

## FOOTWASHING, BREAD AND WINE

3/31/07

The purpose of sermon -- to discuss the rituals of the footwashing, bread and wine.

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### 5 CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION

1. Belief in a deity
  2. A doctrine (accepted teaching) of salvation
  3. A code of conduct
  4. The use of sacred stories
  5. Religious rituals (acts and ceremonies)
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### RITUALS SHOULD NOT BE DONE TO IMPRESS OTHERS

Matt. 6:1-4            giving alms -- not to be seen of men  
          5-15            praying -- not to be seen of men  
          16-18          fasting -- not to be seen of men

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### RITUALS SHOULD NOT BE DONE AS AN EFFORT TO EARN SALVATION

Eph. 2:8            saved by grace -- not of yourselves  
          9            not saved by works, lest any man should boast  
          10            created in Christ Jesus unto good works  
Titus 3:4            the kindness and love of God has appeared  
          5            not by works of righteousness which we have  
done -- but according to His mercy, He saved us by the washing of  
regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit  
          7            justified by His grace  
          8            faithful saying -- we should be zealous to  
maintain good works

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### RITUALS ARE HELPFUL REMINDERS

Num. 15:38          fringes on the borders of their garments throughout  
your generations  
          39          when you look on the fringe, you shall remember all  
                          the commandments of God

40 that you may remember all the commandments and be  
holy unto God  
41 remember that you were brought out of Egypt

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RITUALS CAN BECOME A SIN

Matt. 23:5 made their phylacteries broad -- enlarged the  
borders of their garments  
6 loved the chief seats  
7-12 loved the titles  
13-28 hypocrisy

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GOD'S RITUALS HAVE FORM AND POWER

2 Tim. 3:5 Paul warned about people who had a form of  
godliness, but denied the power thereof  
Matt. 5:20 Jesus said -- except your righteousness shall  
exceed the righteousness of the scribes  
and Pharisees, you shall not enter the  
Kingdom of heaven  
Matt. 23:23 Jesus corrected the Pharisees who were zealous  
about the rituals, but they omitted the  
weightier matters of the law

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IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE CHURCH OF GOD HAS LESS  
RITUALS THAN MOST OF THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

\* Some religions have pilgrimages as a ritual

Pilgrimages are journeys to the sites of holy objects or to places  
credited with miraculous healing powers.

For instance, Hindus consider the waters of the Ganges River in  
India to be sacred. Every year, millions of Hindus purify their  
bodies by bathing in the river, especially at the holy city of  
Varanasi.

Also, one of the five pillars of Islam is the Hajj. Muslims are  
expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca (the birthplace of  
Muhammad) once in a lifetime.

\* Some religions have prayer & fasting as rituals

Prayer and fasting are two of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims

are expected to pray 5 times a day, facing Mecca -- dawn prayer, noon prayer, afternoon prayer, sunset prayer and nighttime prayer. Muslims are expected to fast between dawn and dusk during Ramadan.

Roman Catholics have a system of prayer that includes rosaries and recited prayers. Roman Catholics have a system of fasting during the 40 days of Lent.

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#### SOME RITUALS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

water baptism -- behavior on the weekly Sabbath -- behavior on annual feast days

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#### LET'S QUICKLY MENTION SOME RITUALS THAT AFFECT THE NEXT 9 DAYS

##### 1. THE MEAL ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Actually, this meal may be considered a tradition more than a ritual. Most rituals are taken directly from the Bible. Since there is no direct instruction in the Bible about this meal, this activity is more like a tradition.

Why do believers call the timing of the meal "on the eve of the Feast of Unleavened Bread?" -- Because that is what the Bible calls the timing in Leviticus 23:6-7 and 1 Corinthians 5:8.

Doesn't the Bible call the timing of the meal "a night to be much observed" in Exodus 12:42? -- There are many phrases that have been used to describe the event. Some of them are:

- "the night to be much observed"
- "the night to be observed"
- "the night to be much remembered"
- "the night to be remembered"

But these phrases are actually descriptions and not the actual name of an event. These phrases are not listed as the name of a feast day in Leviticus 23 and are not listed in the New Testament.

Other phrases to describe the feast day are:

- "a night of solemn observance" -- New King James
- "a night of watching" -- Revised Standard
- "a night when the Eternal was on watch" -- Moffatt
- "on that night the LORD kept watch for them" -- Contemporary English

##### 2. REMOVE LEAVEN FROM YOUR HOME AND EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD DURING THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD



