

“Celebrating Christ’s Consistency”

Hebrews 13:8

August 18, 2019

“Our LORD & Ritual Celebrations”

Leviticus 23

February 18, 2018

VIDEO: *“Bring An Awakening”*

INTRO: That song sings the theme of this sermon/text

- **Let me ask you a few questions as we begin:**
 - **When was the last time your heart was arrested with the awakening of celebrating Christ?**
 - Do you celebrate Christ & your Christianity?
 - Where? When? Why? & How?

BIG IDEA: ***God wants His people to remember WHO, HOW, WHY, & WHEN we are to celebrate***

- **WELCOME....** Let’s pray & jump right in?

REVIEW:

- Study of **Hebrews**.... “Hold On” (cf. 1:1-3)
- “Our LORD & His Law”
- “Our LORD & Leviticus”
- “Our LORD & Ritual Ceremonies”

T/S: Today... again, **our goal is to see our LORD & His love...**

PREVIEW: 2 passes... 1st **methodically**, 2nd **missionally!**

CONTEXT:

- **Leviticus 23** is related to ch.1-7’s (5) sacrifices
 - Thank-You (**Burnt**)
 - Please...forgive me (**Guilt**)
 - Thank-You (**Grain**)
 - Please...forgive me (**Sin**)
 - Thank-You for **Peace & Fellowship!**
- Remember: **ALL is to RESTORE fellowship...**
- Lev. 23 = **one of the Bible’s most breath-taking!**

CONTENT:

I. METHODICALLY

Leviticus 23:1-2

¹ *The **LORD** spoke to Moses, saying,* ² *“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are My appointed feasts.”*

➤ **Key words:**

- *“The LORD spoke”* = 5X
 - Just like Hebrews 1:1-3
 - Just like Leviticus ch.1-7
- *“appointed”* = 6X
- *“holy convocations”* = 8X
 - 1 weekly...
 - 7 annually

The convocations were called "holy" because they were consecrated to the Lord's service. They were not family or community potlucks with a bit of religion thrown into the mix. They were celebratory remembrances of their God that called for the people to consecrate themselves to the holy task of worshipping the Lord.... Yes, worship was an assignment for God's people to obey, even as it is for us as His Church today...

Hebrews 10:24, 25 exhorts us "to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together."

- *“feast”* = “appointed time”
- *“sacrifice”* = at the heart of every feast!

➤ 7 annual feasts/festivals/celebrations

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First-Fruits
- Weeks/Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles

1. PASSOVER: **Salvation**

- Passover is the Feast of Salvation.
 - Saved from slavery & sure death in Egypt...
 - Saved from slavery to sin & death in hell

2. UNLEAVENED BREAD: **Deliverance**

- Leaven or yeast in the Bible symbolized sin and evil. Unleavened bread, eaten over a period of time, symbolized a holy walk, as with the Lord.
- Slaves getting ready to leave "at any moment" couldn't wait for dough to rise during baking, so matzoh is made without leaven—which in the Bible is symbolic of sin. Yeshua was sinless.

3. FIRST-FRUITS: Evidence

- God wanted a special feast during which the Jews would acknowledge the fertility of the fine land He gave them.

T/S: Next, 50 days after the Festival of Pentecost occurred.

4. WEEKS/PENTECOST: Harvest

- Marked the summer harvest.
- Here *two "wave loaves" of equal weight* were baked with leaven, representing **sinful man** and called "firstfruits" thereby representing **redeemed or resurrected men**.
- God was predicting that the **Church** would be comprised of two parts, Jew and Gentile.

T/S: See the GAP... Spring to Fall Festivals...

5. TRUMPETS: Transitions

- The **New Year** festival. Today Jewish people refer to the day as **Rosh Hashanah**
- The **trumpet was the signal for the field workers to come into the Temple**. The high priest actually blew the trumpet so that the faithful would stop harvesting to worship.

6. ATONEMENT: Redemption

- Atonement (**Yom Kippur**). Leviticus 23:27 provides day of confession, highest of holy days.

On the Day of Atonement, the Jew either lived or died.... If the Jew did not strictly follow the law of Leviticus 23:28-30 and Leviticus 23:32, he could be cut off from his people.

The Day of Atonement was unique.

1. First, the sacrifices were for **all** the people,
2. The rituals observed only on **one day** per year.
3. Only the **high priest** performed the rituals
4. Rituals involved being **in the most holy place...**
5. Rituals for the “holy place...”
6. The **scapegoat**.... The high priest burned one of the goats on the altar, and the other was kept alive as the “scapegoat” and sent away into the wilderness.

7. TABERNACLES/BOOTH:

- This is God's celebration of the fact that He provided shelter for the Israelites in the wilderness.

- Each year on Tabernacles, the fifteenth day of the seventh month, devout Jews build little shelters outside their houses, and worship in them.

II. MISSIONALLY

1. PASSOVER: Salvation (mercy)

- a. Jesus was sacrificed on this exact day!!!
- b. We do not keep the feast in remembrance of the exodus from Egypt, since that was a shadow of the greater redemption to come. We take communion,
- c. *The Gospel of John refers to Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).*
- d. Jesus is our Passover Lamb.

2. UNLEAVENED BREAD: Deliverance (grace)

- a. The **afikomen** is a hidden piece of *matzah*... that is broken before the Passover meal. Part of it is **wrapped in a cloth and hidden**. At the end of the meal it is **brought back**, distributed to the participants and eaten as **the final morsel**.
- b. When Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples in the upper room, He broke the bread we know as the afikomen and distributed it to His disciples saying, *“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”* (1 Cor. 11:24)

- c. The Festival of Unleavened Bread commemorated God's deliverance of His people from slavery.
 - d. **Revelation 1:5** says *Jesus "has set us free from our sins by His blood."*
 - e. Jesus fulfills the Festival of Unleavened Bread.
3. **FIRST-FRUITS:** Evidence

- a. We celebrate the resurrection of the Lord as First Fruit (**1 Corinthians 15:20&23**) The resurrection of the rest of us as we each follow Him in our own time to Heaven

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...
But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.*

- b. Jesus celebrated the Sunday of the week of His crucifixion by rising from the dead
- c. **He rose on the very day of First Fruits.**

4. **PENTECOST:** Harvest

- a. *See Acts 2... The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the gospel.*
- b. Jesus Gives the harvest of souls.

c. *Every time followers of Jesus get together for worship another Pentecost occurs, because the Holy Spirit still comes down upon the church, and whenever someone comes to saving faith, Jesus is giving a harvest.*

5. **TRUMPETS:** Transitions

- a. Now, when the trumpet sounds in accordance with **1 Corinthians 15:51- 3**, living believers will cease their harvest and rise from the earth. The Church will be taken out of the world.
- b. *"Where there are two working in a field, one will be taken and the other left." **(Matthew 24:40)***
- c. The New Testament says that one day God will order trumpets to be blown to herald the arrival of Jesus and the gathering of His church to His side.

First Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.

- d. Revelation also says that during God's judgment at the end of this age, seven angels will blow seven trumpets to signal that God's judgment has arrived.

God gave the Festival of Trumpets to foreshadow that a new day is coming. As early as the garden of Eden, God promised to send the seed of the woman to bruise the

head of the serpent. Throughout the Old Testament God repeated His promise to send a Messiah to defeat the serpent. God's people anticipated the coming of the Messiah who would crush evil and the evil one.

BE ready & stay focused!

6. **ATONEMENT:** **Redemption**

➤ In the Day of Atonement Jesus takes away sin!

This is the one feast that is not fulfilled by the church, because the Church owes no atonement. The Church is not innocent, of course, but it is exonerated. The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled for the "remnant of Jews" in a wonderful way when the Lord returns at His Second Coming.

7. **TABERNACLES:** **Presence**

- a. Tabernacles represents the Lord's shelter in the world to come (olam habah), His great Tabernacle to exist in Jerusalem during the Kingdom Age.

Philippians 4:19

"My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

b. No matter what we go through, no matter what wilderness experience we may have to endure, Jesus will provide our every need.

In the new covenant age we don't observe the Festival of Tabernacles. We gather to worship in celebration... each week to give thanks and praise to Jesus who provides our salvation and meets our every need.

COMMUNION

Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a feast (cf. Matthew 22).

Think about it... God invites us to celebrate... to feast with Him! When we consider the joy of being saved, it is difficult to understand people who claim to have that salvation but have no passion to celebrate it together with God's people...

VIDEO: *"Come To The Table"*

May we never forget...

Our WORSHIP defines our FELLOWSHIP!

When FELLOWSHIP defines worship... it's worship of self.

Let's Pray!

Remember: this is a celebration whose invitation is for

EVERYONE!

VIDEO: *"O Come To The Alter"*



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally)." – Acts 1:8

One Question: *WHAT DO YOU WANT?*
One Offer: *COME AND SEE.*
One Promise: *TRUTH IN LOVE!*

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

- 1.** Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
- 2.** Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
- 3.** Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
- 4.** Praying for guidance & following by faith...
- 5.** Dying to self & carrying our cross...
- 6.** BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
- 7.** Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
- 8.** Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
- 9.** Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
- 10.** Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
- 11.** Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
- 12.** Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

“Faith, Favors & God’s Grace”

Acts 24:27 – 25:12

April 3, 2016

INTRO: **VIDEO** – Easter opener.... “It Is Finished!”

Everything is ALWAYS about Easter!

T/S: Today...

- Continuing in Acts...
- A day of “worship” & wonder!
- Only one goal for today...come & see
- Zoom out & Zoom in perspective...
 - Creator to the cross...
 - Saul to Paul...
 - **VIDEO:** *“Flawless”*

(story of Paul... story of the Gospel!)

T/S: So... the next question is... **Is Paul “normal?”**

T/S: Let’s read today’s text and see what the Lord has...

TEXT: Acts 24:27 – 25:12

²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

¹ Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

² And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him,

³ asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.

⁴ Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly.

⁵ “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”

⁶ After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

⁷ When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.

⁸ Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I

committed any offense.”

⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”

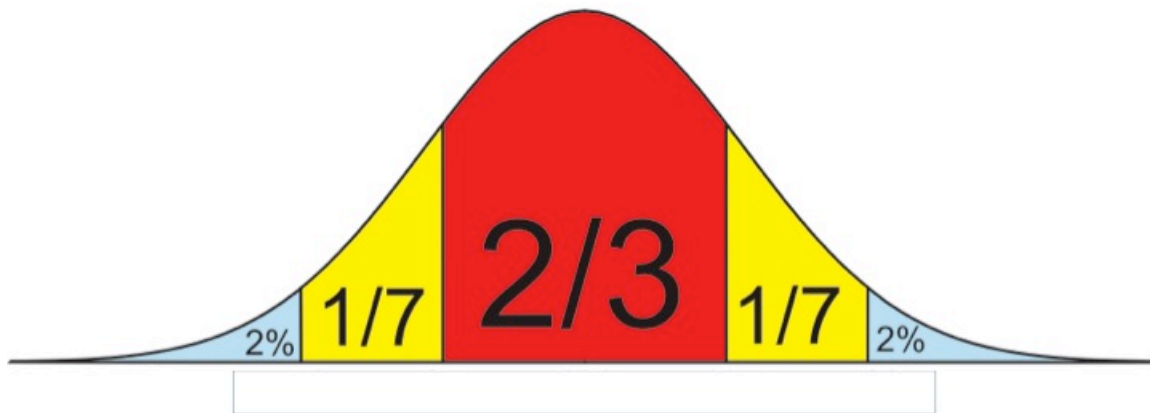
¹⁰ But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well.

¹¹ If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

I. Understanding People...

“Normal People”



II. Understanding Spiritual Warfare

The road to hell is paved with good intentions and bad churches...

III. Understanding Faith, Favors & Grace

a. Church @ Ephesus

Ephesus = all great but "one thing" (you've lost your first love)

1. VIDEO: Jesus Paid It All

b. Church @ Smyrna

Smyrna = **ALL GOOD!** but dealing with false Jews from the synagogue of Satan; plus suffering, perceived poverty, coupled with true tribulation & 10 days of prison coming

c. Church @ Pergamum

Pergamum = mostly good BUT "I have a FEW things against you..." While you live where Satan's throne is and you have held fast the Lord's name & did not deny the faith (even when Antipas was martyred), you have some holding to the teachings of Balaam & some others to the Nicolaitians teachings...

Therefore, repent "or I will come to you soon and war against them..."

d. Church @ Thyatira

Thyatira = "I know your: works, love, faith, service, sanctification (improvement), patience, & endurance... BUT, I have THIS against you... You tolerate Jezebel & her teaching (aka "the deep things of Satan") & seducing my servants to sin... I gave her time to repent but she rejected..."

Behold, I will throw her & those who commit adultery with her onto a sickbed with tribulation unless they repent... And I will strike her children dead... "I search minds & hearts & give to each of you according to your works"

1. VIDEO: Grace Wins!

e. Church @ Sardis

Sardis = "I know your works, you have the REPUTATION of being alive BUT you are DEAD. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works to be complete in the sight of my God... Repent & wake up, if not I will come against you like a thief... Yet, you STILL have a FEW who are not soiled who WILL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE..."

f. Church @ Philadelphia

Philadelphia = I know your works & have placed an open door before you that NO ONE can shut... Having little power, you kept my word & did not deny my name... The synagogue of Satan will bow to you & they will know that I have loved

you... Because you kept my word... I will keep you from the coming hour of trial that will test the whole world... I am coming soon. Hold fast so that no one seizes your crown..."

1. VIDEO: "Even So Come!"

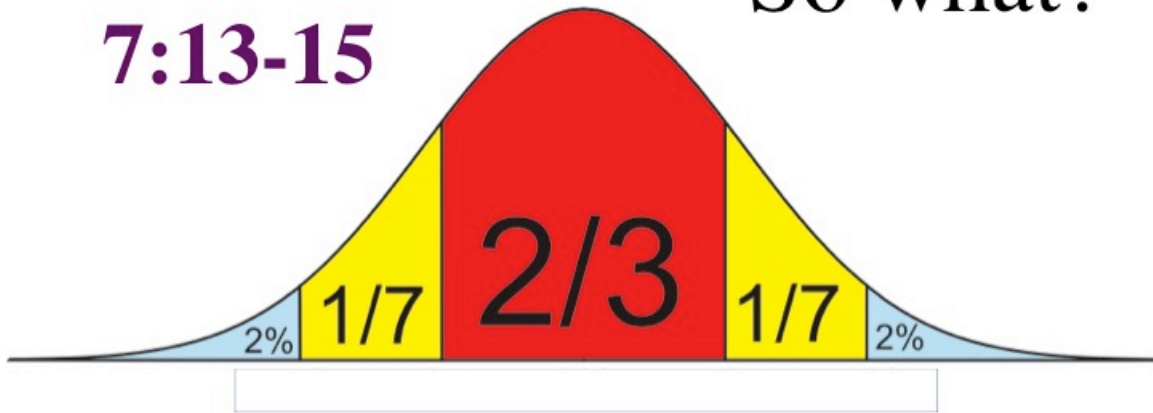
g. Church @ Laodicia

1. Grace warns & terrifies!

Laodicia = I know your works. You are lukewarm, neither hot or cold & I will spit you out of my mouth. You say, I am rich, I have prospered, I need nothing, BUT you are WRETCHED, POOR, PITIFUL, BLIND & NAKED... Those I love I reprove & discipline so be zealous & repent. Behold, I stand at the door & knock. If ANYONE hears my voice & opens the door, I will come in to him..."

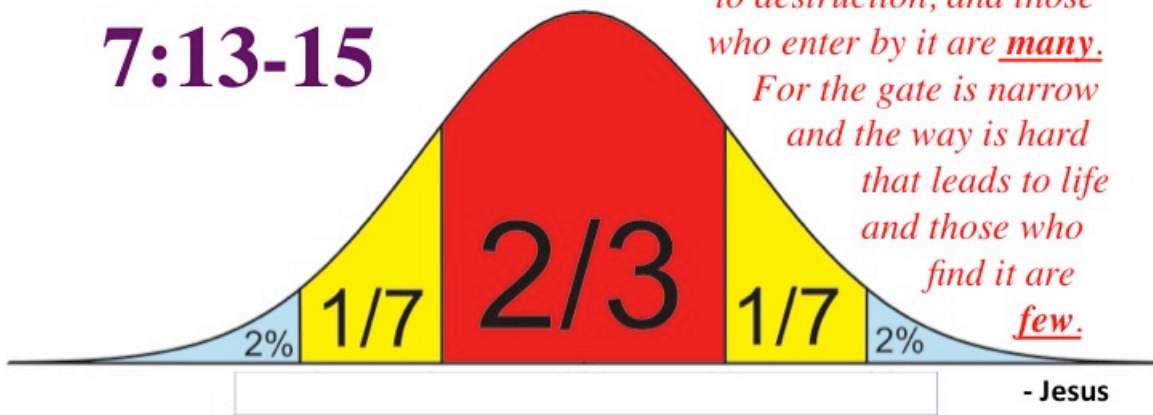
John 7:13-15

So what?



John 7:13-15

*“Enter by the narrow gate.
For the gate is wide and
the way is easy that leads
to destruction, and those
who enter by it are many.
For the gate is narrow
and the way is hard
that leads to life
and those who
find it are few.”*



- Jesus

1. Grace loves & goes!
 - a. Karen Watson

"When God calls there are no regrets,"

"I wasn't called to a place. I was called to Him," she wrote. "To obey was my objective, to suffer was expected, His glory was my reward, His glory is my reward."

The Missionary Heart:

Care more than some think is wise.

Risk more than some think is safe.

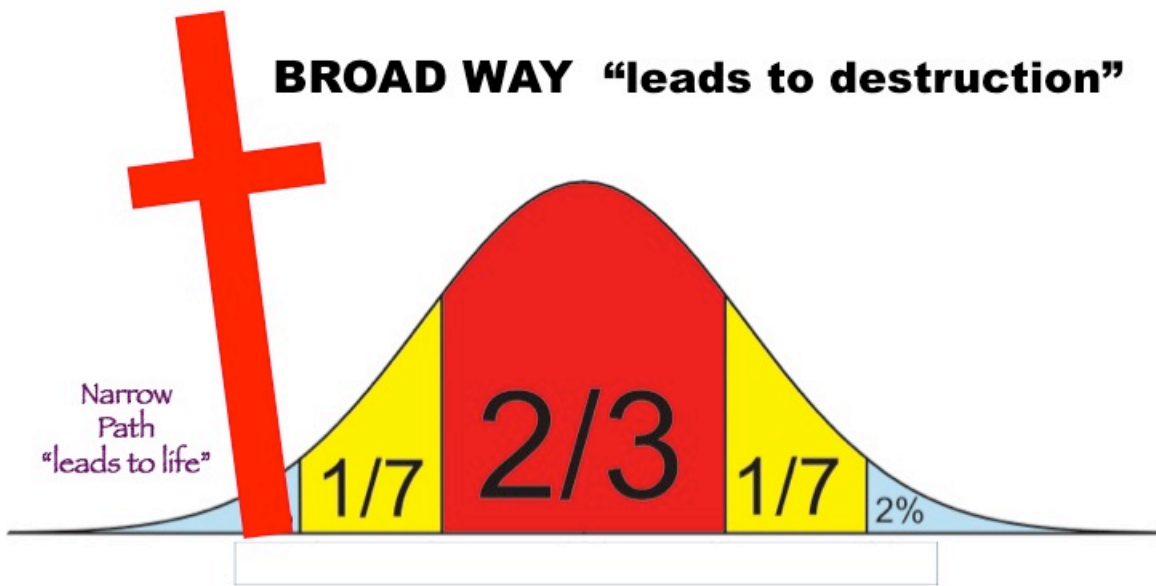
Dream more than some think is practical.

Expect more than some think is possible.

I was called not to comfort or success but to obedience.

She listed some of her favorite passages of Scripture, including **2 Corinthians 15:5**, which says, *"And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."*

In closing, Watson wrote, **"There is no Joy outside of knowing Jesus and serving Him."**



2. Grace = "BE-ing" the Church

"Grace" = char-eese

"Favor" = char-eese

b. VIDEO: "The Church"

Let's Pray