OCTOBER 18, 2026

SERMON NOTES

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NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE (PART III)

Key Scriptures: *The Lord spoke again to Moses, saying,* 2 *"Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The appointed times (established feasts) of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations—My appointed times are these:* - **Leviticus 23:1-2**

The 7 Festivals of the Lord

The festivals are divided into two groups:

- Spring festivals: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Weeks (Pentecost).
- Fall festivals: Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles.

1. **Passover**
   - **Leviticus 23:4–5 -** The Lord appointed times for the proclamation of His holy convocations.
   - Passover commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt when God spared the Israelites who applied the lamb's blood to their doorposts.
   - **John 1:29** identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
   - **John 18:28** and **1 Corinthians 5:7** connect the Passover context with Jesus' sacrifice.
2. **Unleavened Bread**
   - **Leviticus 23:6 - The Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord** became a reminder of Israel's urgent departure from Egpyt and God's deliverance from bondage.
   - The Israelites physically removed leaven as part of God's command for the feast. The spiritual application to removing sin comes into focus in Paul's New Testament teaching.
   - **1 Corinthians 5:6–8** - Paul says that *a little* leaven ferments the whole batch [of dough, just as *a little* sin corrupts a person or an entire church].
   - Paul's central point is that because Christ has sacrificed Himself for us, we should live differently. Our lives should no longer be characterized by the old patterns of sin, malice, and wickedness.
   - **John 6:35** presents Jesus as the Bread of Life. He is the source of our spiritual life.
3. **First Fruits**
   - **Leviticus 23:10–11 - The Feast of First Fruits:** Israel offered the first portion of the harvest to God. The offering acknowledged God as the provider of the harvest.
   - **1 Corinthians 15:20–21 -** Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, [and He became] the first fruits [that is, the first to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body, foreshadowing the resurrection] of those who have fallen asleep [in death].
   - Christ's resurrection gives believers hope for eternal life and our future resurrection.
4. **Weeks or Pentecost**
   - **Leviticus 23:15–16 - The Feast of Weeks:** This festival celebrated the grain harvest and was observed seven (spiritual completion) weeks after The Feast of First Fruits, on the fiftieth day (Pentecost, Greek *for "fiftieth"*).
   - **Acts 2:1–2 -** The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.
   - Pentecost marks the public beginning of the Church's mission, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring people together in Christ.

5. **Trumpets**
    - **Leviticus 23:24 - The Feast of Trumpets** marked a memorial day of solemn sabbatical rest.
    - Trumpets announced an appointed gathering and called the people to attention.
    - **Joel 2:1** describes a trumpet warning of the coming day of the Lord.
    - **1 Corinthians 15:52** and **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** describe the trumpet sound associated with the resurrection and gathering of believers.
6. **The Day of Atonement**
    - **Leviticus 23:26–32 -** Israel observed a solemn day of repentance, humility, and atonement for sin.
    - **Isaiah 61:1–3** speaks of good news, freedom, comfort, and restoration.
    - **Luke 4:18–19** shows Jesus proclaiming freedom and the favor of the Lord.
    - **Jeremiah 30:7, Matthew 24:21, Isaiah 63:4–5**, and **Zechariah 12:2–3, 10** speak of future distress, judgment, and God's dealings with His people.
    - Some Christian interpretations connect this festival with future tribulation, national repentance, and God's ultimate deliverance.
7. **Tabernacles (Booths)**
    - **Leviticus 23:34 - The Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) to the Lord:** Israel lived in temporary booths to remember God's care during the wilderness journey.
    - The festival also celebrated God's provision and the harvest.
    - **Daniel 7:13–14** describes the Son of Man receiving an everlasting kingdom.
    - **Zechariah 14:16–19** describes nations going up to Jerusalem to worship the King and keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Understanding the Shadow and the Reality

The festivals in light of Jesus Christ:

- **Colossians 2:16–17 -** Festivals and other observances are described as a shadow of things to come, while the reality belongs to Christ.
- **Romans 10:4 -** Christ is the culmination or goal of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- **Hebrews 8:5 -** The earthly tabernacle and its ministry served as a pattern of heavenly things.
- **Hebrews 10:1, 9 -** The law's sacrifices were a shadow of better things; Christ came to do God's will and establish the new covenant.
- **Galatians 2:11–13 -** Paul confronted conduct that compromised the truth of the gospel and fellowship between Jewish and Gentile believers.
- **Galatians 5:1 -** Christ has set believers free; they must stand firm in that freedom.