

Perpetual Observances

Why are you inconsistent in following the directions that are “throughout your generations or forever”? You quote the Sabbath one as something you must keep and yet you mention the circumcision one as something that is done away with.

Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you.’”

The Sabbath is a sign that was created during Creation for man. The Sabbath was not part of “a covenant” or temple practice, although there were temple practices around the Sabbath it was not contingent on them, or on the Covenant to Abraham or Israel. As such it is always in force.

Genesis 17:9-10 “And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This *is* My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;”

This covenant was contingent on the people following the God of Israel. It was attached to the Covenant and it was the symbol of that covenant.

Hebrews 8:13 “In that He says, “*A new covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

Although the symbol was to last forever it was dependent on them maintaining the covenant, which they failed to do.

Galatians 5: 2-6 “Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor un-circumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

Paul was frank when he said people who try to be a part of the old covenant are neglecting Christ and the new covenant so don't do that. If circumcision isn't required to be part of Israel what is required? Baptism and the laying on of hands to receive God's Holy Spirit is what is required for the new covenant. (Acts 2)

Circumcision wasn't the only change; you also had the temple and the priesthood that was to be “perpetual” changing.

Exodus 30:8-10 And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It *is* most holy to the Lord.”

All these other comments about throughout your generation that were with respect to the Levitical priesthood, sacrifices and the temple were also done away with in Christ or adjusted to represent Christ.

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.

One sacrifice replaced all the others.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Christ is forever our High Priest and was not a Levite.

Some changes did include some ongoing practices for us to keep.

Exodus 12:42 “It *is* a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This *is* that night of the Lord, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.”

What were they to solemnly observe? The Passover of the Lord.

What are we to observe continually throughout our generations? Christ Our Passover. That is our night of solemn observance and that is what brings us out from our final enemy death – the blood of the Lamb of God. The observance didn’t end but it did change by ending the old sacrifice and accepting the new sacrifice of a new covenant, a better covenant in Christ Jesus Our Lord. The New Covenant Passover is celebrated with the unleavened bread of His body broken for us, and the wine of His blood for the remission of sins. It is a time when the sacrifice was served with bitterness because of what Jesus had to go through to be our Passover Lamb. To better understand that sacrifice read Isaiah 52:14-53:12. Psalm 22:6-21 It was the greatest sacrifice of all and it was for you.

What isn’t done away with is the moral requirements of the law especially codified in the ten commandments and including the annual Sabbaths which Jesus magnified by becoming the Passover Lamb and the Firstfruits offering among many other things.

I hope this helps you in your personal studies and drawing closer to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.