

Why All the Confusion over the Calendar?

Does it really matter when we observe God's annual Holy Days? Does it matter if we are just a few days off? There is an old saying, "Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades" – or perhaps in a nuclear explosion. But does it really matter if we get God's days right? Or if we "inadvertently" observe them on the wrong day?

The Word of God does tell us that we should observe His annual Feast Days as "holy days to the Lord" (see Leviticus 23). But how do we know when they occur? What calendar should we use? The Biblical holy days are obviously based on the Biblical calendar – the original calendar God gave to Moses and Israel.

Only a few really understand the Jews replaced the original calendar in 357-358 A.D. due to Roman persecution, and substituted a mathematical construction in its place – based on the periodic movements of the earth, moon and sun over the course of the 19-year time cycle. This was an astounding feat – but only accurate up to a point, and cannot replace true observation of the new moons, upon which the months are based, and therefore upon which the annual holy day dates depend.

Along with the mathematical theory, the Jewish leaders deliberately ADDED "postponements" to the calendar months to prevent Yom Kippur from falling on a Friday or a Sunday, and they added another postponement to prevent the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles from falling on a weekly Sabbath. These changes were made because of their TRADITION which had accumulated over the centuries after the time of Christ which said Yom Kippur could not abut up against the weekly Sabbath as it would prevent proper observance of the Sabbath, a "Feast" day. Likewise, waving the lulav branches on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, they decreed, would cause "work" to be done on the weekly Sabbath, if it fell on that day – another "no no." These newfound "traditions" were not extant or a part of the calendar from Moses to Christ, but the Jewish rabbis added them anyway during the fourth century after Christ!

The Jewish calendar as we have it today is a marvel of mathematical and astronomical workmanship – but alas, the new moon dates are most often OFF by a day or two, almost every month! Close, as they say – but no cigar! "Close" is not accurate enough when it comes to OBEYING GOD!

Is it all right to tell God, “Well, I only sinned a little bit!”? God’s Word says, plainly, “The wages of sin is DEATH” (Rom.6:23). God says, “The soul that sins, it shall DIE” (Ezek18:4, 20). So which is going to be? Are we going to obey GOD? Or go the route that “seems right” to a man, but ends in DEATH (Prov.14:12, 16:25)?

How can we know the TRUE days to observe God’s annual Feast days, on the right day, so there is no mistake? How can we be sure that we are REALLY obeying God’s Word correctly? To observe the wrong day as “HOLY” would be an affront to God – an offense – a plain mistake! If you had an appointment to see a king on a particular date, sat a particular time, and you went on the wrong day – you got the dates mixed up – would it be all right? Would the king allow you to interrupt his schedule, and take up his time, which he had NOT set aside for you? Would he allow you to CHANGE THE DATE ON YOUR OWN AUTHORITY?

To observe an ‘unholy’ day as if it were “holy” is an affront to God. He wants us to be PERFECT (Matt.5:48). He desires that we live by His “every word” (Matt.4:4; Luke 4:4; Deut.89:3). He demands obedience, not guessing games and human foolishness! God is punctual. He has a “set time” for His Feast days. You cannot keep them arbitrarily, whenever you want. It is not for you to decide what day is holy and what day is not. If you fear God and respect Him, you will obey His Law – and keep His divine appointments *at the appointed time!*

Obeying God is not “Looney tunes” and funny business. God set aside certain days as HOLY, and He meets with us on THOSE days. If we are not present, then TOO BAD –for us! *We miss Him to our own sorrow and hurt.* The way that *seems right* to men may “seem” right, or “okay,” but it leads to SIN and sin leads to and ends up in death—the death penalty! (Prov.14:12).

If it is serious business to keep an appointment with a BOSS or human employer or a KING “on time,” and to be punctual, HOW MUCH MORE IS IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP GOD’S APPOINTMENTS ON TIME? *God does not want us to worship Him carelessly, or in a haphazard, inconsistent manner.* Jesus Christ declared, “The time is coming, IT HAS COME ALREADY, when the real worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in REALITY; for these are the worshippers that the Father desires. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in Spirit and in reality” (John 4:24, Moffatt).

Yes, please send me your book on *A New Look at God’s True Calendar*. I want to know the TRUTH. I want to “prove” the truth (I Thess.5:21). I understand it is FREE of charge.

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