**COME BEFORE HIM**

Pastor Jeff Alexander + November 18, 2018

**As we gather around tables this week to celebrate and GIVE THANKS, let us first come before our Lord God at His Table with hearts of gratitude.**

**Ancient festivals for the people of God included SACRIFICES for sin and OFFERINGS of praise.**

**Deuteronomy 16:13-17**

***13****Celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress.****14****Be joyful at your festival—you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.****15****For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.* ***16****Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed:****17****Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.*

**The ancient festivals FORESHADOWED what would happen when the Messiah came.**

**Hebrews 10:1**

*The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.*

**The presence of Jesus Christ changes the ways we do things by bringing fulfillment and GREATER PURPOSE to what we do when we gather together.**

**Hebrews 10:10, 14**

*We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all…For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

**We come before God with the FULL ASSURANCE that His blood sets us free to be His forever people.**

**Hebrews 10:22**

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

**When we receive the Lord’s blessings, how can we not but respond with our SACRIFICE OF PRAISE?**

**Hebrews 10:25**

*…not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*