

# APOSTOLIC TEACHINGS (PART TWO)

by

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# OVERCOMING TRADITIONS!

**1John 1:5** *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, **that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

**Rom 10:4** *For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.***

God is Light. What then is darkness? Darkness hides in TRADITIONS of men and the rudiment of this world. If you are of the world, you cannot be of Christ, for the love of Christ cannot fit into the love of the world. The Traditions of this world are choked with rituals.

Gentile traditions are mostly centered on "Births, Marriages, and Deaths".

There are different rituals in many Gentile nations surrounding births, marriages and deaths, and most of them are quite horrible but my concern is to discuss how some of these rituals have crept into the church and

are now being practiced in different assemblies with respect to their localities.

The Jewish traditions were not practices based on heathenish cultures and beliefs. They got their traditions from the Law given to them by the Lord God Almighty, the God of their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). God sent his prophet 'Moses' to the people of Israel and gave them the task of receiving, believing and obeying his prophet.

God has always had laws existing with him even from eternity and those laws were compressed into two (2) major Laws as seen in Romans 8:1-2:

(a) The Law of Life, that later manifested in Christ Jesus, and

(b) The Law of the knowledge of good and evil, that was later manifested as "Sin and death".

In the beginning when God created all things by his Word, these two laws guided them. Finally, when man was placed in the Garden of Eden, he came face to face with these Laws (The tree of Life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).

God cannot be separated from his Laws for his Word itself is The Law.

**BIRTHS** (Lev12: 1-8).

**Leviticus 12:1** ¶ *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

**2** *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.*

**3** *And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.*

**4** *And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.*

Moses was given The Ten Commandments, which was the summary of all the uncountable laws of Yahweh to the people of Israel. The birth laws were not part of the

Ten Commandments, but could be traced to at least one of the Ten Commandments, so it is with all other laws.

## CONCEPTION AND DELIVERY

### **Leviticus 12:1-8 and John3: 1-7.**

Looking at the creation of God, conceptions were in ranks. The higher the animals, the less number of conceptions they had. Man was placed at the summit of the pyramid chain with just one conception in a full season.

This implies that women would have their periodical cycles once in 12 months. Yes, 12 months because the number '12' represents the perfect government or order of God.

The conception of the woman became sin after the fall and rendered the woman unclean both in conception and delivery.

The conception was greatly multiplied, making the woman have 13 cycles in 12 months. No wonder David said in **Psalm 51: 5** "**Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.**"

Beyond David's life, he was pointing back to the source of the problem. The first seed was sown (shapened) in iniquity and the conception was sin. The serpent took Adam's wife and planted his seed in her (Iniquity). That seed was Cain "**the seed of the serpent**", a beast in a human being (Sin).

This became the transgression and the fall of man, and by revelation, Paul said, "**Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression**".

God therefore multiplied the conception of the woman as punishment for breaking the "Seed Law".

**Gen 1:11** *And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

**Gen 1:12** *And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was*

*in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

**Gen 1:21** *And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

**Gen 1:24** *And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.*

The above laws were given to prevent crossbreeding of any kind. Let us have another look at the scripture again.

### **Gen 1:11 and Gen 1:12**

God wanted every living thing to reproduce after their kinds. He identified the males and females in all of his creations. Symbolically, the earth is the woman, and the seed is the man. Except one is blind, it is very clear that Cain was not the seed of Adam.

The outcome of The Woman's conception in the Garden of Eden is what was started in the Law given to Israel in Leviticus 12.

The Law followed the pattern laid down by God that The Male and The Female were not spiritually and naturally equal before God. Please, do not be in a hurry to speak against the Holy Spirit, just follow the Word.

The Birth Law for Cleansing!

MALE CHILD

**Leviticus 12:1** ¶ *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

**2** *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.*

**3** *And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.*

**4** *And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come*

*into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.*

Once a man-child was born, the woman was separated for 7 days, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> day the child was circumcised. She continued in her purifying another 33 days counting from the 8<sup>th</sup> day. The total days of her purification would be 40 days, and she must appear at the door of the tabernacle with offerings as mentioned in **Lev12: 4**.

The mother of a Girl-Child has different pattern of purification. The Woman is separated for 14 days and she continues in her purifying another 66 days. The total number of days for her purification for bringing forth a girl child is 80 days and she appears at the door of the tabernacle with her offerings.

Summary:

#### **Man Child**

Separation	7 days
Purifying	33 days
Total	40 days

#### **Girl Child**

Separation	14 days
Purifying:	66 days
Total:	80 days

Hmm! The big question is ‘WHY WAS THE WOMAN RENDERED UNCLEAN FOR CONCEIVING AND BIRTHING?’

The answer lies in the very reason Jesus Christ was sent to die for the redemption of mankind. There is no other way a savior could have come to our rescue except to be born by a woman, which signifies the correction of the first conception that was an error.

The Woman conceived from the wrong source. By so doing, the ‘Seed Law’ was broken. God MUST restore back the “Seed Law” that he hid in the Promise/ Covenant with Abraham.

Conception and delivery were designed to bring joy, but how did it turn out to be a

thing of sorrow? The answer is “**The Original Sin**”.

### **CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING!**

**Luke 1:59** *And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.*

It was customary to the Jews to both circumcise and name every man-child on the eighth day. The number ‘8’ represents a new day (a new beginning) in the divine numeric.

**Luke 2:21** ¶ *And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

The baby Jesus was also circumcised on the eighth day like every other Jewish male child, and his mother had to undergo the process of purification.

Most Christian Churches today are still being suppressed, ignorantly, to observe this eighth day ritual, and their excuse is that they are doing exactly what Jesus did. The Lord Jesus came to fulfill the Law. Also, Paul reminded us that the end of the Law was Christ to them that believed. Rom10: 4.

If therefore, we claim as Christians to believe Christ, how is it that we still have to wait for the eighth day to name our newborns, and carry out circumcision as a religious act? God is light and in him there is no darkness (tradition) at all. 1John 1: 5.

**Rom 10:4** *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*

We are not under any law but the Law of Christ. God testified of Christ and His testimony is true.

**Mt 17:5** *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and*

*behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.***

On this particular day, the God of heaven declared to mortals His manifestation in the flesh with his two witnesses, Moses and Elijah, (representing ‘The Law and the Prophets’) standing before the God of the whole earth in the person of Jesus Christ. (Zech 4: 11-15, Rev 11:3-6, Matt17: 1-10).

Now, speaking in the Nigerian context, we do not need to practice the Yoruba ritual of eighth day naming, or the Igbo forty days waiting before the Mother and Child are accepted to come to church for Child’s dedication. God is not well pleased in these rituals of ours. Gentiles copy everything because the gods we serve, whom we falsely enforce to people as the God of Abraham, are false.

**It was clearly stated, *this is my beloved son in whom am well pleased, hear ye him.***

Therefore, we are to hear Christ (The Holy Ghost, The Revealed Word). There is nothing wrong for you to name your child the moment he/she is born, for even God gave names of people before their birth. Wake up from your slumbers; get away from your idols.

## **MARRIAGE**

I know am surely going to lose friends handling this subject, but try to follow with an open mind.

It is clear that many profess to be Christians and do their best to live like Christians until marriages come up. Churches, Preachers and followers alike are all guilty of this satanic plague.

### **1Thess 1:4-9**

**4 Knowing, brethren beloved, *your election of God.***

**5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, *but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.***

**6 ¶ *And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.***

**7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.**

**8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.**

**9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God **from idols** to serve the living and true God;**

**1John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves **from idols.** Amen.**

## **DEFINITION AND ORIGIN**

Marriage is a formal union of a man and woman recognized by law. The above definition says, “...*recognized by law*”, but the question is which law?

There is no religion, culture, school that can lay claim on marriage. Marriage originated from God, and it is the ONLY entity God introduced after creation. Therefore, if our marriage does not please God, it is useless.

**Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; **I will make him an help meet for him.****

**Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an **help meet** for him.**

God from the beginning MADE for the man a help meet. It was not his Church, his religion, his school or any other, but God. God did not give to Adam another man, neither did he give him another animal, but a WOMAN.

## **THE PLACE WHERE MARRIAGE IS CONTACTED**

Apart from Adam, the next detailed marriage proceedings recorded was that of Isaac. The Scripture will usually say “...*and such and such a person knew his wife*”. The word ‘Knew’ means to lay with, to have intercourse with.

The marriage of Isaac is the overall Bible standard, for this is the pattern that both the Seed of Abraham in the flesh and in the spirit (Isaac and Christ) used.

Can any of you show me just one place in the Scripture where marriage was conducted in the Old Testament Temple? As important as marriage was, and still is, to God, there was not one mention of a temple marriage. Why?

God is spiritual, and may his name be praised forever. Amen.

God recognized the authority of 'THE MAN'. Who is 'The Man'? He is either The Father or any other person that has the right to give out the hand of any woman in marriage. Any man who rightfully gets married also assumes this office of 'The Man' for he becomes the head of the woman (wife). 1Cor 11: 1-3,7-9.

It therefore means that the marriage that God recognizes is that which is done in the home of the bride's father. This was what was done for Isaac by Eliezer and the kind Jesus attended in Cana where he turned water into wine. Gen 24, John 2.

## COMMON FLAWS IN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGES TODAY

There are some things that Christians do during marriages that God is not pleased with. They look very insignificant, such that can be overlooked, but the virus that kills is not usually seen.

### 1. Displacement of Words

#### a) *The Woman Weds The Man*

What could be wrong with the usage of words anyhow? The answer is 'everything is wrong as we would see'.

Take for instance "*Esther weds Paul*". I am sure the Paul we all know cannot take that because he is not a chicken like most of us. It is The Man that takes a wife and not the other way around.

How many women can boldly testify that they talked their husbands into marrying them? They cannot, even though I know

that they did, but it is a shame both to them and their husbands.

#### b) *The Woman Taking The Man to be...*

During the recital of vows, the minister requests the bride to say "*I, Esther, do take you Paul to be my lawful wedded husband...*"

But what could be wrong with this and other similar statements? Let me show you what is demonic in this and others.

#### *Can a Woman put away her husband?*

**Mt 19:7** *They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?*

Whenever there was a divorce in the land of Israel, it was well understood that 'The man' had put away his wife; it was never the other way around. It was impossible for the woman to put away her husband, the best she could do was to leave and that left her with a mark.

The Apostle Paul recognized this order and placed it well for those who care to follow the apostles' doctrines (Jude 3).

**1Co 7:12** *But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.*

**13** *And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.*

Paul did not say that separation was not possible, but he only placed it in the correct order. The man puts away, while the woman leaves.

It is therefore wrong for a bride to say, "I Esther, do take you, Paul to be my whatever".

The Man being the head proposes and the woman being the body accepts or rejects. This is God's order for his church.

#### c) *White Wedding*

What in the world could this mean? This is not from God but from the devil. The victims are Africans, for they marry 2 or 3 times before they are certified married. This

is the reason for their continuous borrowings to contract marriages. How is it that a Christian is borrowing to get married? The family starts on a minus platform, what a shame.

I am sure they have black weddings, colored weddings and the regular white one. It is a clear case of a deceived Church by a deceived and polluted world.

A White wedding is said to be the marriage done in the church. This is very unscriptural, for God will not bless any marriage that is not properly entered into. God recognizes the marriage you call Traditional marriages. I call it "Marriage", for there the dowry is paid and consent is given by the Family of the woman for the man to take her away.

## 2. MARRIAGE VOWS

This makes me laugh and it is one of the reasons why I have included this subject in this piece. Whenever an 'about to wed' couple that know what I preach and stand for, see me on the platform, they fear (and some are even angry) because they feel I am going to spoil the protocol. I say, "Sorry"... sorry for your ignorance.

Who gave today's Christians the traditional marital vows used in their church weddings? I can boldly say it is not God, because he is not well pleased in it.

The original version of the marriage vows was first done by the Catholic church, but the one commonly used today was deduced at first by Bishop Thomas Crammer of the Anglican Church. I reject everything about it because it innocently offends God's truth as I have shown above. The Bible is complete for the believer and "Songs of Solomon" was put there for us, therefore let us be contented with it.

## 3. CHURCH WEDDING

In our local assembly, weddings are not regarded as separate meetings. It is, and must remain, part of the worship service.

Everywhere in the world, I see terrible attitudes displayed by so-called Christians on wedding days. Godly Sisters turn Jezebels and influence their Pastors to act as Ahab. These pastors suddenly turn deaf and dumb, because they see the wrong conduct but refuse to speak. Serpentine voices echo, "*It's a special day, please let them be*". Your wedding is supposed to be a reflection of what is spiritually happening between Christ and His Bride, therefore Satan should not in any way be glorified.

Oh, daughter of God, ask your pastor the following questions;

- Will I be allowed to paint my face in heaven?
- Will Seeveless/Strapless garments be allowed?
- What if I want to fix my nails, eyelashes, increase the sizes of my breast and buttocks?

Every genuine Christian woman is dressed according to the word of God.

## 4. THE HYPOCRITICAL VEIL

Have you ever been to a church wedding and see the bride without a veil? NO.

It means that all brides you have seen are virgins. Is this really so? The answer is NO.

**Heb 13:4** *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

The first thing God is concerned about when anyone is entering into marriage is Truth. If your 'Love' is void of truth, then it is Lust.

The veil used by the bride on her wedding day represents purity. It shows that she is pure in body and in heart. A perverse virgin is not a virgin, though she may have known no man as yet, because her mind is already corrupted in the sight of God. There are different kinds of sexual immorality that Satan has released into the world and in this end time they are prevalent in the world.

Satan has introduced sodomy, oral sex, pornography, sex talks and many others. No one can partake in any of these and be pure.

**Rom 1:24** *Wherefore God also gave them up to **uncleanness** through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

**Rom 6:19** *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to **uncleanness** and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

### **“The bed undefiled”**

The first literal meaning is that prior to the marriage, the man and the woman must not partake in sexual intercourse. This is generally known.

There is yet a deeper meaning to this quote. The bed is defiled if the marriage is contracted in deceit. The bride **MUST** confess to her husband to be, things related to her sexuality. The man has to know the burden he is about to carry. If she is not a virgin in the body, he has to know what happened to it, because it is his right that a certain thief has taken.

I hear people ask, ‘what if after she tells him, he refuses to marry her?’

He never loved her in the first place, and that is even much better for the sister. Once this area is cleared, the man is under obligation to keep this secret. He surely will have a case with God if in anger he recalls the matter to embarrass his wife. Joseph never told anyone that JESUS was not his son.

**Lu 2:48** *And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy **father and I** have sought thee sorrowing.*

The elders sitting there listening to Mary would never think Joseph was not his father.

Once the woman opens up to the man her past life and he in turn accepts her, she automatically becomes his virgin. If this is not done and the sister wears a veil to be joined, God is mocked, and many are presently living with scars in their

marriages because they failed to please God.

### **Conclusion on Marriage**

I never said that we should not hold weddings in our Church assemblies, but let it be seen as a blessing of the marriage that has already been contracted. Isaac, the moment the Bride price was paid, was free to copulate with Rebecca for they were man and wife.

**Gen 24: 66** *And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.*

**67** *And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and **took** Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.*

There was no other church marriage rather than presenting his wife to his father Abraham.

## **FUNERAL RITUALS AMONG CHRISTIANS**

**Ecc 7:2** *It is **better to go** to the house of **mourning**, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.*

The message in the above text could not be better passed than that we have received. Do we still have the house of mourning today? The hearts of men have been totally overrun by the deception of Satan.

Death came by Sin, and sin by Satan, therefore there should be nothing to celebrate except the intervention of the blood of Jesus Christ, our savior. Such celebration is what we observe in the remembrance of the death of him that overcame death. Anything outside this is satanic religious ritual in our churches.

**Luke 16:22** *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: **the rich man** also died, and was buried;*

Consider the priorities of these 2 men. They certainly do not know what takes place at their death, but their kind will do their bidding. Lazarus at death was not concerned about burial. That does not mean that he was buried, but his concern was resurrection/paradise. The rich man must get in return the sponsorship of those whose relatives' burial he had sponsored while he lived.

Let us examine the death and burial of Jesus Christ, whose death means so much to us, and consider that the servant cannot be greater than his master.

**Matt 27:59-60.**

*59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,*

*60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.*

*Is this how Jesus was buried? Are we sure that this was all he got for a burial?* They took his body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in the tomb. This man's death was the key-death that opened the secret of death and broke the arm of Satan. How was it that his burial was not the talk of the town?

### THE DEATH OF A SAINT

**Ps 16:6** *The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

The Name and the Blood of Jesus Christ are the Keys of hell and of death (**Rev1: 18**).

Salvation is given to us in the name of Jesus Christ by his blood. The blood is the mechanics, while the name is the dynamics.

**Eph 1:7** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

**Col 1:14** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

**18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

In the above quotation, The Lord Jesus introduces himself as;

- a) **I am he that liveth:** There was surely no way for any being that was not physically existing on earth to be the redeemer and savior. Jesus was physically alive having Flesh and Blood. The blood must belong to a person or an animal as it was in the Old Testament. Therefore, Jesus, when he said, "I am He" it was a pointer to his NAME. It was agreeing with the entire Scripture. Let me quote a few.

*Ps 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*

*Ac 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

*Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

Therefore, The Name of Jesus Christ holds the Blood of Jesus Christ.

### Obtaining The Keys

Since the price for our sins was The Blood of Jesus Christ, it MUST take our identification with his death to obtain the blood. If the scriptures quoted above are true, then **THERE IS NO SOUL WHO CAN GET IN CONTACT WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST WITHOUT REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM IN HIS NAME (Lord Jesus Christ).**

**John 3:3** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

*7* *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

**HOW?**

**Matt 26:28** *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

**Mark 1:4** *John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*



**Luke 1:77** *To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the **remission** of their sins,*

**Luke 3:3** *And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the **remission** of sins;*

**Luke 24:47** *And that repentance and **remission** of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

**Ac 2:38** *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

**Ac 10:43** *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive **remission** of sins.*

The death of a saint turns victorious because he is under the covering of the name of Jesus Christ. We mourn for the loss of a believer but rejoice in the assurance we have for his destiny.

The true Church should desist from the following;

- *Much spending for the dead*
- *Feasting at the expense of the bereaved*
- *Costly costumes and uniform wearing*
- *Neglecting the importance of 'The Lord's Supper', which is the only death, we celebrate. For since we live not for ourselves but Christ living through us, we die and live in Christ Jesus alone.*

#### **Gal 2: 20-21**

**20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**21** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

### **JESUS' FUNERAL**

**6 ¶** *Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,*

**7** *There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment,*

*and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.*

**8** *But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?*

**9** *For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.*

**10** *When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.*

**11** *For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.*

**12** *For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.*

**13** *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.*

Knowing that his death was at the door, The Lord Jesus Christ attended a feast in which he was invited. Right in that feast, another feast unknown to many was initiated. Mary Magdalene took a box of Alabaster oil, a very precious ointment, and smeared Jesus with it from his head down to his feet.

**Note:** I used the word 'smear' which is a more appropriate word to use than 'anoint' for the religious minds. Mary **smeared** Jesus with the Alabaster oil; it was not a priestly/prophetic exercise as that of Samuel to Saul and David. Another good example where the bible used the word 'anoint' to mean 'smear' is in **Mat 6:16-18**.

**16 ¶** *Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

**17** *But thou, when thou fastest, **anoint thine head**, and wash thy face;*

**18** *That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*

This anointing is nothing spiritual, but for the body, to look clean and shining.

Jesus had his funeral celebrated prior to his death. The lesson we can derive from this is that we should learn to exercise brotherly love one for another while we live on this side of the river (earth).

I pray that the Lord will keep us all away from idols and heathenish rituals in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

## CONCLUSION ON FUNERAL

### Burial/Funeral

There is no provision in the entire Scripture of truth for funeral services, but since we live in a temporal place where saints expire every now and then, we have these services to honor God for their lives.

We mourn our loss not by bogus feasting, as the unbelievers do, to mock their dead.

***Ecc 7:2*** *It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.*

***Rom 12:15*** *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

It is best to bury the remains of the departed not later than 3 days after death. The issue of embalming started with the Egyptians who mummified their dead for worship purposes. Yes, Jacob was embalmed because he had left words concerning the location of his burial place. Today, when we are faced with similar situations, we do not have any other choice than to preserve the body until things normalize. We have seen cases whereby the Police are involved, and autopsy was needed to ascertain the cause of death.

In the absence of these anomalies, the body should be buried on or before 72 hours after death.

***1Cor 15:55*** *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

***56*** *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

***57*** *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***58 ¶*** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

