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"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

Does God Have Special Days?

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them: The appointed seasons of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My appointed seasons (Leviticus 23:1-2)

take heed to yourself that you not be snared to follow [other nations] after they have been destroyed before you; and that you not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? And I shall do so, even I'. You shall not do so to Jehovah your God (Deuteronomy 12:30-31)

Every major faith encourages its adherents to assemble for worship at specific seasons. Hindus, Moslems, Christians, Jews - all have their special days, both weekly and annually. Christians for example will this year (2006) celebrate 'Easter' in mid-April. Around the world, it commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. These annual days are special for Christians, as are the days of *Ramadan* for Muslims, *Passover* for Jews, *Divali* for Hindus. And each faith ascribes the festival's origin and significance to their God.

We ought to ask, though: If all these faiths represent the same divinity - how come such variation? Does God himself not care? Is it human responsibility to devise our own forms of worship? According to the Christian Scriptures (see above), clearly *not!*

- recall that God says 'I change not'. He is 'the same yesterday, today and forever'.
- the convocations listed in Leviticus 23 are *His* convocations - holy, *ie* separate, special - and do not, as often stated, derive from Moses. They are not 'just Jewish'
- the weekly seventh-day Sabbath - also a convocation, an assembly - was so precious to Him that He protected it by a capital penalty
- indeed the nation of Judah was evicted from the land of promise because of their disregard for the Sabbath and 'days of Baal'
- Jeroboam - king of the ten northern Israelite tribes - changed the divinely-appointed festivals and was thereafter castigated as an example of rebellion against God. They 'rejected his statutes' (II Kings 17:13-16)
- these divine festivals or assemblies (Hebrew: *mo'ed* - 'seasons') were inbuilt by the Creator in the physical creation (Genesis 1:14)
- neglect of God's 'holy convocations' - the annual festivals - blinds us to the divine plan of the ages. Each represents a significant aspect of how and when God is working, and what His plans are for us
- the apostolic church of God continued to observe these same divinely-appointed days - the weekly seventh-day Sabbath and the Festivals. There is no indication in the New Testament that the days were exchanged by God for the observances and festivals of their pagan neighbors. Paul urged Timothy to pass on to others the teachings he had been taught. And Jude wrote that in his day - the first century of the Christian era - there was a 'faith once for all delivered to the saints'. Christians have the same God as did Moses and the prophets

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Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
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