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Liberty in Christ

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Observance of Days, Months, and Years

GALATIANS 4:3-11, ``KJV:Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:4:But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,5:To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.6:And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.7:Wherefore thou art no

more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.8:Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.9:But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?10:Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.11:I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. "

COLOSSIANS 2:16-17, "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:17:Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

Every human being likes celebration: it is good to have something to look forward to. Also, celebration is a good thing because it marks a time for merriment, and is an expression of joy. However, there is something about the secular and the religious. When we make a thing religious, we give it

a spiritual significance. That spiritual significance ought to align, not contradict or conflict with the religious faith. For instance, Christians worship God, and use the scriptures as a guide to rules and regulations of the Christian Faith. **And as religious people, things we do in the secular are regulated by our faith/religion so that we do not sin.** Moreover, that a thing is not a sin does not qualify it to become part of our religious life, it can yet remain secular. Our whole life is not religious, we also get involved in secular things, e.g. getting a secular job. Unfortunately, however, many Christians have borrowed feasts and other things from the secular world into their religious life and have carelessly abandoned themselves to all worldly practices, endangering the Faith, and harming themselves. One such reckless abandon is the observance of days, months, and years. And they don't know that by doing so, they are sinning. In Isaiah, God says those who would not seek counsel from him ended up adding sin upon sin.

Isaiah 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover

with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

It is not the will of God for his church to come under any bondage whatsoever. This bondage includes bondage to the rudiments of the world (pagan superstitions) and bondage to the law of Moses. Most Christians don't know that many practices in the world are stemming from darkness through paganism and that Satan is behind them, and by them keep the world under his control -- he being the god of this world. One perfect example is the celebration of birthdays which began in the ancient world as the day pagan Kings as incarnate of pagan gods were born, and today still stands in Satan's church, as written in the book of Lucifer, as the highest feast of self-worship-- Satan at any time never at any time withdrew from it.

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.9:But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?10:Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.11:I am

afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. Gal 4:8-11

The Beggarly Elements

What are the beggarly elements that lead to bondage? The Bible explains them to be the observance of days, months, years, and times, whether Jewish or pagan.

The Galatians desired again the principles of their paganism though having been converted to Christ.

4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 4:2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a

son, then an heir of God through Christ. 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

These principles of their pagan belief to which they again turned culminated in their observance of days, months, years, and times, bringing them under the bondage of superstitions. One can be Christian by profession of faith and still be quite unchristian in his reasoning and so still under self-imposed bondage or bondage to the god of this world. For instance, those who observe New Year's Day have brought themselves under the bondage of a cross-over night ceremony. To them, they are to cross over to the next year, so they have to be in church to successfully cross over to the next year. So blinded by this superstition they fail to see that there is no bridge whatsoever that they have to cross to enter the next year, and that others who do not observe the "cross-over

night" enter the same year unhindered. And while it may be tradition to cheer, blow horns, and sound off noisemakers on the night, the exercise originates from a superstition that making lots of loud noises at midnight helps to ward off evil.

Superstitions can be real bondage even to the extent that some fear they will not make the next year, or will have a bad year if they don't go to "shout happy New year" in a church on New Year's Eve. While this may increase church attendance, it keeps the people in unreal fear.

The Bible is very clear that the law of Moses and the faith of christ are two different things, and that the one gave way to the other. In Hebrews 8:13, the Bible says: *In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.* Thus maintaining that the old covenant and its laws ought to vanish away in the agenda of God for His church. Other verses of the Scriptures buttress this fact.

Hebrews 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Practices or doctrines of the Old Law cannot be used today to justify what one does in religion. To do so causes one to be severed from Christ and to fall from the grace of God. *Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

Galatians 5:1 tells us, Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Free from what? Free from the bondage of the law of Moses. There was a curse on as many who were given the law but were

not keeping it (Gal 3:10). Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:21: *To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.*

Not without law to God, but under the law to Christ, that is the law of liberty.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

The liberty in Christ came to deliver the Christian not from moral law but from ceremonial laws, whether Jewish or pagan/heathen. While the Jewish law was the law of Moses, given to them by God himself and their set-up man-made traditions, heathen laws on the other hand stem from idol worship and superstitious beliefs.

When a Christian entangles himself with superstitious beliefs, he comes under pagan law, and as a result under

bondage to whatever idea or forces behind the belief. We should not think superstition is nothing, superstition is bondage.

In observing days, months, times, and years, the observers bring themselves under bondage. All over the world, people observe days largely from pagan superstitious beliefs. This among other things brings the world under the sway of the devil.

1 John.5.19 - We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (NIV)

Gal 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?_ 4:10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. 4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.

The Christian is at liberty, no bondage on him, for God had put no such on him. The faith of Christ is supposed to make us free. What is there to observe times, days, and

years for? It is sad how people ignorantly use scriptures to bring themselves under the bondage of times and years; They of their reasoning give these days spiritual significance and thereby bring themselves under the bondage of their minds. To some, the first of every month is special because there is something special about "first". How often a Christian should be warned not to bring on himself stringent rules by reason of his reasoning. Some after drawing out this so-called significance, fix that every first of the month must be observed, so they start observing months. In the end, the Christian comes under mental bondage that if he does not observe months there would be a problem. For instance, on the first of every month, some Christians must go to church to pray to command the whole month. And if they don't go to church to pray and command the whole month, they think that the month would not be good for them. This is also mental bondage because it does not work that way. Then of days, they set aside days. Setting aside a day for an event is both orderliness and organization. It is nothing wrong, but that the day is special in itself is another ball game altogether. The Lord's day to the Christian is simply the day that Christ

resurrected. It doesn't mean they can not worship any other day. Bondage doesn't give freedom but rather causes one to be confined.

The first of January is a special day to some people, but there is nothing whatsoever that makes that day special because it is not different from other days. God did not hallow the first of January. It was however in honor of Janus the Roman god of gates, doors and beginnings. Scriptures recognize idols (gods) as demons.

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

It is however called new years day. New Year's day is a day celebrated all over the world. The Jews have their New Year's day in the Jewish calendar enacted by God. The Chinese and some parts of the world have their various New Year's Days. Those who do not use the gregorian calendar would not celebrate their New Year's day on the first of January. The law of Moses recommended a day for the New Year for the Jews; the pagans all over the world have their New Year's day. But

Christians are to be all over the world: God gave the Jews New Year's day but not Christians, and God did not say the Christians should keep the Jewish law because, if the Christians are to keep the Jewish law they are to follow the Jewish calendar. Don't forget that Christians are to be all over the world and if God expects them to celebrate New Year's day, it would be difficult for God knew that there won't be one calendar to regulate the whole world. Christians all over the world would have confusion. For when one is saying this is my new year, the other one is not yet in his new year. A Christian in china would not be in his new year when a Christian in Nigeria is in his new year. The Christian is at liberty to all these things. God never gave the Christians New Year's day celebration neither did he make mention of it to them. It is a matter of no concern to the Christians. What drives some Christians and the rest of the world is nothing but superstition. If is not the law of Moses motivating them to do it, then what is driving them is nothing else but superstition. The superstition is that the day is special. What is special about that day? The superstition comes in: the old year and all its bad luck have to go, for the new year and its good luck to come.

But funny enough, the Christian doesn't have any bad year that has to go and a good year that has to come. The Christian is under the providence of God. The idea that what one does on the first of the year, will determine what will become of the whole year, is a superstition originating from paganism. The Jewish New Year's day was given by the law of Moses, and therefore, not religious to Christians. The Christian who do not observe days, months, times, and years is at liberty.

"What does this year hold for me?" This is not a question that should be asked by a Christian. It should not be the concern of a Christian. A Christian should rest on God's providence. There is a big difference. The foregoing enquiry sounds more of a pagan who wants to enquire into days, years, and months. There are so many who believe in divination looking to divine times. No Prophets of the Bible were consulted to say what the next year held. No one reference in the Bible. They didn't peep into the next year. Lots of people want to come to church on the first of the year to hear prophecies of that year. It is all divination: you will not see that in the old and new Testaments. "This year is your year of this", "this year is

your year of that" is all divination. Sadly, it has taken the minds of people away from the providence of God to what the year would bring for them. And so the average Christian has developed the habit of giving a tag to every year as to what they peeped into the year and saw. It all began with the special observance of days. You start hearing things like, "this is new year, new life". What is the new life in the new year? New year does not make new life.

In trying to know times and seasons, some Christians have gradually come under bondage. When the Christian hangs his life on the providence of God, he is at peace. Your entering into the new year is not your making, and your celebrating New Year's day is not what will secure your life through the year. What great jubilation that follows the celebration as some are seen saying, "We made it. We made it". Who told them they would die in the first place. A new year is not different from a new day. It's just about how people see things. The Christian is not supposed to live in fear. These are all mental bondage that has given room to many evil works. For in

the spirit of the worldly festivity, they are pushed into evils.

It isn't that the new year is a better year, providence is what counts, and providence is in God's hands. So why the rush? Why the fears? Why the pressure? Why kill one's self? Why the drinking? Why the fornication? The none celebration of New Year's day is what gives the Christian peace than the mere pleasure that comes with extreme pressure. The Christian is not a worldling and must be separate from the world. Why the shooting of fireworks? It was originally believed in china that the shooting of fireworks, wards away evil spirits.

We just must not run with the spirit of the world lest we come under bondage. God did not give his people to observe days in the Christian Faith. There is nothing special about that day and there will be nothing special about the day. On December 31st people flock to churches to have a crossover night; as if there were a bridge they were to cross to the next year. This is also coming from the superstition of letting the old year pass away and letting the new year come. People just want to observe things being puffed up by their fleshly minds.

The faith of Jesus Christ does not allow the Christian to observe pagan days or the Jewish days. He who would decide to keep the Jewish laws, Christ would profit nothing.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Even so, there are no Christian ways of celebrating a pagan festival. Christianizing a pagan or worldly festival, is the proverbial sinful leavening that leaveneth the whole lump. It won't be different from the case of Lot who at first merely pitched his tent towards Sodom, but in the end only to be helplessly rescued from inside Sodom.

Many had cited Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Pulpit's commentary does a good explanation on the matter. Here cited:

There was a difference among them about the distinction of meats and days these are the two things specified. There might be other similar occasions of difference, while these made the most noise, and were most taken notice of. The case was this: The members of the Christian church at Rome were some of them originally Gentiles, and others of them Jews. We find Jews at Rome believing, Acts 28:24. Now those that had been Jews were trained up in the observance of the ceremonial appointments touching meats and days. This, which had been bred in the bone with them, could hardly be got out of the flesh, even after they turned Christians especially with some of them, who were not easily weaned from what they had long been wedded to. They were not well instructed touching the cancelling of the ceremonial law by the death of Christ, and therefore retained the ceremonial institutions, and practised accordingly while other Christians that understood themselves better, and knew their Christian liberty, made no such difference. Concerning days, Romans 14:5. Those who thought

themselves still under some kind of obligation to the ceremonial law esteemed one day above another--kept up a respect to the times of the passover, pentecost, new moons, and feasts of tabernacles thought those days better than other days, and solemnized them accordingly with particular observances, binding themselves to some religious rest and exercise on those days. Those who knew that all these things were abolished and done away by Christ's coming esteemed every day alike. We must understand it with an exception of the Lord's day, which all Christians unanimously observed but they made no account, took no notice, of those antiquated festivals of the Jews. Here the apostle speaks of the distinction of meats and days as a thing indifferent, when it went no further than the opinion and practice of some particular persons, who had been trained up all their days to such observances, and therefore were the more excusable if they with difficulty parted with them. But in the epistle to the Galatians, where he deals with those that were originally Gentiles, but were influenced by some judaizing teachers, not only to believe such a distinction and to practise accordingly, but to lay a stress upon it as necessary to salvation, and to make the observance of

the Jewish festivals public and congregational, here the case was altered, and it is charged upon them as the frustrating of the design of the gospel, falling from grace, Galatians 4:9-11. The Romans did it out of weakness, the Galatians did it out of wilfulness and wickedness and therefore the apostle handles them thus differently. This epistle is supposed to have been written some time before that to the Galatians. The apostle seems willing to let the ceremonial law wither by degrees, and to let it have an honourable burial now these weak Romans seem to be only following it weeping to its grave, but those Galatians were raking it out of its ashes.

Let's therefore walk in the liberty wherein Christ has made us free.