

CHURCH OF THE
E T E R N A L

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." – Matthew 24:14

February 21, 2011

Dear Members, Co-Workers and Friends:

One of the main themes of the Bible is reconciliation. It is pervasive throughout the Scriptures and permeates the Law and the Feast Days.

When we look at the Ten Commandments, we see that they are there to help us regulate our relationship to God and man. The first four are for the purpose of keeping man reconciled to God, and the last six are regulating man's relationship with his fellow man. This was necessary, along with the rest of the Law of God, because our natural state is to resist God and His Way (Romans 7:5; 8:7-8). But, through the God-breathed Scriptures, we are shown a better road to take.

The Feast Days help in this regard and map out our ultimate reconciliation to God. Through the Days of Unleavened Bread we learn to put the sin out of our lives that separates us from God, and bury the old man with his wrong ways. In Pentecost we see the need to have the power of God within us in order that we can better understand and put into practice the Law of God. When we do this, we become more God-like and grow closer to Him. The Feast of Trumpets depicts the return of Christ and the time when a relatively few will become One with God, that is to say, perfectly reconciled Members of the God Family.

As we know, the process does not end there. The plan of God continues with the Day of Atonement which represents a time when Satan is removed from influencing mankind. This will get rid of one of the greatest impediments to man having "at-one-ment" or being "at one" with God. The Feast of Tabernacles then demonstrates a period when mankind will be able to have direct contact with God on earth. When Christ returns, He will set up His governmental headquarters in Jerusalem and distribute the Holy Spirit freely, enabling the rest of mankind the opportunity to truly begin their rapprochement with God and man. As an endcap to the festivals, the Last Great Day represents the final judgment between those that have opted to be reconciled to God and those who willfully have not.

This incredible plan of reconciliation that eventually will enable us to live within the God Family, in perfect harmony, in a God-to-God relationship that will be governed by our holy righteous character—this process begins with the day of Passover and all that it represents for us.

This first festival of the new year deals with individual reconciliation and the beginning of our journey towards it. Our ability to start this walk in newness of life begins with Christ's Sacrifice (Romans 5:10) and His willingness to die for us so that we could have eternal life. This was never anything that we could accomplish on our own. Because of Him we now have the opportunity to transform from an enemy to an ally.

Of course, we need to use the power that we have at our disposal to make this change. The reason for once resisting the Law is still at work in us. Therefore, we must make every effort to exemplify the love of God more and more in accordance with God's character. Our steps should lead us to a relationship that is in concert with the example Christ left behind.

A manner in which we show our desire to become born-again children of God, is by our willingness and effort to be reconciled with our fellow brethren. What seems to be simple and straightforward on face value, has become, in reality, one of the more difficult tasks for us to accomplish. Nonetheless, it is one that we MUST carry out.

If we are to be reconciled to God, then it is incumbent upon us to be reconciled with our fellow laborers in Christ (Matthew 6:14-15). God does not want us to come before Him if we are at odds with our family. Note what is written in Matthew 5:23-24, "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." God is saying that we cannot be fully reconciled to Him until we are FIRST making every effort to be reconciled with our brethren.

How can any one go before God and tell Him that they want to be at one with our Father and our elder Brother, but not with others who will eventually be a part of the same Family? This makes no sense! The reason that there are no commandments regulating the relationship

between God and God is because the Law represents the immutable nature of the God Family. If we plan to be wholly reconciled with God in the future as Spirit beings, then we must seriously consider the meaning and ramifications of the process we are going through as symbolized by the Feast Days; we need to live all aspects of the Law of God; and it is essential that we exemplify the love of God.

Paul puts this in perspective in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. “

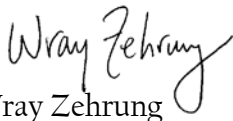
Do we comprehend then the importance God places on love and what this means in relation to how we are to be living our life? We cannot fulfill the command to “love one another,” if we are not getting along with each other. We cannot be entirely reconciled to God if we are not seriously trying to become reconciled to one another. Do we understand the magnitude of what God is telling us through all of this?

We cannot take the Passover in a worthy manner if we still have outstanding issues with someone, which we refuse to try to resolve, and it is imperative that we observe this most solemn feast in the right manner. It is always the right time to do what is right, but now more than ever, as we see the Day approaching. Passover is still two months away, and we have sufficient time to address this most important issue, if we begin examining ourselves thoroughly now. We cannot afford to wait until the last minute to attempt to resolve any problems that exist in any of our numerous relationships.

God the Father, along with Christ, has set in motion and given us the example that we should follow: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

We are not being asked at this time to give our life to make this happen, but we are being asked to sacrifice to the extent that God requires in order to become reconciled. If we do this, our relationships can be better than ever, and we can lay a foundation for the greater growth that God desires and expects to see in us.

Your brother in Christ,


Wray Zehrung