

Should Christians Wear Tassels?



*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must
worship him in spirit and in truth.*

John 4:24

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Are Christians to wear tassels today? There continues to be a growing movement within the Messianic community advocating that believers wear tassels. The reason, they say, is that such tassels remind them to keep God's law.

Wearing tassels was not a part of the original Ten Commandments, nor were they included in any of the Eternal's statutes and laws. A short time after proclaiming the Commandments, the Almighty asked Moses to bid Israel to wear them as a result of a single individual who performed a disobedient act. As the Scriptures state:

And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own

heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God (Numbers 15:32-40).

Why the Instruction to Wear Tassels?

The verses above indicate that the wearing of tassels was specifically for the purpose of reminding the Israelites to obey God's Commandments. In our modern culture, the practice might be compared to tying a string around our finger to help remember something that needed to be done. In this case, those of Israel were to look upon the tassels and remember to keep God's law and not follow the carnal pulls of their emotions arising from our human nature.

It should also be understood that God instituted the wearing of tassels in the context of Israel having been in bondage for hundreds of years. During that time, they had forgotten His laws. In fact, after the death of Jacob and his 12 sons, Israel literally abandoned God and turned to idolatry (Jos. 24:14; Eze. 20:7-13). Generations had come and gone in which God's Ten Commandments, His statutes, and annual Holy Days were neither taught nor kept.

The fact that the individual who sinned did so after God had revealed the Sabbath makes the issue even more clear. The people did not have God's spirit. They did not truly have a heart for God and His law. They were physically minded and, as such, needed a physical reminder to help them remember that they were to live by God's laws and not their feelings.

Not only did the Israelites not have God's Spirit, they had no printing presses. The people had no computers or bibles as we do today. Copies of the law were not available to the average family. Therefore, during this time and in their circumstance, God deemed it appropriate to display a simple physical reminder to help Israel focus on keeping His commandments. They were to create tassels and wear them as part of their attire as a continual token of their covenant with God (Exo. 19:5).

Tassels Did Not Give Israel a Heart to Obey God

Israel was privileged to be given God's Law, but they continually forgot to keep it in spite of wearing tassels. For example, after Joshua died, there was a period of Judges. This section of Israel's history was one in which the people did what was right in their own eyes. As a result, they did not eradicate the corrupt pagans from the land. Moreover, they became attracted to their idolatrous and decadent worship. They became weak willed, and ultimately came to be ruled by these pagan peoples. When their suffering became great, they would call out to God, and He would save them. However, each generation would repeat this same pattern.

Later, David loved and obeyed God. However, tassels did not prevent his sin. Then wearing tassels did not prevent his son Solomon from marrying 300 foreign wives and 700 concubines. These women turned his heart away from God and he too began to worship the depraved pagan gods. As a result, God cut the ten nations of Israel off from Judah to prevent them from being infected with idolatry. Solomon's servant, Jeroboam, was appointed king, and to insure Israel no longer associate with Judah, he changed God's feast days and set up calves in Bethel and Dan.

Over time, Israel became so corrupt that in their later history, King Ahab married Jezebel, the High Priestess of Baal. As a result, God punished them—taking them captive by the powerful Assyrians, and they were lost to history.

In time Judah sinned worse. Their king ultimately married Jezebel's daughter, and the entire scenario played out exactly as it did for Israel. They were taken captive by Babylon. However, God allowed them to temporarily return so that a nation professing God's law would exist, the Messiah could be born there, and fulfill His saving purpose.

During the time Christ lived in Judah, the people wore tassels. In fact, the Pharisees were well known for their elaborately decorated tassels. But the people never obeyed God. Human nature flourished among the people.

To protect themselves, the religious leaders feared that Christ might cause an uprising, bringing the Romans to quell it. So, while wearing their tassels, they plotted the Savior's death.



Yes, these men wore tassels as they turned Christ over to the Roman's. In custody, He would be humiliated, beaten, and finally crucified. The Tassels did not give these brutal leaders a heart for God. Neither did the tassels have an effect on the local people. They too echoed the desires of the priests and Pharisees, shouting "Crucify Him!" (Luke 23:21).

Tassels Had Little Effect Because of their Heart

After God pronounced the Ten Commandments atop Mount Sinai, the people feared Him, and no longer wanted the Almighty to speak to them. Consequently, God spoke to the people through Moses. At this time, the Eternal lamented:

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29).

The Problem is the Heart

The heart is understood to be the seat of our emotions. Those emotions pull on us, and they motivate much of our behavior. Therefore, as God gave the Law to Israel, He knew in advance what would occur.

The truth is that God was not attempting to save Israel at this time. God was using ancient Israel as an example to a future people who would be Spiritual Israel. These individuals would be made up of those He would call to accept Him down through time. They would primarily be those living during the last two thousand years before Christ's return to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom.

God the father would call these individuals to repent of sin, be baptized, picturing the death of the person they once were, and rise again portraying their future resurrection to Spirit in the likeness of Christ. They would then have hands laid on them for receiving the Holy Spirit that would dwell within them having the power to change their heart—their mind.

A New Covenant and a New Heart

The wearing of Tassels to remember God's law is a sign that the wearers actually follow the Old Covenant. However, after the death and resurrection of God's Son, the Eternal made a New Covenant with man. That New Covenant is administered by Christ, and it literally gives those desiring to remember God's law, the ability to do so.

For example, the book of Hebrews was written just prior to the destruction of the temple and the dispersion of the Jewish people. In this letter, the author explains the superiority of the New Covenant and what parts of the old would continue:

But now hath he (Christ) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first *covenant* had been faultless then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, (the fault

was the people—not God’s covenant) he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, **A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away** (Hebrews 8:6-13)

Shortly after this letter to the Hebrews was sent out, the Roman General, Titus attacked Jerusalem. The temple was completely destroyed. Not a single stone was left—just as Christ had predicted. The priests and people alike were scattered over the entire world.

However, Christ’s Church had been planted. Many Jews and Gentiles would be called to enter into Christ’s New Covenant with God. This covenant would replace the fault in the Old Covenant, and that fault was the heart of the people. By this, Israelites and Gentiles alike could have a new heart through the Holy Spirit—they could have the mind of Christ:

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his

Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God... For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:2:9-10; 16).

Easy to Abuse

Perhaps one of the greatest drawbacks regarding wearing tassels is the ease of their misuse. For example, consider an individual who wears ordinary tassels moving to a new area. There he or she finds that the new group wears fancy, expensive tassels. The natural human tendency would tend to prompt a desire to fit in with the others, and the person would likely order “appropriate tassels” to fit in.

The fact that tassels are outside a person generates its own problem. The focus becomes what a person sees in outward appearance, and not the inner man. This was the exact problem Christ dealt with during His day. The people wore tassels but their focus was not on obeying the law.

Without the heart to obey God, Judah misused God’s religion. They were simply physically minded individuals, and consequently they sought to fulfill the expression of their human nature. The result was a distortion of God’s intended purpose for wearing tassels. Lacking the Spirit, the Jewish people eventually misapplied God’s purpose for these tassels. Instead of reminding them to obey God, they came to be an outward show of righteousness among the religious people of Christ’s day. As the Savior stated:

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no *man*

your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. (Matthew 23:5-11).

While not claiming that everyone who might choose to wear tassels is motivated by the same purpose as the Pharisees of Christ's time, nonetheless, to a large degree, not much has changed since then. As a result, many modern religious Jews grow long beards or unique sideburns. Some wear a prayer shawl, a yarmulke, or some kind of tassels. Thus, like the Pharisees of old, much of this adorning is not really done to obey God, but is more often worn to make the person stand out as pious or identify themselves as part of a particular religious group.

For example, while the Bible gives no details for the making of tassels, modern Judaism and Messianic religious groups actually mimic the behavior of the ancient Pharisees in that they do not make their tassels exactly as God said. For example many have mixed fabrics to create their own special decorative tassels. Some tie them together in a specific way with an exact number of knots to represent 613 laws. Others decorate them with beads, and even some are made with gold.

In light of these things, in our attempt to obey God, we should be reminded of the following truth. Christ condemned doing anything for the sake of appearing righteous outwardly. In His words:

Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men.

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly (Matthew 6:1-4).

The purpose of wearing tassels was that those living in Israel would see them and be reminded to keep God's law, but they utterly failed in this. The reason was because the people did not yet possess the influence of the Spirit in their mind. Today, true Christians have God's Spirit. By that Spirit they experience an internal change of heart, and no longer need external physical objects such as those who purchase idols, wear crosses, or use amulets for luck. As John wrote:

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, it will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all things that I said** to you (John 14:26).

Tassels alone have absolutely no effect on a person's conscience. By simply focusing on these physical tassels, the newness eventually wears off, and then any number of ideas of what it means to obey God can become possible. In enough time the tassel tend to just become a part of everyday clothing. Instead Christians must strive to stay connected to the Spirit of God in their mind, and make decisions regarding how to keep God's law in various situations that arise in everyday life. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

*Do Physical Objects Help Us
Worship God in Spirit?*

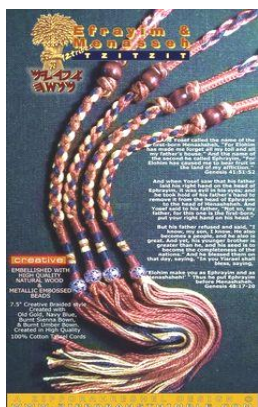


*Worship with Shawls, Phylacteries, and Seven Turns
of Tephillin,*



Worshipping at the Wall Herod Built

Tassels for Sale



Paul makes it clear that true holiness is not found in physical objects. It is found by walking in the Spirit. It is renewing our mind by our connection to God through His Spirit. By this, we grow closer to having the heart God desires. We understand the deep things of God. By following its lead, we will live as God desires. We can, and will resist humanly desired means of worship and strive to live by the spirit of God's Holy Law. We will echo the apostle's words:

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man (Romans 7::22).

Thus, our connection with God must be inward and not outward. Proper outward acts will naturally be a result of the inward growth as we walk with God through His spirit.

Some Messianic Objections

(1) None of the Law is to be done Away

There are a number of groups that use tassels to enhance their worship rather than the Holy Spirit alone. They defend tassels, and in one example they quote Christ to say:

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:18-19).

Based on these verses, most Messianic worshipers would encourage their congregants to believe that every command to Israel is to be observed now, in our age. There is no question that all the law will be observed upon Christ's return. However, at this time there is no temple, no priests, and the nation of Israel is not very religious.

We ask readers to give this deeper thought. Some laws are simply only applicable to those who are Israelite born. For example, building a tabernacle during the Feast (Lev. 23:42). Further, those who advocate tassels as part of God's eternal law do not think they are obligated to perform Levirate marriage. They do not practice the sacrifices. They do not believe they should stone an offender within their congregation for wrong doing. They do not believe they can simply give their wife a letter of divorce. They don't return purchased lands at the Jubilee. Further, it is nearly impossible to buy an item of clothing that does not have mixed fabrics. They also do not require circumcision of Gentiles, or perform the various washings that God commanded Israel in Scripture. This is exactly why the Spirit teaches us what is applicable, and what is not. Therefore, God's Spirit replaces the need for tassels.

(2) Christ wore Tassels

Christ likely did wear tassels. However, it is not an absolute fact. In Christ's day, it was primarily the religious leaders, or the nobility who wore them. Still, we should expect that the Savior kept all that was written. But, this does not automatically mean we are to wear tassels today.

For example, it is an absolute certainty that Christ did not need tassels to remember God's law. He also wore a robe and sandals—those things which were customary in the society in which He lived.

In many places Christ said that we should go and do likewise. However, when it came to tassels, He never pointed out the fact that He wore them or that His followers should wear them. The only words that Christ ever uttered regarding tassels were criticisms of the religious leaders for the fact that they wore them as a badge of superiority.

(3) The Woman with an Issue of Blood

Messianic believers claim that a woman with an issue of her blood touched Christ's tassels and was instantly healed. As the Scriptures explain:

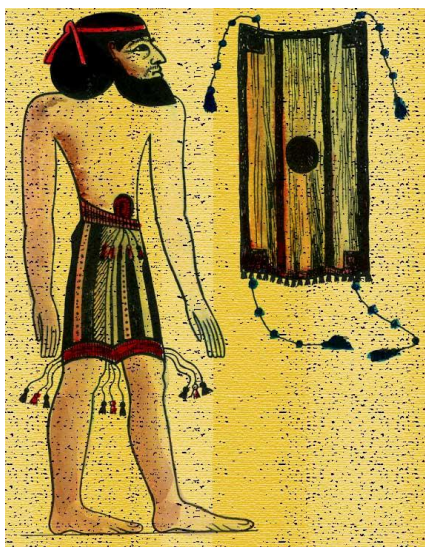
And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind *him*, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And the woman was made whole from that hour (Matthew 9:20-22).

Wearers of Tassels usually make the claim that the woman touched His tassel and were healed. First of all, note that it literally says she touched the hem of His garment. Scholars admit that this term is somewhat ambiguous. Found in five different places in the King James Version, and in over twenty other translations, it is only translated as hem, border, or borders—and—never tassels.

Jewish custom indicates that “hem” is likely the correct translation. For example, the clothing of the Jews followed a common pattern. There was an inner tunic that was shaped like a poncho.

This poncho was in the shape of a rectangle with a hole in the middle for the head. Thus, it had four corners upon which the tassels were to be attached. As Barnes' Notes states:

“The Bible says that this “garment was probably the square garment which was thrown over the shoulders... Mark 5:27 only says that the sick woman touched His garment. In another incident, Matthew 14:36 makes further reference to the “hem” of His garment. As mentioned, Christ chided the Pharisees in Matthew 23:5 that they “enlarge[d] the borders of their garment” (E-sword; Barnes Notes).



The portrait above is in harmony with Cyclopedia which states that tassels were affixed to these corners of a poncho type covering, and therefore, would have hung slightly lower than the waist, and not be the bottom border or hem of His robe which was where she likely touched his garment.



In this scenario, the Messianic movement advances a story line in which Christ's tassels appear to have a sort of magical quality. This belief is exactly the problem with wearing tassels. They can easily become an object of superstition. But, the truth is that this story makes one vital point clear. It was not Christ's robe. It was not the border of His garment—it was her faith that healed her—not touching some form of cloth.

Reasons Christians Are Not Required to Wear Tassels

(1) Wearing Tassels is Not a Law

In Numbers 15:38, God spoke to Moses telling Him to bid the Israelites to wear tassels. The term "bid" has a wide variety of applications, but it's primarily meaning is to say, or to speak to the people. Thus, God did not command them, and therefore there is NO VERSE ever stating a punishment for not wearing them as is essential in all God's commanded laws.

(2) What was required of Gentiles?

Christ laid out the process for making judgments regarding conflicts among brethren in Matthew 18. As more Gentiles were added to the church, conflicts naturally arose. In that context, what exactly was required of Gentiles who became believers mushroomed into an enormous issue.

God had given Israel the rite of circumcision to both identify them, and also to serve as a reminder that they belonged to God. There were Jews who were friends of James (Gal. 2:12). They traveled about preaching that Gentiles were required to first become Jews by the act of circumcision before they could be Christians. These early Jewish Christians believed that circumcision was somehow the only door to enter a relationship with God.

This came to a head in Antioch. There Paul witnessed Peter avoiding eating with the Gentiles. Paul openly corrected Peter and took the issue to Jerusalem where the apostles applied Matthew 18.

In Jerusalem, those with a vested interest testified before the leadership. After hearing the testimony, Peter reminded his audience that God had personally revealed to him that Gentiles did not require circumcision. The Apostle, James, whose friends had instigated the conflict, seconded the decision. Two or more had agreed, and the church wrote letters to be delivered to every church. Those letters imposed only four things upon Gentile Christians living or worshiping among Christian Jews. Those four requirements were stated in these words:

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day (Act 15:19).

Notice that only these things were required by the Gentiles, and of course, tassels were not included. Therefore, readers should give this thought.

However, Messianic adherents would likely focus wish to focus on the fact that the Gentiles were expected to attend the synagogue on Sabbath. There they would hear Moses read. Thus, they would hear of both tassels and of circumcision which were not required any more than the animal sacrifices or various washings.

As far as the Jewish community was concerned, circumcision was of far greater importance than tassels. At the same time, the Church understood the fact that as important as circumcision was to the Jewish Christians, it was not required of Gentiles.

In other words, this raging issue of circumcision within the Church was finally resolved. Gentiles did not have to first become Jews in order to become a Christian. Thus, lesser issues such as wearing tassels ended up belonging to Judaism—not Christianity.

Converted Gentiles are the same as any other Christian. Therefore, they have God’s law written in their mind. As Paul states:

For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves (Rom 2:13-14).

The converted Gentiles did not have the written law. However, without wearing tassels, through the Spirit, the Gentiles lived by the principles found in the law. Moreover, wearing tassels never led Israel to keep God’s commandments. This historic fact leads to an enormous truth! God’s Spirit is to lead us in our quest for the Kingdom—not pieces of cloth.

(3). The Book of Hebrews Explains

The author of Hebrews wrote to the Jewish community just prior to the destruction of the temple. The author repeatedly speaks of what changes Christianity would bring. It is this message that dominates the book written before the terrible tragedy of destruction in 70 A.D.

The letter was to explain to observant Jews in God's church exactly what was important and lasting for Christians. Some things would be replaced while others would stay. Notice the emphasis in this vital book.

The author states that, in the past, prophets spoke to men. However, now the Son of God speaks to us. The Israelites could not come into God's presence. But now Christians have access to both God and to His rest, therefore the Sabbath remains.

The book of Hebrews explains that there is a change in the priesthood, and the law. The law did not make anything perfect, however, now our hope is found in a relationship with God through His Spirit, and it is this that will culminate in perfection.

Hebrews tells us that the sacrifices did not really please God, but a Christian's worshipful sacrifice does please the Father (Rom. 12:1). Further, the sons of Levi received tithes, but now there is a change in the law, and tithes are paid to Christ.

Hebrews continues stating that there was a fault in the first covenant. That fault was that the people were not changed. This is corrected in the New Covenant in which the Spirit of Christ living in us changes our heart so that we are sensitive to God. As a result, we understand the spirit and intent of His law.

For those called now, it is clear that physical aspects of worship did not please God. Rather, as Paul writes to the Corinthian's, the entire experience of ancient Israel was to be an example to Christians that physical submission to the law produces a "hit and miss" form of worship (1Cor. 10:11).

Since, the message in the book of Hebrews is about what changed or remained in the New Covenant, the question one must ask is this: Where in the world would wearing of tassels be in the pages of this holy book of Hebrews? They are simply not there.

The Sabbath is kept. Tithing remains. The priesthood is changed. The Old Covenant is replaced with the new. However, the wearing of tassels requires looking to what is old and passing away. It is looking to a system of worship that was originally designed by God for people who were not converted and did not have God's Holy Spirit.

Not a Sin—But

Of course, not everyone who desires to wear tassels is motivated by the same values as the Pharisees of Christ's time. However, for the most part, the truth is that not much has changed. For example, today, many who wish to identify with modern Jewish worship wear various items to demonstrate that they are religion outwardly.

For example, while the Bible gives no detailed criteria for making such tassels, some Messianic followers have created these tassels with mixed fabrics, which is against God's law. They also have elaborate instructions regarding tying the tassels into 613 knots to reflect 613 of the sacred laws of God.

The tendency is also to wear a prayer shawl because God said to wear a four cornered garment to attach these tassels. Others wear only black including unique black hats. Others don yarmulkes, much like the Catholic Bishops wear.

Others are found wearing unique sideburns known as "Payot Harosh." Much of this is done today just as was done in Christ's time, not to obey God, but to stand out as pious or to validate their particular group.

The Old System Will Be Re-established—but it's not Better

Sometimes people are confused because during the millennium and Second Resurrection, a Temple will be built. Priests will again offer sacrifices, and Christ will rule.

This is true. All that is in the law will be reestablished when Christ brings His Kingdom to earth. However, until then there is a calling to a special people who are entirely unique from those of old. Those who are called now have been begotten by God's Spirit. These individuals are to be led by that spirit and grow in the mind of Christ.

Of the many of these that are called now, only a few will ultimately be chosen. These are to become exceptional people who will live by God's Spirit and the intent of His law. They will be changed to spirit, be glorified as Christ was, and ultimately marry Him. They will then be part of the ruling class with Him in the Kingdom.

All the rest of humanity who attain eternal life will be the children in God's family. They will be saved and ultimately become spirit beings. However, they will not be Christ's bride. They will live again as physical beings on earth as God intended for ancient Israel. Then, they will face a final white throne judgment to determine if they will live or not.

During their lives, they will keep all that is written in the law physically. For now, however, true Christians are called to be a part of a New Covenant. They are not to resurrect various parts of the Old covenant given to a carnal people. Those called now are citizens of Heaven, but on this earth, they are strangers and pilgrims.

Believing a church organization's doctrines, following a special church leader, or attempting to go back and use select physical parts from the Old Covenant, will count for nothing for them. In that context, consider the end times. The Jews will eventually rebuild the temple that God destroyed. There they will offer sacrifices believing they are serving God. However, that is not the case. Consider God's perspective of what they attempt to do:

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest? For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: but to this *man* will I look, *even* to *him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. He that killeth an ox *is as if* he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, *as if* he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, *as if he offered* swine's blood; he that burneth incense, *as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose *that* in which I delighted not (Isaiah 66:1-4).

Put the verses above in perspective. Some might require the Scriptures to provide an absolute “no” regarding putting away tassels, but for those who have ears to hear, God gave tassels for THOSE WHO DID NOT REMEMBER HIS LAW. Does any one of us want to be in that category? The answer should be no!

For those called in this age, God does not require circumcision in the flesh as the Old Covenant required. Does anyone think that after being circumcised in the heart, that being circumcised in the flesh adds any value to their relationship to God? Of course, the answer is no!

True Christians today are to offer spiritual sacrifices to God. We are told that those sacrifices are to “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service (Rom. 12:1).

Does any converted person think that adding physical sacrifices can bring us closer to God in our relationship to Him? Again the answer is no!

It's Personal

Each individual, called by God in this current dispensation, must have an independent deepening relationship with the Father and Christ. This must lead to keeping the law in its spirit and intent—not just physically. That must be our priority, and therefore, outward objects such as tassels, physical sacrifices, or the perceived need for outward circumcision can easily become a distraction to God's intended purpose for us. Physical things to help in our worship have been stripped away from us that we might exceed the practices of the Old Covenant, and attain the greater reward offered in the New. For this reason, Christ made this statement:

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20).

An Abundance of Reminders Today

Today Christians have printed bibles to remind them of every commandment, statute, and law. Moreover, in light of Christ's words above, we are not to draw attention to our personal religious observance. So, while no Scripture directly prevents God's people from wearing tassels, those things that are clearly done away in this dispensation, carry a greater weight than wearing tassels. The obvious conclusion is that tassels are also not part of the New Covenant. Once receiving the Holy Spirit, that Spirit supersedes God's original purpose for tassels worn by an unconverted people. Returning to wearing them could very well be an insult to God just as the future rebuilding the temple and making sacrifices in it!

God's Spirit supersedes wearing tassels. We have the mind of Christ in us, and He is our intimate and personal reminder. Thus, tassels can actually become a distraction spiritually. In fact, as an outward show, they may ultimately do more harm than good. They can lead us to do the unnecessary while leaving the most necessary undone.

Within this context, while wearing tassels is not necessarily a sin, if we wear them to draw attention to ourselves, or to appear religious, it easily can become sin. In that context, and in the light of all that has been said so far, wearing tassels would obviously be perceived by many other members of God's Church as simply an outward show. It would be taken as Christ indicted the Pharisees. Their wearing of tassels was of no real spiritual value.

Further, in the calling we have today, it can be a distraction causing wearers to look outside them self rather than looking inward for guidance in keeping God's law by His Spirit. God's Spirit is, and must be, our direct connection to the Almighty God with nothing in-between.

On another level, the true believer is to avoid physical displays to profess their faith. Instead, they are to seek God's Spirit through prayer, meditation, and the study of God's Word. It is by this that our behavior will reflect our faith to others. We will be keeping God's Commandments in their spiritual intent and not just in the letter as was required in an earlier time and a different dispensation (Mat. 5:17-48).

In conclusion, there is no question that the Scriptures do not directly prevent wearing tassels. However, there can also be no question that tassels are never mentioned in the New Testament as something Christians should wear. The overwhelming evidence is that our New Covenant relationship with God does not include such physical acts of worship, and once receiving the Spirit, neither they, nor their original purpose continue to be valid.

We should not forget the obvious fact that wearing tassels can actually serve to further divide God's people. The evidence is staring us in the face as we witness how the Messianic movement has lured believers to follow the physically ritualistic Jewish Rabbinical system that was rejected by God. Therefore, we are convinced that it is in ours and Christ's best interests not to wear tassels in this, the dispensation of our spiritual calling.