

Introduction to God's Appointed Times

What is true Christianity? That may seem like a moot question, because everyone knows what Christianity is. Or do they? Modern "Christianity" consists of thousands of denominations with varying degrees of doctrinal differences. How can this be? Can they all be correct? "Is Christ divided?..." (1 Corinthians 1:13). Or, could it be possible that all of these "Christian" churches are wrong?

The Eternal asks, "Can two walk together [3162, *be one, unified*] except they be agreed [3259, or *meet by appointment*]?" (Amos 3:3). An appointment is "*an arrangement to meet a person or be in a certain place at a set time.*" In order to walk with Christ you must meet with Him at the times that He has set. "These are the feasts [4150, *appointed times*] **of the LORD, holy** [6944, *hallowed, sacred*] convocations [4744, *to assemble by summons*], which you shall proclaim in their seasons [4150, *set times*]" (Leviticus 23:4).

There are seven annual holy days that are observed on specific dates on the Hebrew Calendar, and the weekly Sabbath day that is on the seventh day (Saturday) of each week. Jesus and His disciples celebrated God's holy days, but "Christianity" has rejected God's appointed times in favor of religious celebrations that originated in Babylon, and have nothing at all to do with true Christianity.

The early New Testament congregations were warned that deceptions were going to come in among them. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in [3919, *to introduce stealthily*] damnable [684, *destructive*] heresies [139, *choices, options*], **even denying** [720, *to contradict*] **the Lord that bought them**...And many shall follow their pernicious ways [684, *destructive ways*]; by reason of whom **the way of truth shall be evil spoken of**. And through covetousness [4124, *extortion, to demand a gift*] shall they with feigned [4112, *fabricated, counterfeit*] words make merchandise [1710, *a business*] of you..." (2 Peter 2:1-3).

These teachers brought in doctrines that contradicted the truth, and thereby denied Jesus Christ, Who is the Word of God (John 1:1). To contradict someone is to: "*assert the opposite; to be contrary to; go against; oppose verbally; to speak in denial of.*" They denied Jesus Christ by contradicting Him, **but they continued using His name, and they called themselves "Christians."** Putting the name "Christian" on a religion doesn't make it Christian. You can call a pig a lamb, but it is still a pig. This "new" religion was called "Christianity," but the reality is that it was the old Babylonian Mystery Religion with a new face. It is a counterfeit of the true.

By rejecting God's holy days the "Christians" are rejecting Jesus Christ. "They profess to know God; but in works they deny [720, *reject, contradict*] Him, being abominable, and **disobedient**, and to every good work reprobate [96, *worthless*]" (Titus 1:16). Jesus said, "Not everyone that says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied **in thy name?** and **in thy name** have cast out devils? and **in thy name** have done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I **never knew you**: depart from Me, you that work iniquity [458, *lawlessness*]" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which Christianity is built, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). A good foundation is stable. "Jesus Christ the same [846, *unchangeable*] yesterday, and today, and forever. Be not

carried about with divers and strange [3581, *foreign, alien*] doctrines..." (Hebrews 13:8,9). A foreign doctrine is one that contradicts the truth of God.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him **must** [1163, *of necessity*] worship Him in **spirit and in truth**" (John 3:24). This is perhaps the most disregarded verse in the Bible. When this verse is disregarded, there is no firm foundation upon which to build, and the people are "...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14).

In order to avoid being "tossed to and fro," we must follow the blueprint that God has given us. That blueprint is the appointed times, which are a revelation of God's plan of making man into His spiritual image. **God's appointed times are the blueprint of His plan upon which the entire Word of God is based.** If you reject God's appointed times, then you are rejecting the Word of God. When you reject the Word of God, then you are going to be "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine," and you will stumble around in the darkness. "...God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If **we say** that we have fellowship with Him, **and walk in darkness**, we lie, **and do not the truth**" (1 John 1:5, 6).

In this series of Bible studies we will be using the King James Version throughout, unless otherwise noted. We have taken the liberty to change some of the archaic words into modern English for readability. The numbers in brackets are keyed to *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Lexicons*.