

# Christ Is Our Firstfruits

## 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Ephesians 1:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-10



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### The LORD's Feasts (Leviticus 23:1)

- (v. 2) God ordained seven feasts.  
(See handout: Feasts of the LORD)
- “feasts” - מוֹעֲדֵי - “appointed times”
- “MY” - not Jewish; not Christendom’s  
★ These are GOD’s feasts.
- THEREFORE . . . (the importance of the little word “My”).
  - GOD is the HOST.
  - GOD, the HOST, shares His JOY with His own!
    - God sharing His joy.
    - His greatest joy is His own Son, in whom He is well please, with His special people. (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 3:17; 17:5)
  - The Host appoints the times of HIS feasts.
  - The Host makes **all** the preparations/arrangements.
  - The Host does **all** the work.
  - Only invited guests (God’s special people) are welcomed at the host’s feast - only those “chosen” or “elected” by the host.
  - The guests bring NOTHING to the feasts! They come only to share in the joy of their host and enjoy all He provides.
  - GOD has provided HIS SON for His people! (John 3:16; **Rom 8:32**)
- God’s feasts are an “outline” of the God’s “eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 3:10-11)

### Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

- One of the LORD’s Feasts (Lev. 23)
- The High Priest waved a firstfruit offering to the Lord at the Temple.  
**None of harvest could be enjoyed until after this offering was made to God.**
- God shared His feasts to point His people to His promised Messiah.
  - God sent His Son - Feast of Tabernacles - John 10:14.
  - God sacrificed His Son - Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover - Isaiah 53:10; 2 Corinthians 5:7-8.
  - God raised His Son - Feast of Firstfruits - 1 Pet 1:21; 1 Cor 15:20, 23

- God sent His Spirit to the Church on His Feast of Week - Acts 1-2

## **Christ Ascended to Present Himself to God**

- ON THIS FEAST!
- The Feast of Firstfruits came the day **after** the Sabbath following the Passover. (Leviticus 23:11)
  - ➔ “When the Sabbath was past . . .” (Mark 16:1)
  - ➔ “The first day of the week . . .” (John 20:1)
  - ➔ The *empty* tomb.
  - ➔ Christ ASCENDED to present Himself before God.
- NOTE: Jesus tells Mary, “Touch Me not . . .” (John 20:17)
  - ★ The presentation of the Firstfruits must happen before anything else can be done!
- Jesus, as our High Priest (Hebrews 3:1), ascended to a “greater and more perfect tabernacle/temple not made with hands” to presented Himself as our Firstfruits, to His Father in Heaven in the Most Holy place (Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:11-24)!
  - ★ **The presentation of the Firstfruits must happen before anything else could be done!**

## **CHRIST is our Firstfruits** (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23)

- ★ Christ and FIRSTS
  - Christ was the *first-born* of Mary. (Matthew 1:23-25)
  - Christ was the “*first-born*” of God. (Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:6)
  - Christ was the “firstborn over all creation”. (Colossians 1:15)
  - Christ was the Beginning of the creation. (Revelation 3:14; John 1:3; Col 1:16, 17)
  - Christ was the “firstborn from the dead”. (Revelation 1:5)
  - Christ was the “firstborn of many brethren”. (Romans 8:29)
  - Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrected ones. (1 Cor 15:20,23)
- ★ **CHRIST IS THE PREEMINENT ONE!**  
(Colossians 1:18)

## **God’s Special People Were IN CHRIST When He Rose!**

(Ephesians 1:1-14)

- ★ REMEMBER our definition of the word “blessed” in Psalm 1:1 and 119:1 in our meditations.
  - REMEMBER that “blessed” is PLURAL!
- (Ephesians 1:3) GOD has blessed His special people with every spiritual blessings IN CHRIST.

- (Ephesians 1:4) God **CHOSE** His special people **IN CHRIST** before the foundation of the world.
  - **GOD PUT HIS PEOPLE IN CHRIST!**
    - ★ God gave **SHEEP** to Christ to die for. (John 10:27-29)
    - ★ God wrote the names of His special people in the Book of Life before time began. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; Luke 10:22)
- (Ephesians 1:5) God **PREDESTINED** His special people to adoptions as **SONS** - His children! (1 John 3:1 - **O what manner of LOVE!**)
  - ★ God promised to conform each of His special people (His children) into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29-30)
  - ★ **ALL “according to the good pleasure/wishes/desires of His own will”!**
- (Ephesians 1:6) God accepted Christ and we are **accepted IN CHRIST**.  
 In what ways are we **ACCEPTED IN CHRIST**?
  - ... His worthiness for my unworthiness.
  - ... His sinlessness for my transgressions.
  - ... His purity for my uncleanness.
  - ... His sincerity for my guile.
  - ... His truth for my deceits.
  - ... His meekness for my pride.
  - ... His constancy for my backsliding.
  - ... His love for my enmity.
  - ... His fulness for my emptiness.
  - ... His faithfulness for my unfaithfulness.
  - ... His loyalty for my treachery.
  - ... His obedience for my lawlessness.
  - ... His glory for my shame.
  - ... His devotedness for my waywardness.
  - ... His holy life for my unchaste ways.
  - ... His righteousness for my dead works.
  - ... His faith for my unbelief.
  - ... His death for my life.
  - ★ **ALL to the praise of the glory of His grace!!**
- (Ephesians 1:7) **IN CHRIST** God’s special people have redemption through His blood - the forgiveness of sins - **all according to the riches of His grace**. Our sins are blotted out **and** forgotten!! (Isaiah 43:25)
- (Ephesians 1:11) **IN CHRIST** God’s special people are guaranteed to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ! (Romans 8:16-17)
- (Ephesians 1:13-14) Because of Christ - **GOD sealed His special people for all time!**

- (Ephesians 2:4-5) GOD made His special people ALIVE (resurrected us from our sins) **WITH CHRIST!** - by grace God's special people are risen!
- (Ephesians 2:6) GOD RAISED (ascended) His special people when Christ ascended and GOD has already SEAT US **WITH CHRIST** in heaven.

**THAT IN THE AGES TO COME HE MIGHT SHOW THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD HIS SPECIAL PEOPLE**

## **IN CHRIST JESUS**

(Ephesians 2:7)

### **What Does It Practically Mean?**

- If Christ is already risen as our firstfruits, then we are already risen.
  - We are **ALREADY GLORIFIED!** (Romans 8:28-30)
  - We are **ALREADY SEATED** with Christ in heaven. (Ephesians 2:6)
- If this is true then what does the New Testament say about "resurrected" saints?
  - They are raised to a NEW LIFE - ETERNAL LIFE - 2 Q's - Take notes.
    - ★ What is eternal life?
      - **Quantity** - (Jude 21; 1 Timothy 1:16)
        - BUT the Bible speaks more of eternal life's . . .
      - **Quality** - a new life. (Romans 6:4)
      - Eternal life is a GIFT given to those who are following Christ! (John 10:27-28; Romans 6:23b; Galatians 6:8)
      - Eternal life is a **RELATIONSHIP** with God - it is **KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY.** (John 17:2-3)
    - Sin no longer has dominion over them. (Romans 6:6) GRACE now **REIGNS** (works) in them. (Romans 5:21)
    - As Christ lives to God, so too, since they are IN CHRIST they now live to God. (Romans 6:10; Luke 14:22)
    - They have DIED to sin and they are ALIVE in Christ. (Romans 6:11)
    - They present their bodies (with all of its members) to God to be used for RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Romans 6:12-14)
  - Since Christ is RISEN (ALIVE) He is making intercession for all those He died for!! (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
  - (Romans 5:10) Having been reconciled through Christ death, much more, we shall be saved by HIS LIFE (resurrection)!
    - ★ Because He my FIRSTFRUITS I can face tomorrow!!!!
    - ★ Because He LIVES I can face tomorrow!!!!