

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Seven**

#### **Seven Women**

Is. 4:1 "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach."

The phrase "in that day" indicates the gospel age in which we are now in. Women in the scriptures are sometimes used to indicate covenants or systems of worship. The seven women represent false worship systems. They want to be called by the name of Christ, but they want to eat their own bread and wear their own apparel.

The true church of Jesus Christ is referred to as the bride of Christ (John 3:29; Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17). She eats of the true gospel of the grace of Christ: Gal. 1:6 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." She wears the imputed robe of righteousness of Christ: 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

The vast majority who wear the name of Christ today, however, want their own gospel:

1. Matt. 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

2. Gal. 1:7 "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

3. Matt. 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

They also want to wear their own apparel, not being satisfied with the Lord's imputed righteousness:

1. Rom. 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

2. Rom. 9:31 "But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone."

The true church of Jesus Christ seeks and believes the gospel of the grace of Christ. The seven women of false worship seek the doctrines and commandments of men. The true church of Jesus Christ is satisfied with the imputed righteousness of Christ. The seven women of false worship seek to establish their own righteousness through their own actions. These are the main ways in which the true church and false worship systems are different.