

Sermon Notes

Holy Holidays: Part 1

December 21-22nd, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Holy Holidays:**
- Merry Christmas!! Now is when we celebrate the birth of Christ! Very important holiday!
 - o We are going to take a couple of weeks and look at some Old Testament holidays from the Bible.
- Major Christian holidays and “holy days:” Christmas, Easter, Communion once a month, Sundays...
 - o Special days to remember and/or celebrate. Same in OT, but different events.
- They had a lot of holidays in ancient Israel. 7 important ones are described in Lev 23.
- Quick overview:
 - o **Leviticus 23:1-3.** Appointed feasts, but first a reminder of the weekly Sabbath.
 - o **Leviticus 23:4-8.** Passover and Unleavened Bread. (Escape from Egypt)
 - o **Leviticus 23:9-14.** Firstfruits. (start of spring grain harvest)
 - o **Leviticus 23:9-22.** Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. (finish of spring grain harvest)
 - o **Leviticus 23:23-25.** Feast of Trumpets. (New year?? Calling God at least...)
 - o **Leviticus 23:26-32.** Day of Atonement. (Fasting and rest.)
 - Only required day of fasting. Scapegoat was this day.
 - o **Leviticus 23:33-44.** Feast of Tabernacles. (Fall harvest? Escape from Egypt/desert wandering.)
- That’s a lot of stuff! Here are some basic ideas from the feasts:
 - o 1) Designed to commemorate important events and/or celebrate.
 - o 2) Times for the people to bring offerings to the Lord.
 - o 3) Involved bringing the people together. Showed their heritage and that they belonged.
- Interesting fulfillments for Christianity.
 - o Next week we talk about the fulfilled feasts and the ones yet to be fulfilled!!
- How well do you think the Israelites observed these Holy Days?
 - o Scary section of Scripture: **Isiah 1:10-15.**
 - What happened? **Judges 2:8-13** happened.
 - Have we strayed from God?
 - o What would you guess God thinks of our Christian Holiday observances?
 - Commercialism and greed.
 - Giving lip service to God but doesn’t show in life.
 - Showing love by giving gifts. BCE, OCC, at your home.
 - Remembering Jesus birth, suffering, and resurrection. Keeping us on track.
 - o I think it’s a bit of a mixed bag. Some beautiful things, some ugly.
- Let’s finish the section from Isaiah because it gets a lot better. **Isaiah 1:16-18**
 - o Make the Holidays true Holy Days.
 - Take time to remember what the baby in the manger means to us.
 - Gather with believers. Take your place and belong.
 - Realign yourself with God.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!