain eternal life as He makes them in His image, John 7:37, 38.

Say -For now God's people follow the "strait and narrow" way which leads to life, overcoming sin as Christ did even unto death as we live out daily with repentant hearts the path of life set before us and walk in obedience not disobedience to God's holy righteous laws, Matt. 7:14.

Say - God tells us, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" Psalms 119:104-105. The Path of Life is the only path God sheds His light or truth on; all others are in darkness and deception of His truth. God teaching us says, "... if a man walk in the night (darkness of sin and deception), he stumbleth, because there is no light (Godly purity and truth) in him" John 11:10.

Say - God instructs us, "See then that ye walk circumspectly (diligently, don't give up, be patient), not as fools (who give up or never choose the path of life), but as wise (as one who is governed by God's teachings, filled with His wisdom)" Ephesians 5:15.

Say - God is telling us when we depart from the "Path of Life", we are as good as dead! But if we remain faithful and "establish our heart and mind" on the Path of Life and set the example for the entire world, they will choose the "Path of Life" in the future. For they will say, "...we will go with you (to worship God): for we have heard that God is with you" Zechariah 8:23. We must remain patient and loyal to God; it will be a wonderful day.

### SELF APPLICATION

Say - We ask ourselves why does the world not know? God tells us, "Satan ... deceiveth the whole world". Deception means a lie, trickery or fraud. Satan is the author of all deception, Rev. 12:9, 20:10.

Say – The deception surrounding God’s Holy Days are that one does not need to keep them Holy including the weekly Sabbath Day. Another deception is that all of God’s Holy Days are Jewish. Still another deception is that God’s Holy Days ended with the sacrificial system.

Say – The deception or lie surrounding God’s Holy Days is very unfortunate because God’s Holy Days reveal the purpose of man and God’s plan of salvation or “path of life” for all mankind. God’s Holy Days also reveal the future of this world.

Say - Think how many great scholars and dear friends and family who search for the answers to these questions above and the answers lie in our Bibles, the most sold book in the world, yet many are unaware of this fact! It is because many are willingly distracted by the temptations of the world and set their goal on material things.

Say - Why do God’s people not fall for these deceptions? God calls us a “peculiar people”, which means we are of great value to Him. When He called us to the Truth of God, He began to remove the deception. The Bible says, “For those called of God are a people chosen by God from ALL the nations of the earth as His possession, Titus 2:14, I Peter 2:9, Strong’s, 4041, 1519. The Bible tells us to “Hold fast”, to keep carefully and faithfully, cherishing this great calling, Rev. 3:11.

Say – God, speaking through Paul, tells us “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant (unable to discern) of this mystery (things hidden from those not called of God), lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness (unable to understand spiritual things) in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of

the Gentiles (those not worshipping the true God) be come in (to the opportunity of salvation)”, Romans 11:25.

Say – It is unthinkable God would never reveal or show His people the way to become like Him or to become a King. God “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling (a divine calling), ... according to his own purpose (and that purpose is to “make us Kings and Priests in His image” through His plan of salvation shown to us in His Holy Days and His Holy, righteous laws, 2 Tim.1:9, Gen. 1:26).

Say – As we look at the deceptions surrounding God’s Holy Days, remember, all of God’s Sabbaths, weekly and annual, were made at creation, long before there was any nation on earth. The Bible says, “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs (a distinguishing mark), and for season (a sacred appointed time or festival), and for days, and years” Genesis 1:14.

Say –Let’s do away with the first deception which is that God’s Holy Days are Jewish Holy Days. Here is how the Bible clarifies this for us. “The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim (cry out, tell and live) as sacred assemblies” Leviticus 23:2, 44.

Say – But how do we understand in the New Testament when the Bible refers to them as the “Jew’s Feast” in John 5:1 6:4, 7:2, 7:11? It is because the Jews were the only ones keeping the feasts as part of their religious practice. The Romans and Greeks were not keeping God’s Feasts any more than the Jews were keeping the Roman festival called the “Saturnalia” which is the Roman’s celebration of the birth of the Sun God. Now, however, the majority of the world celebrates the Saturnalia only with a new name, Christmas.

Say – Another deception we should eliminate is that God’s Holy Days ended with the sacrificial system. The Bible tells us otherwise. “And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation (a sacred assembly) unto you: ... it shall be a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations” Lev. 23:21, 31, 41. “Forever” means with out end, everlasting. God’s Holy Days will last forever just like the Bible says.

Say - For now God's people patiently follow the "strait and narrow " way which leads to life, overcoming sin as Christ did as we live out daily with repentant hearts the path of life set before us found in

God's Holy Days and walk in obedience not disobedience to God's holy righteous instructions and laws, Matt. 7:14.

Say - For, the Bible says, “He that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations” and “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”, Rev. 3:21.

Say – As God’s people cherish their calling, let’s continue to tell the world and proclaim God’s Holy Days by setting an example as we “stop” and “circle around” God and worship Him on His Holy Sabbath day and on His annual Sabbaths.

#### MEMORY VERSE

These are my appointed feasts...a statute FOREVER, Leviticus 23:2, 44, 21, 31, 41. Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths (the path of life), where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 16:6

#### MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

... ask for the old paths (the path of life), ... and walk therein...  
Jeremiah 16:6

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

BIBLE STORY  
"PATH OF LIFE"

All of God's Sabbaths were established at creation. God said, "let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let it be for signs, and for seasons and for days and years:" Gen. 1:14. These "signs" were to show a signifying mark for a fixed time or a festival.

God's Holy Days, unknown and defied by the world, were celebrations centered on God. Today, while every nation has festivals of their own, they are celebrations of their ethnic heritage and many are celebrations based on worship to pagan gods of the sun, moon and stars which God abhors!

God said, "Take heed therefore...lest you lift up your eyes unto heaven and when you see the sun, moon and stars... should be driven to worship them and serve them...Deuteronomy 4:19." That is exactly what the nations have done and in so doing, replaced God's Holy days.

The Spring Holy days of God which symbolize repentance, forgiveness and receiving of God's spirit, the world has, except for a small flock, replaced them with the worship and celebration of the fertility goddess, Ishtar or Easter.

God's Fall Holy Days which picture the reward time for God's people, Christ's return and the setting up of His kingdom and a time when the truth of God will be made known to all for the very first time, has been replaced by Halloween, the celebration of the Lord of the dead, Samhain. A little later comes the Saturnalia, the celebration of the birth of the "Sun God" now celebrated as Christmas, and dates all the way back to Nimrod!

Fortunately there are a faithful few, including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and a small flock today, which remember the law of God. "My Sabbaths you 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" Ex. 31:13.

I hope we never forget God's Holy Days, weekly and annual festivals which show God's plan for all mankind and teach us the "Path of Life".

BELOW ARE THE MEMORY VERSES TO BE CUT OUT AND PLACED WITH AN APPROPRIATE PICTURE WHICH COMPLEMENTS THE STORY OR LESSON AND PLACED IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL NOTEBOOKS.

MEMORY VERSE

These are my appointed feasts...a statute FOREVER, Leviticus 23:2, 44, 21, 31, and 41.

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths (the path of life), where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 16:6

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

... ask for the old paths (the path of life), ... and walk therein...  
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