

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Introduction

The House of God churches have various traditions during the observance of this feast. Some congregations stay in the temple most or all of the night, praying, offering praise unto the Lord, and afflicting their souls. The fasting requirement makes it dreaded by some and loved by many. As beneficiaries of the new covenant, our observance of this day is very different from the period before the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Offerings that required the shedding of blood are no longer required. This fact causes many believers to miss out on the blessing of this feast due to a misunderstanding of the Scriptures. Most view the observance of this feast as fulfilled and no longer applicable. Christ fulfilled the sacrificial aspect of this feast. However, much of the statute remains. We keep this feast with recognition that Jesus Christ has made the atonement once and for all through the shedding of his blood (Hebrews 10:10).

Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Biblical Application

Jesus Christ came to this earth with a specific mission that was foreordained before the foundation of the world (I Peter 1:19). Many of the prophets who wrote of him over thousands of years looked for his appearing. They inquired and searched diligently for the grace that was to come (I Peter 1:10-11). An angel made his mission known to Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:20). The Bible uses the words appeared and manifested (to render apparent, reveal) to describe the coming of Christ (Hebrews 9:26; I Timothy 3:16, Strong's Dictionary). The invisible God manifested himself in flesh for the specific purpose of saving his people from their sins and to put away sin (Matthew 1:21). The putting away of sin (setting aside, annulment, rejection, cancellation) and saving from sin includes deliverance from the penalty and power of sin (Strong's Dictionary). Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). This grace gives us power to obey the law of God. Sin does not have dominion over us, for we are not under the law but under grace (Romans 6:14). Biblically, the grace of God that is given to us through Jesus Christ offers

deliverance from and power over sin. Unfortunately, theologians have fostered an incorrect definition of grace as a license to sin. By God's grace, we do not have to let sin reign in our bodies, but instead we can yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

- The mission of Jesus. Matthew 1:20-21; Hebrews 9:11-28
- Sin does not have dominion over you. Romans 6:8-14
- Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. I Peter 1:10-25

Everyday Life Application

How has the grace of God empowered you? Take an inventory of the deliverance his grace has brought in your life.