

Are We Better Than Our Fathers?

Dearest brother and sisters,

Greetings! The Lord of all heaven and the earth beneath, bless you abundantly! This information collected from God's holy Word is significant; and its significance is of a magnitude unto salvation. These words are essential to our salvation!

As you may very well know, I am just as guilty as Paul/Saul of Tarsus was guilty in that 'I worship the God of my fathers, according to the way they call heresy; believing all things written in the Law and the Prophets'. And as you will readily recall, the Son of God said: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead." And 'One' has risen from among the dead; and He has raised up an offering of the 'first fruits' of the harvest as a sweet smelling savor before the Father! Acts 24:14, Luke 16:29-31, Matthew 27:50-50-53.

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, *with* the statutes and judgments." Malachi 4:4. What part of the Law of Moses [just only the 7th day Sabbath?] are we supposed to keep? Malachi 2:8-9 sheds some light on the preceding question. "But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts. Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law." Are we not to keep the 'whole' law, and not just some part or parts of the law?

It will be obvious to some that not only the specific commandments inscribed on tables of stone [originally sapphire stone from the throne of God], but all the ways of the Lord including the statutes and the judgments, His counsels and precepts, as well, are included. I believe with all my heart that the entire compiled books of Scripture are the law of God. And if we keep anything less than the entire law, then, are we not guilty of partiality in the law? "For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

Zechariah chapter 14 is prophecy. Zechariah prophesies of the day of the Lord, 'when He cometh'. In verse 16 it is written, "And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles." The son of Amoz, Isaiah, recorded these words, "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord" Isaiah 66:22-23.

We will most certainly go before the Lord to worship Him on His feast days, and on His new moons, and His Sabbaths [all of them including the Passover and the two Sabbaths of Unleavened Bread; Pentecost – Feast of Weeks or Firstfruits; Feast of

Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the two Sabbaths of the Feast of Tabernacles: seven Sabbaths in addition to the weekly seventh-day Sabbaths]. Leviticus, chapter 23.

For what reason/s can it be supposed that we would keep the pagan feasts of the heathen nations [that surround us on every side]? There is only one reason, and that is we have joined ourselves in affinity with the heathen to commit idolatry! Will that be esteemed as a light thing by our God, the God of Israel, the Lord of hosts, the Creator of the earth and the fountains of waters, and all the heavens; a jealous God?

My dear friends, the sacrifices are still with us. Yes, they have changed in their character and their nature. They are not the vain blood sacrifices of sheep, goats, and oxen offered before that the son of God sacrificed His life for our lives. Today, some of the acceptable sacrifices now include: sacrifices of praise; sacrifices of keeping our vows before the Lord; sacrifices of placing our sins irretrievably upon the altar of sacrifice; sacrifices of prayers and fastings; sacrifices of our individual wills in submission to His will; sacrifices of love; sacrifices of our time and our means; even sacrifices of our lives to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable before the Lord Jehovah God.

Listen to the Lord of hosts. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go *to be* among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God *is* not among us?" Deuteronomy 31:16-17. Whom, do you suppose, the Lord meant when He specified, '...and this people....'?

Was He not speaking about us as well as all those that have walked in their iniquities before us? Or do you suppose that we are better than our fathers? Upon this point Elijah was not deceived, he said, "...It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers." 1 Kings 19:4. The wise Daniel confessed his sins, the sins of the people, and the sins of the fathers in his prayer. "O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee." Daniel 9:8.

Let us now covenant to put away all of our strange gods; and come out of the confusion of this world. Idolatry does not honor the Father! It is perilous to our souls to presume that 'it doesn't matter if we celebrate the pagan feasts of the world'; that God does not see that which we do. Let us put away the strange god, Santa Claus, and the celebration of the birth of the sun god on the 25th day of December. And if we will honor our God with great glory, then, let us celebrate the first month of God's new year at the time of the Passover as He has established. Exodus 12:1-28.

Your brother In Christ, Thomas Jeffery Forney
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