

LETTER NUMBER ONE

The following are a couple of letters I wrote to a dear Seventh-Day Adventist friend of mine after she sent me an article called, "Present Truth for Today, Are the Jewish Feast Days Included?" by Lawrence Nelson. You will see the letters are lengthy but the Bible tells us we are to be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks of the hope which lies within us. I hope these letters will be of help and inspiration to all who read them. I have removed her name out of consideration for her.

Dear Seventh - day Adventist Friend,

Thank you for the article of which I read every word and I trust you will do the same with this letter to you in response to the article. Please realize the Bible tells us that there are things in the Bible which can be understood by those who do not have God's spirit but there are many things which can only be understood by having God's spirit; I will show you the verse later in this letter to prove this statement.

How does one receive God's spirit? In spite of what the world's religions teach, the Bible tells us the first step in God's plan of salvation is one must first be called or chosen of God. Read the following verses:

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way (the example of how you are to live your life), the truth, and the life (His spirit gives one life): no man cometh (called to follow) unto the Father, but by me", John 14:6.

"44No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" John 6:44.

"16Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" John 15:16.

"3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" Ephesians 1:3-5.

"12Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." Psalm 33:12.

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb"... These are the true sayings of God" Revelation 19:9.

"14These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" Revelation 17:14.

You see, dear friend, no matter how much anyone says, "I know God or I have given my heart to the Lord, it just isn't so. God is the one who determines who He is calling now. We must believe the Bible.

The second step in God's Plan of Salvation Christ tells us is, "We are to count the cost" of following Him and it is discussed in Luke 14. Starting in verse, 25, "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (please understand Christ is NOT saying here we must hate our families in this verse in order to follow Him, He is saying THEY may THINK you hate them by leaving a religion or putting God first over them and are YOU going to be able to stand the stress sometimes that arises etc. He is saying if this is where one puts his trust, then one cannot be a follower of Christ). (For example, many times a decision will arise between being at a family activity over keeping the Sabbath, what does one choose, family, self or God. A follower of Christ will choose God first over all things; He is the one who gave His life for us. A follower of Christ also realizes a much bigger picture or the plan of God, than an earthly family gathering. As important as a family gathering is, following God must come first.)

27And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple, (this means TOTAL submission to GOD and endure until the end).

28For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (Do you see this guy preached one lifestyle and then gave it up.)

30Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

33So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Here is some more important information God teaches us about following Him. Please read it carefully and understand.

He said, "Enter ye in at the strait (difficult, obstacles, Strong's 4728, Greek) gate". Why? "Because strait is the gate and narrow (narrow means suffer tribulation, trouble, affliction, Strong's 2346) is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it," Matthew 7:13, 14. (NOTE: Very few are willing to put themselves through change (conversion) which means obedience to God even if it

means eternal life! Imagine that!! In Matthew 7:13 is in contrast to the "Strait gate". It says, "...and broad is the way that leads to destruction (death)". The broad way is the false religions or man-made religions of this world, the "do my own thing way, make my own laws", the popular, accepted way of the world. Christ says don't take the broad way.

What does it mean to follow Christ? It means we imitate what He does, we obey what He tells us to do, and we talk of Him and His ways. We eat and drink of Him spiritually to become Holy, to develop a holy mind, an obedient mind. Christ is the one who teaches us what is holy and what is not holy, not the world's religion. We will be merciful as He is merciful. What we think is what we are so we want to acquire the mind of God. We want to develop His righteousness, His nature, His love and many other things. We do His will not ours; we love the whole world even our enemies and hate evil. We seek His truth.

The 3rd step to salvation is "Repentance". In fact, "From the time Jesus began to preach, He said, "Repent (of sin): for the kingdom of heaven is at hand", Matt. 4:17. His disciples preached the same message, "... Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (spirit)", Acts 2:38.

Repentance begins when God divinely opens the mind of a person, producing, for the first time, the knowledge that one is guilty of sin, which is disobedience towards God and His laws, "...sin is the transgression/disobedience of God's laws" I John 3:4. Repentance means to forsake our way which was contrary to God's laws and all the false doctrines we have been taught.

Repentance means to have a teachable mind towards the Truth of God. Once rebellious towards God and His ways, repentance is the first step in uniting or reconciling with God as we begin to walk in obedience with Him and His laws which over a lifetime heals and turns our evil nature to good creating the "New creation in Christ" which will bring us to the ultimate goal of salvation and eternal life.

The "Good News" is that all sin can be forgiven by God. Once one has repented, God accepts the shed blood of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as FULL payment for the penalty of the repented sinner! When we sincerely repent and ask God for the forgiveness of our sins, then through His "grace" (kindness, love, mercy, compassion), He pardons (forgives, favors) us and from His shed blood, blots out (wipes away, erases) our sins as if it had never happened, canceling the death penalty and we are judged not guilty! Here is how the Bible says it, "24Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" Romans 3:24.

Repentance is a humbling experience when one realizes we were condemned to die and because of the Love of Christ, He took the "PENALTY" of death in our stead and became the "curse" as the Bible says, "13Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law (when we repent of breaking God's law and accept His sacrifice for us), being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" Galatians 3:13. Repentance is more than merely saying, "I'm sorry". It is an inner feeling of abhorring one's evil nature and humbling oneself before God in asking for forgiveness. It is an experience we all must go through before we can begin the process of becoming like Him.

The 4th step in God's Plan of Salvation is Baptism. The Bible says, "Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried (not sprinkled) with him by baptism into death"...Romans 6:3-4. We must go DEEP into the water. Baptism is symbolic of burying the old sinful way of life in a watery grave and our sins are symbolically removed (washed away), forgiven and forgotten. The Bible says, "For he that is dead is freed from (the penalty) of sin" (we cannot live in a watery grave), Romans 6:7. Notice the definite inspired command by Peter about baptism ⁴⁷ "Then Peter answered, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost (spirit) as well as we? ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" Acts 10:46-48.

Now with the death penalty removed, if we come out of baptism and return to our old way of life, the baptism is meaningless. Salvation is a NEW way of life; it is a life-long process. We must hunger and thirst after righteousness to learn God's will for our lives ("all of God's laws are righteousness" Psalm 119:172). It takes a long time to get false doctrine, superstition and evil habits out of our lives; Christ must cleanse us daily when we ask for forgiveness. "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.", when we reject His teachings or change them, "we are not of God", it's that simple, John 8:47.

A truly repentant person must accept that, "There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all", Ephesians 4:4-6. We must search daily for the truth of the God and seek His wisdom for "He is above all", Exodus 18:11.

Now the next step in God's Plan of Salvation is the receiving of God's Holy spirit by the "Laying on of hands", Acts 8:18. The holy spirit is the very power of God, it could be likened unto physical conception, only this time we are begotten spiritually of God. This is the beginning of the new "creation in Christ" developing, "Therefore, if anyone is in **Christ**, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the **new** has come" 2 Corinthians 5:17! "...If so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of

his” Romans 8:9. God will not put His spirit into someone who will not obey Him or anyone who will not denounce false doctrines, superstitions, or anyone who changes His teachings etc.

The Bible says, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (make alive) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you”, Romans 8:11. Remember His spirit is life and His word is life. Here is how the Bible says it, "...the **words** that I speak unto you, they are **spirit**, and they are life" John 6:63!

By receiving God’s spirit at baptism we begin to understand the words or teachings of God not known prior to receiving His spirit because, “...we have (been given) the mind of Christ (and through obedience (not disobedience) we become like Him)”, I Corinthians 2:16. The Bible says, “But the natural man receives not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are (only) spiritually discerned” I Corinthians 2:10-14. Remember I said in the very first paragraph the following: there are many things in the Bible which can be understood by those who do not have God's spirit but there are many things which can only be understood by having God's spirit. The above verse is the proof of this statement; we must believe what the Bible tells us.

Becoming the “New creature in Christ” is the very purpose of our creation, “God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” Genesis 1:26, Ephesians 1:11. First He created us like Him in the flesh (physically) and second He recreates us like Him in the spirit to be fully accomplished when we are “Born again” spiritually at His coming. “Born again” means we will be given a spirit body, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" I John 3:2. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” Romans. 6:3-5.

Now where does “Faith” come in? Christ tells us “Faith” is one of the, “weightier matters of (His) law, judgment, mercy, and faith”, Matthew 23:23. Doubt in the opposite of faith. Notice every step of God's plan of salvation is based on FAITH! “Receiving the Holy spirit of God after, “...(you) first trusted in Christ (and) in whom ye also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (down payment that the full amount has been paid by Christ’s death if we accept His sacrifice upon repentance of sin) of our inheritance (eternal life in the Kingdom of God) until the redemption (deliverance at His coming) of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” Ephesians 1:13-14.

Once we have taken the steps of faith and gone through the physical steps representing an inner change, and received God's spirit; what keeps us on the "... strait .. and narrow .. way which leads to life,...", Matthew 7:14? The answer is it is, "the strength is the law", I Corinthians 15:56, (the instructions from God and power to overcome sin). Why, because "My Word, (My commandments and laws, Proverbs 7:2) is Spirit (is powerful). It is the spirit that quickeneth (makes alive); the flesh profited nothing (mankind cannot do it but) the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life", John 6:63! It's the best news we could ever share with anyone. If we go back to our old false religious beliefs and do not do according to the PERFECT law of the Truth of God, it is all in vain or useless.

Now let's talk a little bit about the Law of God. In the above verse, I Corinthians 15:56, what "law" is Paul speaking about 20 years AFTER Christ died? We must look the word up in the concordance to be sure. Here is what it says; of the Mosaic law, (the law God gave him and Moses recorded, Moses did not make the law), the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, Strong's #3551.

Also we must remember that God and His people from the time of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Isaac, Jacob, David, Paul, Timothy, or Christ and His disciples or any of His prophets NEVER designated His law as "moral", "ceremonial" or "civil". Those words, "moral", "ceremonial" or "civil" are man-made and we must get rid of such error in our thinking.

How did God refer to His laws or teachings? The Bible tells us, "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law** of Moses, and in the **prophets**, and in the **psalms**, concerning me" Luke 24:44. In another place He used, "holy scriptures" 2 Timothy 3:15.

With this information we have already discussed above, let's begin to look at the passage of scripture the author used in the article you sent me. He says and I quote, "In Ephesians 2:15, we read: "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace", end of quote. I have printed part of Ephesians 2 below starting with verse 11 for us to study together.

11Wherefore remember, that ye (Ephesians) being in time past Gentiles (nations) in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; (Were Gentiles before repentance or "in the flesh" but once converted are now former Gentiles or former sinners or former heathens.)

12That at that time ye were without Christ (before you were converted when you were a Gentile), being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world (this is the condition everyone is in before God calls them and they become repentant and obedient to God and His teachings or laws):

13But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh (near) by the blood of Christ (now have access to God and His blessings because they were now grafted into the body of Christ and were responsible to the law of God and would reap the benefits or blessings of obeying His law). Note: The only way the nations or Gentiles could hear the truth or law of God was what they heard from outside the Temple or if around God's people, the Jews, in their conversations. And once called of God and repented and baptized and received God's spirit they became part of the commonwealth of Israel and could have the same blessings, vs. 12.) Why is this so, read on?

14For he is our peace (Christ is the way to salvation), who hath made both one (both groups of people from two different religions are now united into one belief because they have been called to the same hope, same Lord, same faith, and same baptism and same God in contrast to when they had two different religions, it brought dissention not unity, Ephesians 4:4-6) and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us (upon their repentance, the bondages of sin and unbelief which separated them which was the "partition" was removed by the "blood of Christ" vs. 13, now bringing them together as one body of believers with like minds); How did Christ do this, read on?

15Having abolished in his flesh the enmity (even) the law of commandments (contained) in ordinances (Christ "abolished" "enmity" or SIN which caused the enmity between the two religions by giving up His body to death when He offered up His "flesh" in sacrifice. Christ abolished or made it possible to remove sin which is what made us enemies to God, by "redeeming (or rescuing us) from the curse of the law by being made a curse (sin) for us, Galatians 3:13. I repeat it was sin which was the "enmity", the transgression of the law I John 3:4 which separated them and separates us from God; it was NOT God's laws or God's ordinances. The "ordinances" Paul is talking about are from the sects of the Jews such as the Pharisees, Sadducees and the Essenes which ADDED ordinances, 630 of them, to God's commandments and were teaching the people falsely that their "ordinances" were as binding as God's. I talk more of this later.) for to make in himself of twain (now instead of two religions from two different groups of people, He made) one new man (one new body of believers in Christ making a far different people than they were before they knew God and thus), so making peace;

16And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross (in one law, one way of life, one goal and one purpose under the head, Christ, and His way of life), having slain (removed) the enmity (sin) thereby (vs. 15):

17And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh (the Israelites were "near" to God because they already knew of him through the law in the scriptures and worshipped God in the temple but the Gentiles were "afar off" because they knew little or nothing about God).

18For through him we both have access by one spirit unto the Father (now by conversion of the former sinner, all had access to the Father through Christ).

19Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God (no longer two religions or Jew and Gentile but "heirs" and now would receive God's promises as given to Israel if they obeyed Him.);

20And are (both) built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Jacob, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel etc) Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord (no one can build a holy temple with two different religions because one is not of God because there is "enmity" or sin between them until they are called of God and repent of sin....):

22In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation (a dwelling place) of God through the spirit (God will not dwell in a place divided)" Ephesians 2:11-22.

Then the author went on to say, quote, "Some clues are given in Colossians 2:14: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" Colossians 2:14. Still quoting, "Please take note that both these Scriptures, (Ephesians 2:15 and Colossians 2:14) refer to laws called ordinances that were abolished, nailed to the cross and blotted out" end of quote. Then he went on to list the Passover as an ordinance, Feast of Unleavened Bread and said both were "done away with". He went on to say, "Furthermore, we read in 2 Chronicles 2:4 of other ordinances involving certain Sabbaths, new moons, and solemn feasts of the Lord which are also called ordinances and went on to list them". He continued, "We must not overlook the additional fact that these feast days were not to be kept by today's Christians, for animal sacrifices were an integral part of these ceremonies and such animal sacrifice pointed to

the Lamb of God who was to die on Calvary. God has made it very clear that animal sacrifices and ordinances (or feast days) all ended, when in the earthly sanctuary service the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom, as we read in Matthew 27:51. No Christian in our day who truly believes in the salvation brought by Christ's sacrifice on the cross will keep the ceremonial laws of the feasts and sacrifices" (end of quote).

Let's please take an open minded look at what these verses, the author uses to abolish God's Feast days, and see what God is saying through Paul. Are you ready?

First we must ask the question, what is an "ordinance" for the author says they are "feast days"? I have printed the verses the writer was referring to concerning the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread which he said was done away because they were an "ordinance". "14And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever" (forever means with out end, everlasting) 17And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever (forever means without end, everlasting). 43And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:" Exodus 12:14, 17, 43.

The author continued, quote, "6Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. 7Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. 8And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. 9And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. 10Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year" Exodus 13:6-10, end of quote. Please note that the word, "ordinance" in the above scriptures means a statute or an everlasting law of God (without end), Strong's #2708. Remember God's word is spiritual as we read earlier, it gives life!

Here is what God tells us about HIS ordinances; I think you will agree "His ordinances" are not done away. "And thou shalt teach them **ordinances** and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do" Exodus 18:20. "Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine **ordinances**, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God" Leviticus 18:4. "And the statutes, and the **ordinances**, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods" 2 Kings 17:37. "If those **ordinances** depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever" Jeremiah 31:36. "That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine **ordinances**, and do them: and they shall

be my people, and I will be their God" Ezekiel 11:20. "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine **ordinances**, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts" Malachi 3:7. "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" Luke 1:6. "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the **ordinances**, as I delivered them to you" I Corinthians 11:2. Now let's look at the list of Feast days in Leviticus 23 where God has put them altogether. I will print the entire chapter here for your convenience.

1And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (notice that God gave this information to Moses and Moses is recording what God told him to say. It is not Moses' words of instructions; they are God's instructions.)

2Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations (sacred assembly) even these are my feasts (My dear friend, notice whose feasts these are, they are God's Feasts!).

3Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

4These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

5In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover.

6And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

7In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

8But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

9And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

10Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

11And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

12And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD.

13And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

14And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

15And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

16Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD.

17Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals; they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

18And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be for a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, even an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD.

19Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

20And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever (an ordinance forever by God, without end) in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

23And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

25Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

26And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

27Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

29For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.

30And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

31Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever (an ordinance forever by God, without end) throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

33And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

34Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

35On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.

36Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

37These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:

38Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.

39Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.

40And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

41And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever (an ordinance by God "forever", without end) in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

42Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

43That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

44And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD"
Leviticus 23. Here in Leviticus we see that God called them a "statue"
and in the verses in Exodus God called them an "ordinance" both words
meaning the same thing, they are a law of God.

Now back to the article where the writer used these verses in the N. T.,
quote, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was
contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" Colossians 2:14,
end of quote. Which ordinances was Paul talking about as he taught the
new converts? First we need to ask ourselves, who are the Colossians?

The people from Colosse or the Colossians were a Gentile people and
some were being called of God and had been grafted in to the Church of
God by being converted to Christianity. The problem at Colosse in
simple terms was that certain sects of the Jews called the Pharisees,
Sadducees and the Essenes, were teaching and promising believers
enjoyment of a higher spiritual life if they followed their teachings
through their philosophy and had ADDED their man-made "ordinances"
to the laws of God but they were teaching their laws or ordinances were as
binding as God's laws. The object of Paul's teachings was to counteract
their false teaching and preached that all things were to be found in
Christ. These sects of the Jews were also judging the body of Christ for
"eating and drinking" and observing the "feasts, New Moons, and
Sabbaths." In response, Paul commands the saints to "let no one judge
you...but the body of Christ," i.e. the Church itself, which was observing
these biblical holy days (Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 3:31). I think we
would agree it is no coincident that God called Paul, who, at one time
was a "Pharisee of the Pharisees", to teach and explain to the church at
Colosse the true teachings of Christ and to the new converts or Gentiles
at Colosse who had come from a pagan religion who had no knowledge of
the Sabbaths, Holydays or Laws of God.

It is an easy study in the Bible of what God thought of these sects of the
Jews who were adding to the truth of God and judging the body of
Christ. Here are some verses to get you started: Luke 7:29-30 where the
Pharisees rejected God's counsel by John the Baptist. Also Luke 15:1,
16:14-16, justify themselves before men. Matthew 12:1-7, 16;1-12,
claimed to be rulers but were ignorant of God's teachings. Mark7:1, 9-13,
Unwashed hands.

Now back to Colossians 2 which I have printed below for you so we can
study together from where the author quoted.

1For I (Paul) would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you (intense anxiety), and
for them at Laodicea (Colosse was near Laodicea), and for as many as have not seen my
face in the flesh;

2That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love (that we don't despise one another, put down one another or do evil to one another), and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding (certain confidence), to the acknowledgement (the correct knowledge) of the mystery of God (hidden from ungodly people), and of the Father, and of Christ (both of which are of the same mind and thought and purpose);

3In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (not in Greek philosophers, or Gentile pagan religions or in the added "ordinances" of the certain sects of the Jews, Paul is saying).

4And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words (persuasive words which would lead them astray from the truth of God and or lead them back into the pagan religion they had come out of. The sects of the Jews thought their "additions" to God's laws were great because it benefited them politically and monetarily etc.).

5For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit (the teaching he gave them from God, the word of God as it is spiritual), joying and beholding your order (your orderly arrangement), and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ (a solid foundation).

6As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him (don't worship a false God or false doctrine as you once walked but walk with the true God in obedience to His laws, don't add or take anything from what Christ teaches or listen to anyone who adds or takes away from truth of God.):

7Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught (not man's concept of Christ filled with fables and false doctrines of men), abounding therein with thanksgiving (don't complain about anything).

8Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit (people who are destitute of spiritual knowledge so "beware of the worldly philosophies" because they are not the truth of God), after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world (those sects of the Jews who had expanded and ADDED to the law of God and had placed equal reverence on what they had added as if it were God's laws), and not after Christ (hostile to the cause and teachings of Christ and if you follow them, Paul is implying you will be cheated out of eternal life).

9For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Paul is saying you will only find salvation in Christ Jesus). Why, because, read on?

10And ye are complete in him (as made known in the law and instructions of God to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises will bring about

fulfillment or made perfect and nothing else will), which is the head of all principality and power (follow only Christ and His teachings because He is the perfect Master):

11In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ (it is a life-long process, a way of life of putting off the filthy garment of sin, burying the old way of life of false doctrines, lawlessness, the disobedient way of one's former life which was contrary to God and His teachings):

12Buried with him in baptism (Paul is saying, you came out of the water), wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh (before you repented and were baptized), hath he quickened together with him (by Christ's spirit now made alive), having forgiven you all trespasses (now that you begin to walk in the ways of God's Laws willingly);

14Blotting out (washing away, erasing your sins, totally forgiven) the handwriting of ordinances (those ADDED ORDINANCES of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes to the law of God of which they had placed equal reverence on as if it were God's laws) that was against us (you see, dear friend, WHAT THE SECTS OF THE JEWS HAD ADDED TO GOD'S LAWS WAS AGAINST THEM BECAUSE IT ADDED BURDENS TO THE PEOPLE WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO GOD'S "LAWS OF LIBERTY", James 1:25. PLEASE REALIZE GENTILE PEOPLE NEVER KNEW THE LAWS OF GOD PRIOR TO CONVERSION SO THEY WERE NEVER UNDER THE LAW. THEY NEVER KNEW BEFORE CONVERSION ABOUT GOD'S SABBATHS AND HOLY DAYS AND SO PAUL SAYS,) which was contrary to us (THE ADDED ORDINANCES WHICH THEY HAD ADDED WAS CONTRARY TO THEM BECAUSE THEIR ADDED ORDINANCES WOULD NOT LEAD THEM TO SALVATION AS GOD'S ORDINANCES WOULD, Galatians 3:24), and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (THE GUILTY VERDICT OF SIN WAS AGAINST THEM FOR WE ARE NOT TO ADD OR TAKE AWAY FROM WHAT GOD SAYS, REVELATION 22:18, 19. ALL OF GOD'S LAWS, STATUTES, AND ORDINANCES ARE PERFECT. THERE WAS A DEBT THAT MUST BE PAID FOR THE BIBLE SAYS, "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH". YOU SEE CHRIST TOOK THE PENALTY AS HE WAS NAILED TO THE STAKE AND "BECAME THE CURSE" THE BIBLE SAYS Galatians 3:13);

15And having spoiled (totally removed, totally forgiven) principalities and powers (Christ removed their added ordinances), he made a shew of them openly (exposed their guilt), triumphing over them in it (triumphed with great success). Therefore, Paul is saying,

16Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days (Paul is telling these once pagan but now converted people now that you have gotten into the Church of God and know the truth of God, don't let people judge you or condemn you except for the body of Christ in what you eat and drink or in the observance of a Sabbath or a holy day or new moon. Paul is saying, let the laws of God, His ordinances teach you what is truth and what is not.) Why did Paul preach this, because, read on?

17Which are a shadow of things to come (THE HOLYDAYS AND SABBATHS ARE A SHADOW OR AN OUTLINE OR A SIGN, OR SYMBOLIC OF THINGS TO COME BECAUSE THEY EXPLAIN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL MANKIND AND BECAUSE THE ENTIRE PLAN OF SALVATION IS NOT COMPLETE, THEY ARE STILL IN FORCE AND THE BIBLE SAYS "FOREVER" REMEMBER IN LEVITICUS 23?); but the body is of Christ (please note that the word "is" is in italics in the Bible so it was added by the translators so should read, "but the body of Christ").

18Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels (don't let anyone defraud you of your prize by leading you to angel worship which was another false ordinance the above sects of the Jews tried to teach), intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind ("in vain do they worship Me teaching for doctrines THE COMMANDMENTS of men" Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7).

19And not holding the Head (he who does not hold Christ and His teachings solely and supremely above all others, does not hold Him at all), from which (from whom) all the body by joints and bands (faith, love and peace from God are the spiritual bands which knit "together in love" vs. 2) having nourishment ministered (or supplied to it continually by Christ), and knit together (or compacted or firmly consolidated together), increaseth with the increase of God (the author and sustainer of a believer's spiritual life, in union with Christ, the "Head" of the true church. Remember, "One Lord, one baptism, one faith (doctrine) one God one in all and above all" Ephesians 4:5. All must hold Christ and His teachings and laws and ordinances supreme above all else).

20Wherefore if ye be dead (symbolized in baptism, so as to be freed, forgiven and deemed not guilty from the added ordinances of man which was sin) with Christ from the rudiments of the world (carnel, worldly man-made ordinances, vs. 8), why, as though living in the world (why are you living as though you were back in the world), are ye subject to ordinances (why are you subjecting yourselves to these man-made added ordinances which were "blotted out and nailed to the cross", vs. 14),

21Touch not; taste not; handle not (here Paul lists some of the ordinances which they had added to God's perfect ordinances. They were superstitious ordinances which is Satanic as in "handle not", "taste not" "nor even touch"; these three of course were referring to meats and now read the next verse),

22Which all are to perish with the using (the man-made "ordinances" of "touched", "tasted" and "handled" are to perish by their very nature, therefore they cannot defile a man, Matthew 15:18) after (or according to the commandments and doctrines of men (all those ordinances are "doctrines and commandments of men", in contrast to God's laws and ordinances which are divinely made and will last forever; they will never perish. You see, dear friend, God's Sabbaths and Holy Days which we read are to be an "holy convocation forever" are of God not man; they will never perish.)

23Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh (Paul is saying the man-made ordinances are having or implying they are permanent and he is telling them this is invented worship devised by man's own will, not God's will and is intended to appear as wanting to do more than God requires but in actuality are setting aside God's will for man's will and does not honor the "body of Christ" because it confuses the truth of God by self-imposed ordinances.), Colossians 2.

So in conclusion of Ephesians 2 and of Colossians 2, we have learned that the "ordinances which were blotted out were man-made ordinances which were ADDED to God's ordinances and "were against them" and Paul is saying don't submit yourselves to these man-made ordinances which you were forgiven of by Christ taking the penalty of death upon Him as He was "nailed to the cross", not God's holy righteous laws and ordinances.

The author continued in the article and I quote, "It is no wonder that Paul spoke in no uncertain words, as we read in Galatians 4:9-11, "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain". Did you notice the words days, months, times, and years". The author says this is referring to the ceremonial Sabbaths, the new moons, the festivals and their appointed feasts. Paul is actually questioning whether or not he had labored in vain to prove to the Christians that Christ had fulfilled all these ceremonies", end of quote from article. I have printed the chapter below for your convenience.

First we have to ask ourselves, who were the Galatians? They were heathens who worshiped pagan Gods which was laced with folklore, myths and legend worship and just like the pagan people from Colosse whom we just discussed in Colossians 2, never knew of the truth of God, His Sabbaths, or Holy Days or New Moons and had NEVER observed them. Like we studied chapter 2 of Colossians, let's now take a look into Galatians 4 and this information will help us to understand what Paul is telling the new converts to Christianity.

1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant (has no more freedom than a slave to make decisions about one's life), though he be lord of all (because he has someone in authority over him)

2 But is under tutors and governors (guardians) until the time appointed of the father.

3 Even so we (Jew and at one time Gentile believers), when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world (the basic foundational elements of the culture we came out of. For the Galatians it was paganism and false gods etc. For some of the sects of the Jews as we have discussed above it was the "added ordinances" and "doctrines of men" they tried to make appear as being divinely inspired but put a burden on any who adhered to them.):

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the (subject to the) law Why? read on

5 To redeem (rescue) them that were under the (penalty of the law which is death, remember the law said "the wages of sin is death") law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (actual sonship by going through God's plan of salvation we discussed on the first page.).

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father (when one is called of God and repents of their sins and is baptized and by the laying on of hands, receives God's spirit which is the "earnest of your inheritance" Ephesians 1:13, 14), then, read on.

7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son (a real son, not adopted but as in a family relationship). The Bible says, "If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His" Romans 8:9); and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (a literal heir of God).

8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God (were pagan Gentiles and worshipped false Gods), ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements (of paganism), whereunto ye desire again to

be in bondage (Paul is saying to them, why are you turning back again to the false gods that are not Gods. You see as we have discussed, they did not know of God's Sabbaths and Holy Days so they never had observed them and so could not have returned to them as the author indicated and besides God's Holy Days and Sabbaths were not "weak and beggarly elements" because they were the truth of the real God which are centered around Christ and point to Christ before and after His death and reveal the plan of salvation as we shall discuss later).

10 (Paul continued, why do you want to go back where) Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years (the Galatians had many pagan days of false gods they worshipped and were filled with superstition, myths and legends of folklore. It is easy to look up their pagan beliefs.).

11 I am afraid of you (my fear is for your sake not mine Paul is saying), lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

12 Brethren, I beseech you (I urge you), be as I am (to become like me and worship and obey the true God forsaking all others); for I am as ye are: ye have not injured me at all.

13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first (have I since then, since that time that I first preached the Truth unto you, become your enemy by telling you the truth).

14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus (had received him as a messenger of God).

15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of (once you counted yourselves blessed in being favored with my ministry but consider how you have veered off course)? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me (that's how much you once valued the true message of God I had delivered to you. You would have torn out your own eyes to give to me).

16 Am I therefore become your enemy (in your eyes), because I tell you the truth?

17 They zealously affect you (your false prophets who tell you lies to pull you back in to paganism), but not well (they do not effect you well); yea, they would exclude you (Don't you see that they want to pull you back so you won't be a part of the kingdom of God and they want you to become once again followers of them), that ye might affect them.

18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing (Paul is saying, I do not find fault with them for zealously courting you, nor with you for

being zealously courted provided it be "in a good cause" for then it is a good thing but my reason for saying "but not well" is that their zealous courting of you is not for a good cause), and not only when I am present with you (Paul is saying he won't always be around and that they will do it in my absence to pull you away from your reward of eternal life).

19My little children (he cared and had love for them like a father), of whom I travail (labored) in birth again until Christ be formed in you (I am worried like a mother in pain until the birth of her child until Christ is formed in you through His truth, His teachings, His laws, that you will go back to false teachings.),

20I desire to be present with you now (Paul is telling them if circumstances permitted he would like to be with them all the time to guide and teach them the way of Christ), and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you (Paul is saying he is perplexed about them and concerned and what kind of words to use on them to turn them back to God. Should he use gentle or severe to bring you all back to the right path, the path of life).

21Tell me, ye that desire to be under the (penalty of the) law, do ye not hear the law (are you turning back to your former way of worshipping false Gods filled with rituals of myths and legends and superstitions because you do not understand what the law is saying that the law "... is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ" Galatians 3:24?). Then Paul goes to another subject for more explanation to the people.

22For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid (the Galatians, instead of living their life in Christ were returning to doing it on their own as Abraham and Hagar had done Paul is saying), the other by a freewoman.

23But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh (born by man's efforts as Abraham and Hagar); but he of the freewoman was by promise (was by God).

24Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants (Paul is saying which is symbolic of the two covenants); the one from the mount Sinai (when one committed a crime under the first covenant, you died. the new covenant had grace and mercy added and Paul is saying in other words don't go back and choose what they had done and only live by the letter of the law but to live by both the letter and spiritual intent of the law. Now in the new covenant there was no stoning or lashes but forgiveness upon repentance of sinning. Paul is saying it is not whether the law is still in effect but the ADMINISTRATION of the law changed. Remember Christ said, "I came not to do away with the law but to fulfill it and He said, "23Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and

cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" Matthew 23:23. In another place Christ said, "17Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" Matthew 5:17. What "law" was Christ referring to, the first five books of the Bible, Strong's #3551.

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" Matthew 5:17,18 and God's holy Days and Sabbaths are part of this law. Paul is saying but the other covenant that you Galatians are trying to go back to is) which gendereth to bondage (they added 613 ordinances because of their disobedience but Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did not add to or take away from God's laws; they had freedom because they lived in obedience to the law of God which we just read is a "law of liberty" when we walk and live in it not disobedient to God's laws.) which is Agar (which is like Hagar in Hebrew). You can read the few remaining verses of this chapter on your own.

Now the author talked about the sacrifices. Quote, "We must not overlook the additional fact that these feast days were not to be kept by today's Christians, for animal sacrifices were an integral part of these ceremonies, and such animal sacrifices pointed to the Lamb of God who was to die on Calvary. God has made it very clear that animal sacrifices and ordinances (or feast days) all ended, when in the earthly sanctuary service the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom, as we read in Matthew 27:51. No Christian in our day who truly believes in the salvation brought by Christ's sacrifice on the cross will keep the ceremonial laws of the feasts and sacrifices" end of quote.

The above statement is totally false. If the above statement were true, the weekly Sabbath would be cancelled also because they did sacrifices on every day of the week and that is why they were called the "daily sacrifices".

Now we need to discuss the sacrifices and see what Christ says about the sacrifices.

LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

What was the purpose of the sacrifices? They were added because of sin. The sacrifices were a lesson on how the "spiritual temple" was being constructed in each person. The sacrifices of an animal represented the spiritual intent of the person because it symbolized bringing himself totally to God and being totally submissive to Him and His instructions. But if they did not bring the sacrifice before God with a sincere heart, He would not accept it. Remember Paul said, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my **body** to be **burned**, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" I Corinthians 13:3.

All the sacrifices brought before God was an act of faith that He would accept them. We do the same thing now though with no physical sacrifice when we come before God with a repentant, sincere heart. Christ doesn't repent for us, we must repent which is a physical act as we pray out to God and ask for the forgiveness of our sins. When we are sincere in our repentance, God is pleased and forgives us and our prayer has a sweet sent to it. So the process has not changed, just a different administration of the same principle.

Another symbol of the sacrifices was the lamb; it was perfect and innocent yet the lesson taught was that it took the shed blood of the innocent to cover the sins of the guilty. Now by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ the perfect sacrifice and without sin, our sins can be removed as He paid the penalty in our stead but we must repent of sin, the breaking of God's law and accept His sacrifice of His shed blood for us.

With the above in mind the Levitical Priesthood, the Bible tells us was our "schoolmaster", our tutor, and teacher. We don't throw our teachers away, we refer back to them. What happened to the Levitical Priesthood? It was **changed (Strong's, G3331, metathesis, transferal to heaven)** to the Heavenly or divine Priesthood. "For the priesthood being changed (Strong's, G3331, metathesis, transferal to heaven), there is made of necessity a change also of the law (a change of any law which pertained to the priesthood, from Levitical to divine)", Hebrew 7:12. Also remember, and I am sorry for repeating myself, but "not one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" Matthew 5:18.

The last six books of the book of Ezekiel tells us when the temple is rebuilt, on each Sabbath and new moon as well as the feast days the sacrifices will be reinstated. Why? Because of the great valuable spiritual lesson taught by them which, when reinstated in the future will, continue to point to Christ.

What can we do now for God's holy days, weekly and annual Sabbaths still remain a "**Memorial**" day, a celebration day, a day for sacrifices and we have now learned it is an "**ordinance forever**"?

Answer, We are the Temple of God, we contain His spirit and we are to present ourselves as a "**living sacrifice**" before God. **Why?** Because we are the "**Firstfruits**" unto God taught to us at Pentecost and the "Firstfruits" were always offered first, II Corinthians 8:5. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God** (from this spiritual temple, God wants us to, "**Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance**", Matthew 3:8,; we willingly offer/sacrifice ourselves, our time, prayer, caring, giving/dedicating our life to Him for He controls us, we do what He wants), which is your reasonable service... that ye may prove what is that good, and **acceptable (sacrifice)**, and perfect, will of God", Romans 12:1-2.

Along with "fruits meet for repentance", the Bible tells us what God means by "acceptable sacrifices" one can offer to Him. "By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise to God continually**, that is, the **fruit of our lips giving thanks** (declare openly, fully, voluntarily as a "Trumpet" of God) **to his name. But to do good** (praise and do well) **and to communicate** (G2844, intimate worship as in a husband and wife relationship, also uniting God's people and God together intimately) **forget not** (remember, memorialize): **for with such sacrifices God is well pleased**", Hebrews 13:15-17.

We can surely agree the sacrifices were always symbolic of a spiritual relationship with God; symbolic of the spiritual intent of what was from the heart or symbolic of ourselves.

Continuing with "Acceptable Sacrifices, "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. **"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise"**, Psalm 51:15-17. (This was the very purpose of the sacrifices; they are meaningless if one's heart is not sincerely repentant. The Bible says if we come before God as a "living sacrifice" and have evil or hatred against anyone, God hates it; it is worthless for we are the same as a murderer, John 3:15). The animal sacrifices of taking and killing an innocent lamb with no guilt of the sin upon it, was to make the sinner realize how much Christ hated sin because sin causes death and that there had to be blood shed for the covering/forgiveness of sin. So therefore when we come before God on the Sabbath or annual Holy Day as a "Living Sacrifice" we are "renewing", our thankfulness, gratitude to Christ, the perfect sacrificial Lamb, who had no guilt of sin upon Him yet who willingly gave His life for us that we might have eternal life!!! Could there be anything greater to "Memorialize"!

Continuing on about "acceptable sacrifices", God tells us, "Take with you words (empty professions), and turn to the LORD (with heartfelt sincerity): say unto him, take away all iniquity (lawlessness), and receive us graciously (instead of sacrifices of calves which we cannot offer), we will render (present) the **calves of our lips**", Hosea 14:2. ("...therefore will I offer in his tabernacle **sacrifices** of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing **praises** unto the LORD" Psalm 27:6.) This is what God wants from His people everyday but we are to "Memorialize" them on the Sabbaths and Feast days.

Also, "To whom coming (drawing near to God by faith), as unto a living stone (the true foundation-stone, rock, our only source of eternal life), disallowed (rejected) indeed of men (because they do not hold the truth nor understanding), but chosen of God (the elect, those "called of God"), and precious (in contrast to those who reject His calling), Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up a spiritual house** (the Holy Temple of God where God's spirit dwells in an intimate relationship), **an holy priesthood** ("a royal priesthood", God's people, consecrated to God, are the dwelling place of God, He in us and we in Him established at

Passover/baptism), **to offer up spiritual sacrifices** (first ourselves in "repentance", remember we are the "**firstfruits**" of the "harvest to come" and the "firstfruits" were always given to God first, II Corinthians 8:5, Revelation 14:4 followed by prayers, thanks, praise, alms and deeds offered up), **acceptable** to God by Jesus Christ", I Peter 2:4, 5. Why are we to do this? "ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; **that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness (of death) into his marvellous light (His truth)', I Peter 2:9.**

Now why do I write all of the above to you? The following information will tell you why. I want to leave you with the Plan of Salvation we talked about on the first page and how God lays it out for His followers in His Holy Days, the Holy Days the author said was cancelled. You will see the "path of life" David talked about and the "path of life" all disciples of God took as a sincere follower of Christ.

The author of the article also said that God's Feast days are always on different days of the year. This is not true. The Sabbath is always on the 7th day of the week, the Spring Holy Days always begin on the evening of the 14th day of the first month and the Fall Holy Days always begin on the first day of the 7th month Leviticus 23. Because the culture we live in uses the Roman calendar instead of God's sacred calendar, it just APPEARS to be on different days each year. Now, finally, to God's Plan of Salvation revealed through God's Holy Days.

GOD'S HOLY DAYS

The deception surrounding God's Holy Days are that we do not need to keep them Holy and many say this includes 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 are the "ordinances which were against us, nailing it to the cross" Colossians 2 and that the Holy Days ended with the sacrificial system. God says, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth the whole world**" Revelation 12:9.

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.

Yet there are many of God's people who do not fall for these deceptions. God calls His people a "peculiar people", which means they are of great value to Him. When He calls us to the Truth of God, He removes 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, and 1519. The

Bible tells us to “Hold fast”, to keep carefully and faithfully, cherishing this great calling, Revelation 3:11.

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.

What then is the purpose of man? In the first book of the Bible God tells us “Let us make man in our image”, Genesis 1:26. In another place the Bible says, “... if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant (an agreement between God and man), then ye shall be a peculiar treasure (very special) unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation” Exodus 19:5-6.

Do you think God would tell us this and then never reveal or show His people the way to become like Him or to become a King? The answer is no. 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 Timothy 1:9, Genesis 1:26).

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.

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) as sacred assemblies” Leviticus 23:2, 44.

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.

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" Leviticus 23:21, 31, 41. "Forever" means with out end, everlasting. God's Holy Days will last forever just like the Bible says.

While there is much to write about each Holy Day, for now we will take a take a brief look at each one and the reader will see how God's plan of Salvation is revealed in them.

The first Holy Day or Feast day is the weekly Sabbath. The weekly Sabbath day pictures the first step in God's Plan of Salvation for it pictures the "calling and sanctifying" of His people. "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" Exodus 31:13. "And hallow my **sabbaths**; and they shall be a **sign** between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God" Ezekiel 20:12, 20.

The word Sabbath means to "stop" and "Feast" means to "circle around". 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 Timothy 3:15. The weekly Sabbath Day is not a day of business as usual or pleasure as usual.

Once one has been called of God and "counted the cost" of following Him, the next step in God's Plan of Salvation is repentance. All of God's annual Sabbaths or Holy Days are attached to the harvests. In the springtime harvest there are three annual observances. The first observance is a memorial to Passover, (which the world has wrongly changed to Easter), the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. Lets take a look at how each one teaches us God's plan of salvation.

Passover pictures the next step in God's Plan of Salvation because Passover pictures **repentance** which means to be deeply sorry for our sins which brought God, our Father, to offer His son as the perfect sacrifice as the Lamb of God and took became sin so that all might have eternal life. We are saying, "Christ is our Passover who was sacrificed for us" I Corinthians 5:7. It would be a good idea to go back to page 3 and re-read what I have discussed about repentance.

Days of Unleavened Bread pictures the next step in God's Plan of Salvation because it pictures being cleansed of sin through **baptism** as we symbolically "bury" false doctrines and lawlessness which led to death. Now the penalty of death (2nd death) is removed. 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 "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.

Now repented and cleansed of sin, **Pentecost** pictures the next step in God's Plan of Salvation. Pentecost pictures receiving of God's spirit, which 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, Revelation 20:6. God's spirit is what gives us the power to overcome Satan and sin as we live in this world. God gives His spirit only to those who obey Him.

In the fall of the year at “harvest time”, picturing the “end of the world (age)”, Matthew 13:39, come the remaining annual Holy Days which picture the REWARD time for God's people, His “firstfruits”.

The annual Holy Day called the **Memorial of the Blowing of Trumpets** or **The Feast of Trumpets** is the next step in God's Plan of Salvation. **It is the very next event to happen in God's plan for this world!** The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial or reminder for God's people of a future time, the "harvest time" or the "gathering" of His people, His "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, Revelation 11:15! As you can see the Feast of Trumpets observance is mostly prophetic as it 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, I Corinthians 15:50-52, I Thessalonians 4:17, Matthew 24:31, Revelation 20:6. It is symbolic of the smaller of the two “harvests” for God's people, Exodus 23:16, Luke 12:32, Revelation 14:4. The Feast of Trumpets pictures the time called, “The Day of the Lord”, Joel 2:11, 31.

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.

When will Christ return? The Bible says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign (the trumpet blast) of the Son of man in heaven" Matthew 24:29-30.

The Bible tells us a great deal about this last trumpet which signals the return of Jesus Christ to this earth known. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first (1st resurrection) Then we which are alive and remain shall

be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

In another place the Bible says, "Behold, I show you a mystery...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (imperishable) and we shall be changed" (born again" to immortal spirit beings, unable to die just like Christ)" John 3:6, I Corinthians 15:51-52, I John 3:2.

In another place, the Bible says, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather (remember the "trumpet" was used to "gather" His people) together his elect (His "called and chosen" people) from the four winds, ...Matthew 24:31. Who are the "elect" spoken of in this verse? We have discussed this above what the Bible says, "No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him..." John 6:44. We as God's creation do not play a part in WHO God calls but we do have a part in IF we answer His call. The Bible say, "...many are called but few chosen (few choose to follow God or obey His teachings, will you?)" Matthew 22:14.

The next Holy Day is the **Day of Atonement** which pictures the next step in God's Plan of Salvation. It is a fast day not a feast or eating day. The Day of Atonement is the most solemn annual Sabbath day and symbolizes a time the entire world will be **cleansed of sin and deception** as God places sin on Satan, the author of sin and removes him along with all the deception from the earth. The Bible says, "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," Revelation 20:1-2 (Satan will no longer be able to deceive mankind).

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. Finally the prophesied Kingdom of God will be established on earth, Revelation 20:1-3, Zechariah 14:4, 9.

The detailed ceremony in ancient Israel on the Day of Atonement showed the necessity for Christ's sacrifice to atone or cover the sins of man. The Bible says, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation (Christ's shed blood makes the forgiveness of sin possible) for our sin" I John 2:2, 4:10, Romans 3:25. Why, because "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to forgive or cleanse us of our sins, Hebrews 10:4.

Now Jesus Christ is our High Priest and resides in the true Holy of Holies at the side of God our Father. There He makes intercession or presents our sincere request for the forgiveness of sins to God on a daily basis.

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 known 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.

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, Revelation 20:4. Finally a time of peace for the entire world as God, with justice and mercy, enforces His law from Jerusalem; the law which was established at creation. 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 in God's Holy Days and all will be observing them, Zechariah 14:16.

The "booths" spoken of in Leviticus 23, were temporary dwelling places. For God's people today, these "temporary dwellings or booths" are symbolic of our human physical bodies for they are only a temporary "tabernacle or booth", a temporary dwelling place where God's spirit resides.

As we have discussed, when one repents, is baptized and receives God's spirit, (pictured by the Spring Holy Days, Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost), God unites His life-giving spirit with our human spirit to become the "new creature (creation) in Christ" inside this human physical tabernacle or temporary dwelling place. Yes, Christ, the God who has done great wonders, who made the heavens, the sun to rule the day, the moon and stars by night, the one who with His strong arm brought Israel out of the land of Egypt which typified sin and called us out of the bondages of the sin of this world; The God who divided the Red Sea and led His people through the wilderness, who fed them, the very God who leads His own on the "Path of life" today, the God, when at the sound of a trumpet blast (Feast of Trumpets) will return to earth and remove Satan and all evil from the earth (Atonement) will set up His government with the headquarters at Jerusalem (Zion) and He will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Zechariah 8:3, 7, 8, 14, Revelation 11:15.

Finally, after one last battle, "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" Zechariah 14:1-3, from Jerusalem His laws of justice and mercy and love which were established at creation will be enforced for all mankind and of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, Is. 2:3, Zecariah 14, Isaiah 9:7. It is a time of great rejoicing for God's people for

God's plan and purpose of mankind will be fulfilled for those called now. Finally having shed the physical tabernacle/booth, we will be like Him, a spiritual member of the family of God, I Corinthians 15:40-49, I John 3:2.

What will life be like in the Kingdom of God under God's government? The Bible says, "Peace shall flow like a river", there shall be comfort and tranquility for all, there will be no more war", Isaiah 66:12, Micah 4:3-4. In another place we are told, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They (all the animals mentioned in the previous verses) shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth (not heaven) shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD (God's plan of salvation), as the waters cover the sea" Isaiah 11:6-9.

Hunger and starvation will be totally wiped off the face of the earth. "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains (hill country) shall drop (drip with) sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt (figuratively to flow with new wine from the bountiful yield of grapes). And ... my people ...shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" Amos 9:13, 14. I hope we all want to be farmers for that is what we will be once again.

For now, "Hold fast" in our hearts God's promises for our children. "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children (no more "Amber Alerts" or abuse etc.) Isaiah 54:13. "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders;...Isaiah 60:18.

Do you like to camp and sleep out in the woods? "And I will make cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods", Ezekiel 34:25. There are numerous other places in our Bible which describe this wonderful time we look forward to for this is the Kingdom we are told to pray for, Matt. 6:10. Is it any wonder it will be the greatest celebration for all will be PERFECT "For the LORD shall comfort Zion (Jerusalem): he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden (Garden of Eden), and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody", Isaiah 51:3.

At the end of the 1000 years is the 7th annual Holy Day, called the **Last Great Day in the N. T. or the "eighth day" in the O. T.** picturing the **2nd resurrection** Revelation 20:5. This is the second greater "harvest" and is referred to as the "Great white throne judgment", Revelation 20:11-15. This Holy 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.

This great multitude numbering in the billions who will be resurrected will live on this earth and will receive a lifespan of 100 years, Isaiah 65:20-25, Ezekiel 37 and will reap the benefits and blessings of an earth renewed which will have been under the rule of God for 1000 years. The Last Great Day symbolizes the completion of God's plan for mankind and now we realize that all of God's Holy Days have a meaning and a purpose in His plan of Salvation that is why it is referred to as the "Path of Life".

What happens after the Last Great Day? After the Last Great Day (100 yrs.) and the destruction of the incorrigibly wicked Revelation 20:14, Satan and His demons will be as "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars (they should have been a bright light for they were God's angels at one time but now are bad angels), to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" (they will not die for they are spirit beings but will be tormented in darkness forever) Jude 13.

And finally the New Jerusalem which is described in Revelation 21, 22 will come down to the earth. "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" Revelation 21:3-6.

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

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", Revelation 3:21.

Do we see and understand why Satan wants to deceive people into believing that God's Holy Days are done away? Satan does not want anyone to be a follower of Jesus Christ much less be obedient to Him. 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 Feasts.

Now one last thought, how do we know if we are being called? If you understand anything you have read here, you are being called of God and need to make some decisions and changes in lifestyle. Changes which will bring about eternal life and a change that will put one in the first resurrection, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years". Revelation 20:6.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart:
try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any
wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
Psalm 139:23, 24*

AS ALWAYS, FROM THE HEART, B. R. B.

LETTER NUMBER TWO

Dear Seventh Day Adventist Friend,

I will do my best to answer your comments/questions. Your first comment about "I have heard these arguments before, as I am sure you have heard mine". I want you to know I do not argue about religion. I want to do God's will and I realize the entire world does not agree on religion but I want you to know I appreciate that you are willing to discuss it. I do not judge you or anyone for what they choose to believe but I want say that one of us on judgment day is going to be told by God that "... **I never knew** you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)" Matthew 7:23 because we are of two different beliefs and as we know that is not how it is going to be in God's Kingdom. It is going to be His way of life which is the one I seek and I think you do also. But God is the only one who can change any individual's heart, not either of us.

Then you said quote, "you said you read the paper I sent. I believe you, so then why could you not see that the feast days were also called ordinances??" end of quote. If you look on page 8 and 9 of my letter you will see where I discuss the subject of ordinances. In case you have thrown my first letter away, I have reprinted below what I said about the scriptures the author of the article you sent me said on the subject of ordinances and my comments on them also below. The biggest confusion is distinguishing god's ordinances from mans ordinances which "will perish"; God's ordinances stand forever. Below is what I wrote you previously.

First we must ask the question, what is an "ordinance" for the author says they are "feast days"? I have printed the verses the writer was referring to concerning the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread which he said was done away because they were an "ordinance". "4And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever" (forever means with out end, everlasting, Strong's H5769) 17And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever (forever means without end, everlasting). 43And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:" Exodus 12:14, 17, 43.

The author continued, "6Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. 7Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters. 8And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. 9And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. 10Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance (law, vs. 9) in his season from year to year" Exodus 13:6-10. Please note that the word, "ordinance" in the above scriptures means a statue or an everlasting law of God (without end) Strong's H2708. Remember God's word is spiritual as we read earlier, it gives life!

Here is what God tells us about HIS ordinances; I think you will agree "His ordinances" are not done away. "And thou shalt teach them **ordinances** and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do" Exodus 18:20. "Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine **ordinances**, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God" Leviticus 18:4. "And the statutes, and the **ordinances**, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods" II Kings 17:37. "If those **ordinances** depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever" Jeremiah 31:36. "That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine **ordinances**, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God" Ezekiel 11:20. "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine **ordinances**, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts" Malachi 3:7. "6And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" Luke 1:6. "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the **ordinances**, as I delivered them to you" I Corinthians 11:2.

You asked why I could not see that the feast days were also called ordinances, referring to 2 Chronicles 2:4 and 2 Chronicles 8:12, 13. I have printed these verses below.

2 Chronicles 2:4 - 4Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread,

and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

2 Chronicles 8:12, 13 - 12Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

13Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

The author in the article you sent me said, quote, "This scripture clearly identifies that the solemn feasts were called ordinances; therefore, they were all nailed to the cross, having been abolished by the death of Christ", end of quote.

Like I said you are both confusing man's ordinances with God's ordinances thinking they were BOTH done away but please re-read the entire chapters in Ephesians 2 and Colossians 2 once again from your Bible, not the few verses that the author used, and you will see in these chapters that the subject is NOT about God's ordinances. In Colossians 2:22 it says "after the commandments and doctrines of men". I would suggest reading the entire book of Ephesians which is six chapters and the entire book of Colossians but at least please re-read the entire chapters and you will see the verses in Colossians 2 the author used are incorrect because the subject is "JUDGING anyone who does God's Holy Days" not about doing away with God's Holy Days. And the subject in Ephesians 2 where the author used what he said was "nailed to the cross" is "enmity" or hatred against Christ 15Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: This verse makes it clear that vs.15 above is talking about "enmity" or sin which was against Christ. Paul in Ephesians is talking to the Gentiles on how they should take their conversion seriously and not go back to their former sinful ways and that we are ALL saved by the same way, vs. 18. Read also 2 Timothy 1:10 "10But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death (on the tree Christ paid the penalty of death if we repent and are baptized and receive His spirit and of course He is speaking about the 2nd death here), and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. In Colossians 2, Paul is telling the Gentiles, you have received Christ now walk in Him and not to be sidetracked through philosophy and vain deceit of the world and not to go back under the ordinances of men that were against us and let no man JUDGE you in respect to a Sabbath or Holy Day. How could it mean any other thing?

How do you (dear friend) handle the following verses, "17Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" 18For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:17-19? Matthew 5:17-19 are words which Christ spoke; the chapters in Ephesians 2 and Colossians 2 can't possibly be doing away with God's Holy days and Law. Like I said, remember the Ten Commandments are part of this Law you and the author say is done away yet you say the Ten Commandments are not done away, how can we pick and choose the parts of God's Law we want to keep? The Lawgiver can only change or abolish parts of His Law not man.

Also, after Christ returns to this earth we are all going to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and He tells what is going to happen to those who do not keep His Feast during the 1000 year reign of Christ. Please read Zechariah 14.

Please realize the 7th day Sabbath typifies the Feast of Tabernacles, the 1000 year reign of Christ. He gives us 6 days to go about our business but the 7th day is not business or pleasure as usual but a rest day and worship day to God. Using this analogy, He gives our world 6000 years to show us we cannot govern ourselves without Him and the final 1000 years are His "rest". Please read, "10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest" Hebrews 3:10-11, Also Hebrews 3:18, 4:1, 3, 5, 10, 11 and Psalm 95:11.

You went on to say, quote, "the word forever was used in the statement God gave about the Jews being His chosen people forever, I Chronicles 17:22 also, but that ended in 31 A. D. when they crucified Christ and later in 34 A. D. at the stoning of Stephen when Saul/Paul took the gospel to the gentiles and a new way was offered for salvation". This is not true, dear friend, because here is what Paul said, "22Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come" Acts 26:22. Try to keep in mind the Law of God was never "against us"; on the contrary the Law is a blessing when we walk in it as Paul said, "12Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good", Romans 7:12. He said, "I delight in the law..." vs. 22, he said, "13(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" Romans 2:13. There is only one way of salvation taught in both the O. T. and the N. T. and I discuss this a bit later in this letter.

The other misunderstanding here is that The Hebrew nation or Israel was composed of 12 tribes one of which was the tribe of Judah and will always be His chosen people or His bride. The Bible teaches us that the ten northern tribes took the name Israel and the southern two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, took the name Judah. As long as there is a universe, they, all twelve tribes, and they are scattered all over the world, will be His people not just the Jews and we will see the marriage ended at Christ's death but not His covenant. Read Jeremiah 30, 31, 33 and you will see the covenant is still binding forever. Also read Ezekiel 16:60-63 where it says, "60Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth (when He married them at Mt. Sinai), and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

61Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

62And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:

63That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD" (Remember God said they were worse than Sodom and Gomorrah. No matter how far down they go, God does not forsake them; even though the marriage ended when He died because THEY ended it, the covenant did not end. He will "31Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant (a new marriage covenant) with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah (when they are all united once again).

32Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel (talking about the entirety of the nation after they are united); After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God (or Husband because He will remarry them, remember the "marriage supper of the Lamb"?), and they shall be my people (My wife). How does He "put it in their minds or hearts"? By teaching His doctrine, His laws as all will be living it in the 1000 yr. reign and when all hunger and thirst for Him will become like Him).

34And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me (now the majority in the world does not know God, they think they do but they only know bits and pieces and there is no intimacy because it is mixed with false doctrine and false Gods), from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (When will He

do this? read Ezekiel 20:34-37 where it says, "34And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out (Why is He furious, because His bride rejected His laws or changed them and many times did away with them and still do to this day.).

35And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face (to all the false leaders and people, He will be on this earth doing it just like He did at Mt. Sinai).

36Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

37And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant" (the new marriage covenant as He delivers them out of the tribulation; this is when many will finally turn to Him. I would highly recommend reading the entire chapter of Ezekiel 20.)

The new marriage covenant is happening now on a very small scale and is understood in the "firstfruits" which is taught in the Spring Holy Day of Pentecost. Christ is calling only His bride now. Below are some other verses to show that God's part of the covenant is still binding for He will never forsake His people.

8But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers..., 9Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations (meaning forever); Deuteronomy 7:8-9

7He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. 8He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations Psalm 105:7-8.

50And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation . 51He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54He hath helped his servant Israel, (why?) in remembrance of his mercy; 55As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever (The covenant made with Abraham and passed on to Isaac and Jacob whose name was later changed to Israel who is His bride, His love has never left them) Luke 1:50-55.

In the same chapter it says, 72To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73The oath which he swore to our father Abraham, 74That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear (God is willing to forgive if we repent) Luke 1:72-

74 and numerous other references in both the O. T. and N. T.) You will see how they provoked Him and I would recommend you read the entire chapter of Psalm 106 yet "43Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. 44Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: 45And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies Psalm 106:43-45.

Then you mentioned Jude 7 where you said, quote, "an eternal fire in Sodom and Gomorrah. But it is ashes today. It means until the end of the city and it is an forever end", end of quote.

That is not what the verse says; I have printed the entire verse below. 7Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

In this verse God is saying Sodom and Gomorrah are "an example" of how people who reject God and His teachings will be "eternally" separated from God forever by fire. We know this is what it means because from the prophet Ezekiel Sodom and Gomorrah "...shall return to their former estate, and Samaria (Israel) and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate" Ezekiel 16:53-55. When will this happen? When Christ resurrects them typified on the Holy day called The Last Great Day in the 2nd resurrection they will be part of "the rest of the dead lived not again until a 1000 yrs. was finished" Revelation 20:5.

Then you asked "What about Revelation 20:10? Here is the group of verses below.

7And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9And they (Satan and Gog and Magog which is representative of all the wicked) went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them (all the wicked humans are "devoured", read the next verse to see what happens to Satan and His demons).

10And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are ("were cast" prior to the 1000 year reign of Christ plus the 100 years of the Last Great Day making 1100 years), and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever (in total darkness forever and ever).

You said, quote, "The Devil and his angels burning forever and ever? No because they are ashes under the feet of God's people", end of quote.

This cannot be true dear friend because the Devil and his angels or demons are spirit beings and will be tormented forever and ever because they cannot die, vs. 10 above. Now the beast and the false prophet will be burned up as you say and be ashes under the feet of God's people because they are humans but that happens 1100 yrs. earlier. Like I said above the word "are" in the phrase "where the beast and the false prophet are" is a mistranslation because the beast and the false prophet are the two who go to meet Christ at His return and are cast into the lake of fire but 1100 years later as God's Holy Days show, the Devil and His angels are cast into the lake of fire and tormented day and night forever and ever. Read "... wandering stars, to whom is reserved the **blackness** of **darkness** for ever" Jude 13. This is their torment forever and ever.

You went on to say, quote, "Christ ended the Holy Days at the cross, tree". "When the veil rent it showed that we could all before the presence of Christ with no need of the whole system connected to sacrifices and feast days", end of quote. Please show me in the Bible where it says this.

Here are some verses concerning the veil.

And, behold, the **veil** of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; Matthew 27:51. Now access was open to ALL He calls now and few have accepted His calling. Remember Christ said, "many are called but few are chosen (because they don't accept His calling)" Matthew 22:14. Remember the verses we read about being "called or chosen", John 6:44, 14:6, 15:16, Ephesians 3:1-5, Psalm 33:12, Revelation 19:9? The Bible tells us Christ offered or sacrificed His flesh, His body, blood for His people, "By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; Hebrews 10:20. Christ WAS the "veil".

Today the followers of Christ, the very Messiah, have Jesus Christ as their Passover Lamb. Jesus Christ became the Passover Lamb for humanity. ALL alike will yet have to accept this fact, just as some have already come to accept that fact. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the scriptures relating to the Passover. Jesus Christ is the ultimate of the Passover Lamb sacrifice.

It was the understanding of that fulfillment which caused Paul to say, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us", I Corinthians 5:7. The Passover **Lamb** is what was **sacrificed**.

You went on to say, quote, "Why were they instituted?" "Was it not to have the presence of God in their midst. Where was the glory when Jesus was on the earth? He was and is all glory. He and His Father and H. S. provide us with the glory", end of quote.

The Holy Days as I showed you in the first letter were instituted in Genesis 1:14 so go back and read that section again. They were instituted to show how God wanted to be worshipped and still does and it shows His entire plan of salvation for mankind. Even if one chooses not to observe them, looking into what God teaches in them is of great value and our people and nation suffers because we do not adhere to the lessons.

As far as the "glory" goes concerning Christ, His glory still radiates in the firmament of the heavens Psalms 19:1, it radiates in His people who have His spirit for the Bible tells us "16Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (just as God's "glory" left the Temple on earth when it became corrupted, so God will leave our temple when we are corrupt for He will not dwell in a disobedient person for He says I will turn my face from them) I Corinthians 3:16, 17. All will see His glory when He shakes the earth again Isaiah 2:19, all will know His glory in the most exalted state when they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds, Mark 13:26. One of the things taught in the Days of Unleavened Bread is about the "glory" of God. The Bible tells us, "6Your glorying is not good (God wants to replace our "glorying or boasting" which is sinful leavening with "His glory" which is the good leavening). Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7Purge out therefore the old leaven (that old boasting, malice, etc), that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" I Corinthians 5:6-7. Do you see the lessons of the Holy Days are very beneficial? You said, quote, "it was His presence in that sanctuary that made the feast days holy" end of quote. But the Bible says, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts" Leviticus 23:2. God proclaimed them to be Holy, and we are to continue to "proclaim them holy".

You said, quote, "Paul told the gentile and Jew that no one was to judge someone for not keeping those feast days in Colossians 1:27 and 2:9, 10-17. Paul is telling the gentile that Christ is the fulfillment of those handwritten ordinances concerning circumcision, in meat or drink offerings, the contrary thing (vs. 14) sacrificing animals, or respect of holy days, new moons or of the Sabbath days that were a shadow reflecting Christ". You went on "A shadow is just an image of the true. All of these were fulfilled in the body of Christ, end of quote" Here are those verses below.

8Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. 10And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision

made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Colossians 2:8-11. Paul is saying, "you have received Christ, vs. 6, so walk in Him" don't worship a false Christ as the world, walk with Him not in your own religion and one of the things Christ did was keep the Holy days as you know and all of Christ's disciples. As you know, Paul did not teach fables for he said, "for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" or everything you need to know is taught by Jesus Christ; that is the way we are to follow, Colossians 2:9. The ways of the world or man's ideas about God's holy days etc are NOT God's ways so "beware of them". Why did Paul say, "8Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" I Corinthians 5:8? Why did Christ say, "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat (which is the law of God): 3All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" Matthew 23:1-3. One of the things the Pharisees did was keep the holy days, read vs. 6, "6And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues" "5But all their works they do for to be seen of men...vs 5 (the problem was they did it for the wrong reason so we are not to follow their example of hypocrisy).

You said, quote, "Ephesians 2:15 - tells me that as a gentile we are no longer strangers because Christ abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances", end of quote. Again I ask you what were those "commandments contained in ordinances". The Bible says, "after the commandments and doctrines of men which will perish" Colossians 2:22. Laws about sacrifices, washings, man-made do's and don'ts etc. Man-made or "handwritten ordinances" were then in the days of Christ and His apostles and now are fruitless for they mean nothing and will lead to destruction and that is why Paul said do not follow man-made religions but follow Christ and His teachings only.

Christ is still the center of His Holy Days and always will be for they teach His way not the world's way. They are a beautiful message of hope and the Path of life or "strait and narrow way" which leads to life because He is the "Light" of them. Man cannot do away with them for they still point to Christ as a "shadow of things to come", remember "Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one **tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" Matthew 5:18.

Sacrifices were set up because of sin, we agree on this but the sacrifices and Holy Days are vastly different things as I have shown you. Please learn to separate them.

The 7th day Sabbath is one of the Holy Days and God ordained it; it is His ordinance that we are to keep forever and was established at creation

along with the remainder of His Holy Days. "Mans ordinances and commandments will perish" but not Gods.

Concerning Solomon's throne you said quote, "was established forever" in I Chronicles 17:12. Is his throne still there?, end of quote" This is not talking about Solomon's throne but David's throne, if you read it again; perhaps you meant David's throne and it is about a future time; it has not happened yet. I have printed the verses below. "7Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

8And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

9Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

10And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

11And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

12He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

13I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

14But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

As I said above, this "throne" in the verses above which you referenced is a prophecy about God's people and will happen yet in the future. The throne God will place David on is God's throne and David will be under Him and it will never end. When Christ returns David will sit on the throne over Israel once again forever. Please read, "24And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever" Ezekiel 37:24, 25. David was a lover of God's laws, read Psalm 119.

God's throne is forever as you know. Read, "36His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven" Psalm 89:36-37 and numerous other references.

Now you said, quote, "He is in the hearts of His people and in the heavenly sanctuary above", end of quote. Dear friend, it has always been that way, there is not one religion of the O. T. and another new religion of the N. T. even though I know that is what the world's religions teach. Like we discussed before we must remember Christ and His disciples taught from the O. T. scriptures of Jesus Christ. What is new in the N. T. is that God raised His law to a higher plane; remember he said "now if we hate our brother we are a murderer". Also salvation has ALWAYS been "of the heart" from Genesis to Revelation. Please read, "5And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart (he was speaking about God's laws vs.1 of this chapter): 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" Deuteronomy 6:5-7. Also read 7But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" I Samuel 16:7, "...for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever" I Chronicles 28:9.

Remember Christ said, "8Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" Hebrews 13:8. Salvation is the same throughout the Bible; as it was in the Garden of Eden or on Mt. Sinai, etc. God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son have always been together. Read, "7And the word of God increased (didn't say Christ as in a new religion)"; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" Acts 6:7 and many other references. Like I said, when Christ died the marriage ended but not the covenant. We have already discussed the verses which show this truth.

You went on to say, quote, "that cleaning the crumbs from your drawers, no matter how much love you feel for God, is as much idolatry today as is rosary beads", end of quote.

Please understand that removing the crumbs is purely symbolic just as baptism is symbolic. When we are baptized and go under the water it does not remove our sins but it is spiritually symbolic of burying the old man sin or old way of life, evil nature and symbolically pictures an inner change and the Bible says that we must be born of the water and of the spirit and so we do it. As you know God always teaches with the physical to explain the spiritual and it is the same with the Days of

Unleavened Bread. Likewise God tells us to keep the feast of Unleavened Bread and we do it. Christ used the physical leavening to symbolize sin. Just as leavening "puffs up" bread so sin "puffs one up with arrogance, pride, self-righteousness, self pity, selfishness etc". I know you know the story of when God called Israel, all twelve tribes, not just Judah, out of Egypt. They were in slavery or bondage. Egypt typified sin and we are in the same bondage to sin before God calls us to the Truth of God. This is all part of the observance of Days of Unleavened Bread; it certainly is a "night to be much remembered".

Another lesson taught with the Days of Unleavened Bread is that God wants us to focus for 7 days on how sin is tempting us everywhere, how easily in our human flesh it is to get sidetracked and then Satan creeps in to our reasoning and we fall off the "strait and narrow path". Of course we are to live an "unleavened life" everyday or the observance does no good just like when we are baptized, if we go back to our former life, it was useless.

Whatever God wants me to do that is what I seek regardless of what anyone else tells me. Until Christ tells us to stop doing Days of Unleavened Bread, we must keep doing them for the valuable spiritual lessons it teaches and that lesson is that no one except Jesus Christ can remove our sins but the symbolism is that we are saying we want Christ to remove them and that we will obey Him.

You went on to say, quote, "The cleaning of the crumbs, before Christ, was a type of Christ's removing pride from our hearts today I Corinthians 11. Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to remember His death. It shows the Lord's death till He comes the 2nd time New covenant testament vs. 25", end of quote.

The Lord's Supper, you are correct in saying that it shows His death until He comes again. Maybe you did not realize we keep the Lord's Supper and the next night we do the "night to be much remembered". Remember He had the Lord's Supper which was on the eve of the beginning of the 14th day or Passover preparation day and the next day at 3 P. M. approx. He was slain on the tree at the same time the Jews were slaying their Passover Lamb. That night, the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th, they ate the Passover meal and it is called the "night to be much observed", "It is a **night** to be **much observed** unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt (and us out of sin): this is that **night** of the LORD to be **observed** of all the children of Israel in their generations" Exodus 12:42. This observance begins the first Holy Day of Unleavened Bread for seven days. Below are further spiritual lessons to be learned by observing the Days of Unleavened Bread for they teach humility, to be a servant as Christ was to all. Days of Unleavened Bread teaches all the

consequences of sin and no one would disagree how badly our world needs the lessons of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Please read the following.

Sin hides God's face from us, Isaiah 59:2. In contrast, the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus -Psalms 27:8, "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek".

Sin causes our prayers to be unheard, Isaiah 1:15. In contrast, the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus -I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..."

Sin puts us in bondage as slaves, Romans 8:15. In contrast, the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Galatians 2:4 "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,

Sin starts to control our emotions and actions, John 8:34. In contrast, the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey..."

Sin puts us in darkness and blinds us from the truth of God, Matt. 6:23, Ephesians 4:18, I John 2:11. In contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Matt. 20:34, "So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received (spiritual) sight, and they followed him. Matt. 11:35

Sin dulls our hearing, Matt. 13:15, Mark 4:2. In contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Matt. 11:5, "and the deaf hear (spiritually deaf)...", John 8:47, "He that is of God heareth God's words (speaking spiritually)...". John 18:37, "...Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Sin causes one to covet or be jealous of one another, Micah 2:2, 2 Peter 2:14. In contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus -I Cor. 12:31, "But covet earnestly the best gifts:..."

Sin makes us love evil. But in contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Psalms 33:4,5, "For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Sin causes us to live in darkness and die. But in contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, John 6:58 "This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever".

Sin makes us arrogant and puffed up, Proverbs 8:13. In contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Col. 3:12, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; James, 4:6, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Sin deceives us, Rev. 12:9. But in contrast the Unleavened Bread of the teachings of Jesus, Psalms 32:8, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

We can see, sin separates us from God and God wants to be with His people not hidden from them, not blinded from Him and God wants us to talk to Him through prayer. God does not want His people to be slaves to sin or controlled by the evil of Satan. God does not want us in spiritual darkness but in the Light, to live in Truth so we can live forever. This is another of the purposes of the Spring Holy Days is to emphasize the FREEDOM from the slavery of sin. Isn't that what everyone wants to be free from the 2nd death!

Unleavened bread was also called The "Bread of affliction". It was symbolic of a life in bondage to sin and God never wanted His people to forget those afflictions. That is part of the yearly memorial of the Days of Unleavened Bread as a reminder of this former life. The "unleavened bread" was symbolic of the one (Jesus Christ) who "Took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt", Exodus 3:7-9, Hebrews 8:9. The "unleavened bread we take at the Lord's Supper is saying Jesus Christ is our Shepherd, the one who is leading us out of sin in this world.

Just as the Israelites celebrated in the wilderness, so we celebrate being called of God and delivered out of sin by repentance and baptism. And just as God had told the Israelites to beware that they be not deceived and turn to other Gods, He repeated the message to His disciples and followers of today. He said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" Matthew 16:6.

Why did Christ outwardly make this statement? Because there were false leaders who were bitter enemies of Jesus and His teachings just as there is today and their "leaven/sin" could influence many with the wrong doctrines" which would lead to death not life, Matthew 16:5-12.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread also teaches us to that we are to feast daily on unleavened bread, "... and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve you the LORD, Joshua 24:14, I Corinthians 5:8.

As God's people focus on removing leavening/sin from our lives, growing towards a sinless life, the Bible says, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; ..., Philippians 2:14-15.

Days of Unleavened Bread make us stop and realize how important it is to "Come out of Babylon" symbolic of deception and religious confusion. It is a reminder, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience", Ephesians 5:6-8.

Now you know part of the most beautiful Love Story ever told. It has been a pleasure to visit with you on these subjects as I hold them very dear to my heart and I honor anyone who will discuss them.

My love to you from my heart, B. R. B.