

Should We Keep Jewish Ritual?

By Moshe Schwab

Ritual is something we do every day, but when we make man-made ritual into commandments it is wrong. Some ritual is wrong; those things associated with pagan practice the Bible says we are not to do; God says He hates it! Doing things the Bible says not to do is wrong.

Some Jewish practice is okay and a lot of Jewish practice is based on the Bible. We just need to understand they are rituals and not commandments of God. Treat ritual as ritual and God's commandments as God's commands.

For Further Study

Some people say **we have to** do certain rituals. Then others say that **we can't** do them. Saying we must do or cannot do something is making up commandments. We are not to make up misapplied commandments (Deuteronomy 4:2). There are properly applied applications of the Torah; for example, the New Testament has hundreds of commandments that are properly applied from the Old Testament.

What pleases God? Is wearing a hat or not wearing a hat a big deal? How about a Jewish hat or a Russian hat? Is something that has some biblical relevance okay to do? Probably. Do we have to light candles for Shabbat? No, but we should acknowledge the beginning of Shabbat on Friday night by some means. People are saying we can't do anything that is Jewish because the Jews keep some rituals as commandments. If it is not a pagan ritual; if done in the proper context; and we have the right attitude, it is not wrong. Most rituals are not commandments of God. We should never say something is or is not a commandment of God when it isn't.

Some Christian denominations treat ritual as commandments of God and God tells us not to make up misapplied man-made laws. "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you;" Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV. Yeshua actually said their ritual is worthless; Matthew 15:9.

Yeshua said in His time that their man-made tradition is causing people to not keep God's commandments. "Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition;" Matthew 15:6 NKJV. What about the man-made idea that the Old Testament portion is done away with? Isn't that interesting. Someone thought I didn't believe in the Messiah because I believe in the Bible. I'm not kidding you.

Do some Christians believe the Bible only came to them? All the people who gave us the Bible were Jewish. Shaul was Jewish; so was Kefa; and so is Yeshua.

Here is an example where we can use some ritual. Moshe and the prophets instituted readings from the Torah. That would be commanded by God; it is also commanded in the New Testament portion. The Gentiles were required to learn and keep the Torah, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the

synagogues every Sabbath;" Acts 15:21 NKJV. Ritual involved with the Torah readings can vary.

Even in life, there is some ritual. There are people who say we can't do anything Jewish; not even read the Torah. Again, isn't Yeshua a Jew? Isn't Yeshua God and God gave us the commandments in the Old Testament; so Yeshua gave us the Torah (Torah means instruction). I've often thought these people who say we can't do anything Jewish are either misled, anti-Semitic, or can't think for themselves.

Ritual is something we do every day. We also follow rituals that others have advised us to follow. Ritual can be a good thing because it can help us get through life. Some ritual is wrong though. Again, telling people that a non-essential ritual is a commandment of God is wrong; especially ritual that micromanages life and is nonsense.

Also, much of the ritual that has been practiced in Christianity came from pagan sources; that is wrong. This scripture is talking about not doing what the pagans do, "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods;" Deuteronomy 12:31 NKJV. There is a book you can read online called Babylon Mystery Religion. Read it or listen to it online.¹ You will be surprised.

Some so called Christians actually practice pagan rituals! Some even pray to idols. Also, what does not putting up an umbrella on Shabbat because you are putting up a structure have to do with anything sensible? Yeshua quoted Isaiah and said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men;" Matthew 15:9 NKJV.

Another example is; we now know that Constantine changed the day of worship to the day of the Sun god. Worship on Sunday is a commandment of men. It wasn't because Yeshua rose on Sunday. And I quote, "Constantine decreed (March 7, 321) *dies Solis*—day of the Sun, 'Sunday'—as the Roman day of rest." [Constantine said,] "'On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed.'"² The real day of rest is Shabbat, Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset.

We inherited the wrong day from the pagan church of the Roman Empire. We just read what Yeshua said. S-u-n day worship is worthless; it is in vain. That's what Yeshua said. God hates anything associated with pagan practice. Don't worry about the Jews so much. Worry about what you are doing!

1 <https://archive.org/details/Babylon-Mystery-Religion-Ralph-Woodrow/mode/2up>

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Invictus