Today is Good Friday – It is the Day that Jesus Christ was Crucified on Calvary.

Yesterday was Maundy-Thursday – It marks the Last supper where Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and leads them in Communion. This was them sharing the Passover feast early.

Saturday is the Passover. The Pharisees where trying to kill Jesus before Passover…

This Sunday is Easter – It commemorates the Morning that Jesus Christ Rose from the Dead.

These dates aren’t fixed dates… they always land on Thursday, Friday, & Sunday. The importance is not in that we celebrate the exact day, nor is the importance found in the tradition, the power is found in remembering what Christ did nearly 2000 years ago.

These are important days for the Church…

One of the remarkable things God has done through His plan can be seen in the Holy Days/Feasts/Festivals that He commanded Israel to Celebrate in the Old Testament.

Each of these Festivals serves as a DUAL nature and role…

Passover – In Egypt a Lamb was slain in every household. The Blood of the Lamb was painted on the door posts of the house. When the Death Angel saw the blood He would PASSOVER THAT HOUSE.

It is during the Passover celebration that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is sacrificed. It is His blood that frees us from the penalty of Sin – Death.

It isn’t a coincidence these coincide. The original Passover was always meant to point Israel towards Jesus.

The Festival of Unleavened Bread - the removal of sin from the lives of converted, repentant people. (Exodus 12:15, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

We will be talking about unleavened bread later…

The Feast of Pentecost – God’s Law, the 10 Commandments come from God to Man. 3000 people are swallowed by the earth for rejecting Moses.

The Day of Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2 – The Law of the Spirit, the Holy Ghost comes from God to Man. How many people are saved and added to the church that day? 3000

The similarity is no mistake. It is to point us toward Jesus Christ.

Some of the feasts represent things that haven’t taken place yet…

The Feast of Trumpets - The Return of Jesus Christ. (Leviticus 23:23-25, Matthew 24:30-31)

The Day of Atonement - the judgment and sentencing of Satan after his removal as "the god of this world." (Leviticus 23:26-32, Revelation 20:10)

The Feast of Tabernacles - the first 1,000 years after The Return of Christ. (Leviticus 23:33-36, Revelation 20:2-4)

The Eighth, or Last, Day - The "Great Day" Of Tabernacles picturing the later physical resurrection of the vast majority of humanity who were not resurrected to spirit at the Return of Jesus Christ. (Leviticus 23:39, Revelation 20:5,11-15)

Everything Points to Jesus. Everything before Jesus… Everything After Jesus… It all points to Jesus!

There is nothing wrong with religious tradition… AS LONG AS IT POINTS TO CHRIST! If religious tradition just points to itself, it is empty and not full of life.

Our worship should point towards Christ.

When we observe communion it should direct us and focus us on Jesus.

**What is Communion?**

Communion is a practice that is meant to be observed over and over throughout the life of a Christian. It is a holy time of worship when we corporately come together as one body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us.

**Why do we observe Communion?**

We observe Communion because the Lord told us to. We are to obey His commands:

And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:24 (NIV)

We are **remembering Christ** and all that He has done for us in his life, death and resurrection.

When observing Communion we take time to **examine ourselves:**

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV)

In observing Communion we are **proclaiming His death until He comes**. It is, then, a statement of faith:

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

When we observe Communion we show our **participation in the body of Christ**. His life becomes our life and we become members of each other:

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NIV)

For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 1 Corinthians 11:29

**THE ELEMENTS**

Jesus is Flesh and Blood. Although He is Fully God, he is also Fully Man.

**The Wine** is the blood. It represents the Blood that was shed for us on Calvary. His blood once and for all pays the wage of sin. (When we take it tonight we will be using Grape Juice… We do this because some people may have issues with alcohol & we don’t want to be a stumbling block.)

We remember that we didn’t pay this price – Jesus did.

**The bread** represents the Flesh of Christ. His skin that was thrashed and ripped upon the Cross. He took the bread and broke it and offered it to His disciples. The roman soldiers didn’t really break Him, He offered Himself. He is offering Himself to us even now.

The Bread he used during the Last Supper was Unleavened Bread. In fact Passover feast preparation coincided with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In Exodus they are told to remove all Leavened Bread from their homes and only use Un-Leavened Bread. Leven represents Sin… Leven/yeast is an active ingredient that causes the bread to rise and puff. That is symbolic of sin puffing us up…

Jesus warned of the Leaven of the Pharsisees…

 Jesus is our unleavened bread. He is without sin!

In the custom of unleavened bread they would search their homes for Leavened bread and remove it. Before we take communion I want us to search our hearts for Leaven… Search for it a get rid of it.

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." Mark 14:22-24 (NIV)