



Tough Questions

The Journey – Fall 2017

Jim Hoffman

Christian Life Assembly



Tough Question #9



Tough Questions

- **Why doesn't Christianity honor all of God's Appointed Times? If we celebrate Shabbat, Passover and First Fruits why don't we celebrate all the rest of them? AG is a Pentecostal church so why don't we celebrate Pentecost (Shavuot)? After all, God states that they are a statute forever throughout your generations?**
- **My answer is - why would you celebrate the shadow (type) when we've been given the real thing (Jesus)?**



Tough Questions

- I also believe celebrating the feasts can become something more than they were intended to be where Christians see them as required to be a “good” Christian.
- We are prone to latch on to our little nuances that make us distinct and use them to measure ourselves against other believers.
- Similar perhaps to Seventh Day Adventists, or those who refrain from movies, or those who require women to wear head coverings. (all “extras”)



Tough Questions

- **The feasts were not bad at all, they were intended to point the Jew to the one who would come and be the fulfillment of the feast.**
- **“We do not keep the feasts by keeping the feasts, we keep the feasts by clinging to Christ.” R.C. Sproul**
- **The feasts were good, and truly ordained by God as a beautiful way of pointing to Christ.**



Tough Questions

- **Passover (Leviticus 23:5) – Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb whose blood would be shed for our sins.**
- **Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) – Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life (as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins.**
- **First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10) – Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous.**



Tough Questions

- **Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16) – Occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and pointed to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile.**
- **Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) – Many believe this day points to the Rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His bride, the Church.**



Tough Questions

- **Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27) – Many believe this prophetically points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when He will return to earth.**
- **Tabernacles (a.k.a. Booths) (Leviticus 23:34) – Many scholars believe that this feast day points to the Lord's promise that He will once again “tabernacle” with His people when He returns to reign over all the world (Micah 4:1-7).**



Tough Questions

- **At the end of the day, whether to celebrate feasts or not is a personal decision – most of evangelical Christianity has decided not to celebrate the feasts.**
- **I wish I could include in that decision that we have decided to celebrate Jesus as the feast, but that is not always true.**
- **We should recognize that we are free to celebrate the feasts AND Jesus, or to celebrate Jesus AS our feast.**



Tough Questions

- **Rom 14:**In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. 6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.



Tough Questions

- But didn't God say these are "forever" statutes?
- An example of "First Fruits" as a "statute forever" – Lev 23:14
And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.
- The Hebrew word for "statutes" does not always mean forever – the newer NIV and NLT do not translate it as "forever".



Tough Questions

- **Make no mistake about it, the “feasts” were all beautiful means of honoring God and pointing to Christ. It is okay, but should not be thought of as required that the Christian celebrate them.**
- **Perhaps an application of 1st Cor 13:11? When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.**



Tough Question #10



Tough Questions

- **When God said in Genesis 6:6 “So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart.” – Does this passage indicate that God felt he made a mistake by creating man?**
- **No, one who is all knowing, and all powerful does not make mistakes. (will we all stipulate that is so?)**



Tough Questions

- **Genesis 6:5** The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.
6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. **7** And the Lord said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. **I am sorry I ever made them.**”



Tough Questions

- **Okay, so if God does not mistakes, then what did He mean by “I am sorry”?**
- **We have a clue at the end of verse #6 - “It broke his heart”.**
- **What is the “it” that broke God’s heart? The “it” I believe is that God saw that humanity was reaching a point where they must be destroyed.**



Tough Questions

- The Hebrew word that is sometimes translated as “repented” (KJV), “regretted” (NIV), and “sorry” (NASB) is an unpronounceable word in the English – AVR.
- According to Strong’s concordance, the primary meaning of the word is “displeased”, but other meanings are to cause pain, hurt, or grief.
- Again the clue is in verse #6 – this time from the NIV, “6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.”



Tough Questions

- **If we start with “God does not make mistakes”, then we eliminate the possibility for an error on His part.**
- **So what do we have? We have an expression of regret on the part of God who is anything but cold hearted and disinterested in the well being of mankind.**
- **He must, and will judge sin, but it will bring God no pleasure to do what He had to do in Noah’s day – wipe out all humanity except for 8 souls.**



Tough Questions

- **Ezek 18:23 "Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live."**
- **Ezek 33:11 As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?**



Tough Questions

- **What we end up with I believe is a picture of God as the loving heavenly Father that He is.**
- **While He may seem to stand back almost as merely an objective observer, and allow mankind to march towards judgment, that is not what is really happening.**
- **He is engaged, He is interested, and He is at work through His Holy Spirit calling all to come to repentance.**