

Harvest Service – Sermon Outline 27 September 2009

Deuteronomy 16:13-17, 26:1-12, Psalm 65:1-4, 9-13

The people of Israel celebrated the harvest:

1. As the gift of a generous creator God (Deut.26:9, Ps.65:9b,11, Lev.25:23b)

NOT as the product of a world that just happened to be there

NOT as the product of a world that had divine power in itself

NOT as the product of their own ingenuity and effort – and nothing else

- Cultivate specific expressions of thanksgiving for the food that God provides
- Cultivate thanksgiving for God's other creation gifts: marriage, family life and friendship, work, science, sport, the arts,... (1 Tim.4:3-4)

2. With wholehearted joy in both redemption AND creation (Deut.16:14-15)

They combined partying and praising (Neh.8:10,12a, 2 Chron.30:21-23)

- Avoid the sin of joylessness (Psalm 103:1,2, Phil.4:4)
- Learn to blend thanksgiving for both 'the cross and the crops' (Psalm 65:3,11)

3. With generous-heartedness to the needy within the family of God's people
(Deut. 26:12, Neh.8:10, Deut.16:14,16b,17)

- Thanksgiving and celebration before God is an antidote to selfishness and self-indulgence
- Make sure that the lonely, the marginalized and those in financial need within the church family (and also beyond it) are included (Acts 4:34-35)

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For an HTML version of these notes with easy linking for all the bible references, see:
http://www.eden-cambridge.org/sermons/notes/html/2009_09_27_AM.shtml