



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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SUNDAY SERMON

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

September 18, 2022

Topic: Preparing for the Feast.

All of us in The GCBO look upon the Feast of the church anniversary as a special time of the year.

It is the time of the year that generates a "high" to prepare us for the beginning of new year.

Very few of us take the Feast for granted.

In the Feast, spiritual and physical fulfillment are combine, and we anticipate it with a hopeful expectation of joy exceeding than of any other time. Interestingly, "rejoice" appears for the first time in the Scriptures within the instructions for the

Feast of Tabernacles:

Leviticus 23:34, 37, 40-43;

Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD. 37. These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

40-43. And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days.

All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Deuteronomy 16:15 uses an even stronger phrase in relation to rejoicing and the feasts:

Deuteronomy 16:15 Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.



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As we celebrate our anniversary this year god want us to rejoice, but He wants us to rejoice with purpose.

If we are not rejoicing with His purpose in mind, we will just see it as time to come for prayers, winning and dining and nothing to show for it in the body of Christ.

Isaiah 5:11-12 gives a vivid picture of the wrong kind of "rejoicing":

Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may follow intoxicating drink; who continue until night, till wine inflames them! The harp and the strings, the tambourine and flute, and wine are in their feasts; but they do not regard the work of the LORD, nor consider the operation of His hands. In this context, "feast" does not necessarily imply a holy day. However, it shows that we can have the good things of life as a blessing from God yet misuse them by removing Him and His purpose from their proper enjoyment.

Leviticus 23 places rejoicing in context with, and subordinate to, dwelling in booths.

We keep the Feast, not merely to rejoice, but also because the Lord made the Israelites live in booths when He brought them out of Egypt. The booths served as the focal point to remind the Israelites of something God did so they could rejoice with understanding.

Thus, the Bible also calls this festival "the Feast of Booths."

The serious purpose of the Feast is further illustrated in Numbers 29, where God lists the sacrifices He commanded to be offered to Him at each festival. He required the Israelites to sacrifice 189 animals at the Feast of Tabernacles alone—more than all the other holy days combined! That is the reason for the levy or contribution. Remember, a sacrifice is a freely given offering and represents the giving of the self

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



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So, God seems to expect more sacrifice from His people at the Feast of
Tabernacles than at any other time of the year.

God is also expecting you and I to give more sacrificially materially.... financially...
physically.... spiritually.... even our time....

