

“Holy Day” versus “Holidays”

by Rico L. Brown

July / August 2019

Observance of certain days as “holy days” was found in the Law of Moses, which governed the people of Israel. However, the Apostle Paul shows that we are under a different law today. “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ” (Colossians 2:14-17). This passage shows that a “feast day” or even the “Sabbath day” is not to be observed under the gospel of Christ.

When some Christians were observing such days as “holy days,” the Scripture says, “Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain” (Galatians 4:10-11). But the early Christians never knew anything about the special days mentioned in the letter, for they originated much later. “Christmas” is from “Christ’s Mass,” and the only authority for its observance is the Roman Catholic Church. It is surely not found in the Scriptures. “Halloween” (or, Holy Evening) was authorized by the same authority to keep vigil for “All Saints Day,” another invention of the Roman Catholic Church. “Easter” began as a celebration of “the Spring rites” to honor the Spring goddess, Eastre. The Catholics borrowed this day and changed it to a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. For one to observe any of these days is to acknowledge the authority of Rome, and not that of God. Under the covenant of Christ, that is the New Testament, there are no holy days mentioned or ordered to be observed.

There are many people, though, who enjoy the “holidays” without observing them as “holy days.” One may choose to wave flags and hear a patriotic speech on July 4th, without any religious meanings attached. Or one may celebrate his or her birthday or even “Mother’s Day” without ‘worshipping’ themselves or the mother who gave them birth. For many people the national holiday of Christmas is a convenient time for a family gathering, using the occasion for family time or recreation, without implying any kind of religious observance of the day, but seizing the opportunity for ‘time off.’ According to the Bible, Christians gather on the first day of each week to commemorate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we do not skip one day in the spring because it is a “holy day” called Easter. Christians, guided by the New Testament, should be careful to avoid observing any “holy days.”