

The Feast of Tabernacles

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 15-16, 2011.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—This week many of my friends and I are observing the Feast of Tabernacles. This specific festival is listed among the other festivals found in Leviticus 23. The Feast of Tabernacles is mentioned in verses 33-43.

Since we recognize that we are not under the Old Covenant, we do not apply the rituals mentioned in that chapter.

Since Jesus Christ is our sacrificial Lamb, it is not necessary to prepare the offerings that were given at that time (verses 36-38).

Spiritual sacrifices

We realize that believers in our time should be focused upon spiritual sacrifices.

Notice the following scriptures.

Mark 12:28-34—"Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, 'Which is the first commandment of all?' Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' So the scribe said to Him, 'Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.' Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' But after that no one dared question Him."

Romans 12:1-2—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1 Peter 2:5—“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Annual rejuvenation

Here are some of the activities that we have at the Feast of Tabernacles sites that I have attended.

- Family time.
- Fellowship time with old friends and new acquaintances.
- Uplifting music.
- Daily messages—including learning lessons from the past, looking forward to the future and applying practical lessons in our present lives.
- Many Feast sites have service projects in the community.

I hope that you will someday take the opportunity to observe a Feast of Tabernacles with a Christian group. Many people appreciate the annual rejuvenation that this endeavor provides.