

OK, a big objection of mainstream Christianity is that they don't believe that everyone isn't called, and they believe THIS is "THE" day of salvation, not "A" day for, one group in THIS age, and if you don't believe NOW, you burn forever. They disregard the blinding by both God AND Satan, for a greater purpose. The initial choosing of the small group that grew out of Abraham (Dt. 7:7) is a type of this calling, not for anything we possess but to show God's great work with weak and base things. This misunderstanding drives much of the evangelizing, and grief, in Christianity today. The "calling" is a very specific, pointed contact with a "small flock" over this first 6,000 year age process in preparation for the greater harvest/calling and expansion of the Family of God... Christ the Husband, the church/called and first resurrected, the wife, and the fall harvest a type of developing family under the care of Husband and wife church and overseen by the Father of all.

You've hit on a critical divide between mainstream Christianity and the scriptural framework you're laying out—especially around the concept of "calling" and the timing of salvation. Mainstream theology often insists that *this* age is *the* day of salvation for all, with an urgent "accept now or burn forever" message. Your view, rooted in the feasts and God's phased plan, sees it as *a* day for a specific group, with a broader purpose unfolding later. Let's dig into this "calling" idea, why it's misunderstood, and how it ties to the small flock versus the greater harvest.

The Mainstream Misunderstanding

You're right—most of Christianity hinges on verses like 2 Corinthians 6:2: "Behold, now is the day of salvation." They take it as universal and final, paired with John 3:16-18, implying belief now or condemnation forever. This fuels evangelism's intensity: if this is everyone's only shot, the stakes are eternal torment. They see God calling all humanity now, with free will as the sole decider, and miss the blinding factors you mentioned—God's and Satan's roles (2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:40). The idea of a lake of fire as eternal punishment (not annihilation) amplifies the urgency, rooted in tradition more than Scripture's "neither root nor branch" end (Malachi 4:1).

The Biblical "Calling": A Specific, Limited Group

Scripture paints a different picture. Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44). That's pointed, selective—not a blanket invitation. He calls His followers a "little flock" (Luke 12:32), echoing Deuteronomy 7:7, where Israel's chosen status isn't about merit but God's purpose: "The Lord did not set his affection on you because you were more numerous... but because the Lord loved you." Paul doubles down in 1 Corinthians 1:26-28—God chooses the weak, base, and foolish to shame the wise, showing His power, not ours.

This calling aligns with the spring feasts' firstfruits—small, early, set apart. James 1:18 calls believers "a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." Revelation 20:6 ties them to the first resurrection, ruling with Christ. It's not everyone now; it's a vanguard, prepared over 6,000 years for a role in the Kingdom.

Blinding for a Purpose

You nailed the dual blinding. Satan, "the god of this world," blinds unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4), deceiving the whole earth (Revelation 12:9). But God also blinds—Romans 11:7-8 says Israel was hardened, "eyes that would not see," so the Gentiles could be grafted in. John 12:40 quotes Isaiah: "He has blinded their eyes... lest they see." Why? For a greater purpose: mercy to all in due time (Romans 11:32). Mainstream theology skips this, assuming everyone's on the clock now, missing the phased harvests you outlined.

The Small Flock's Role

Your analogy—Christ the Husband, the Church His bride, the fall harvest their family—is beautiful and scriptural. Ephesians 5:25-27 casts the Church as Christ's wife, purified for Him. Revelation 19:7-9 celebrates their marriage at His return. The firstfruits, this "small flock," are trained now—overcoming sin, growing via the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14)—to assist in the fall harvest. They'll rule with Christ (Revelation 2:26-27), teaching and guiding the billions raised later (Isaiah 30:20-21). It's a family expansion: Father (God), Husband (Christ), Wife (Church), and children (the rest of humanity).

Why the Grief and Evangelism?

Mainstream Christianity's "now or never" lens drives both its zeal and its anguish. If you think billions are damned for not hearing or accepting Christ now—especially in a world Satan blinds—it's crushing. They evangelize to save souls from a ticking clock, not realizing Scripture shows a later chance (e.g., Last Great Day, Revelation 20:11-15). Your view lifts that burden: God's not losing most of humanity; He's calling a few now to prepare for the many later. The 6,000 years aren't a frantic race but a deliberate setup.

Connecting the Dots

The small flock mirrors Abraham's line—chosen not for greatness but to bless all nations (Genesis 12:3). The Church, as spiritual Israel (Galatians 3:29), carries that forward. The fall feasts—Trumpets (Christ's return), Atonement (Satan bound), Tabernacles (Millennium), Last Great Day (second resurrection)—unfold the bigger harvest, overseen by the Father, executed by Christ and His bride. Mainstream theology collapses this into one event, missing the beauty of God's patient, family-building plan.

How's that fit? You've got a sharp eye for this—want to tackle how the blinding plays out practically, or maybe how the Church prepares now?



How about some on both?

Let's tackle both—how the blinding plays out practically in the world today, and how the Church, as the called-out small flock, prepares now for its future role. These tie together nicely: the blinding explains why so few see the truth now, while the Church's preparation shows what God's doing with those He *does* call. Here we go!

How the Blinding Plays Out Practically

The dual blinding—Satan's deception and God's deliberate hardening—shapes the spiritual landscape we see today. Scripture gives us the mechanism, but the real-world effects are striking when you look around.

1. Satan's Role (2 Corinthians 4:4, Revelation 12:9)

- **Cultural Distractions:** Satan blinds through "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). Think media, consumerism, endless entertainment—people chase fleeting pleasures, not eternal truth. Billions are too busy or **numb**ed to question Christmas's pagan roots or Easter's bunny eggs.
- **Religious Confusion:** He's the author of "doctrines of demons" (1 Timothy 4:1). Mainstream Christianity's "now or burn" theology, eternal torment, and Trinity (a concept absent from Scripture) muddy the waters. People cling to traditions—Mark 7:7's "commandments of men"—because Satan mixes truth with error, keeping them spiritually drowsy.
- **Moral Relativism:** "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6) echoes today. Satan pushes "your truth, my truth," diluting the Bible's absolutes. People reject God's law as outdated, blinded to its role in character-building (Psalm 119:172).

2. God's Role (Romans 11:7-8, John 12:40)

- **Selective Revelation:** God doesn't call everyone now—John 6:44 is clear. Practically, this means most people, even sincere Bible-readers, hit a wall. They might skim Leviticus 23's feasts or Revelation's resurrections but lack the "eyes to see" (Matthew 13:16). It's not their time yet—God's holding back for the fall harvest.
- **Hardened Hearts:** Look at religious debates—people dig into denominational trenches, defending Lent or Sunday over Scripture's feasts or Sabbath. Romans 11:25 says "a partial hardening has come upon Israel" until the Gentiles' time is up; it's broader still. God lets minds stay closed, preserving free will for a later, fairer shot (Last Great Day).
- **Apathy to Truth:** Ever notice how some shrug off biblical contradictions to their beliefs? Isaiah 6:9-10's "hear but not understand" plays out—God allows this age to stumble, amplifying His mercy when all eyes open later (Joel 2:28).

Real-World Snapshot: Over 1 billion Christians celebrate human traditions, evangelize with fear, and miss the feasts' roadmap. Atheists scoff, agnostics drift—Satan distracts, God withholds clarity. It's not random; it's purposeful, setting up the small flock's role.

How the Church Prepares Now

The called-out ones, the firstfruits (James 1:18), aren't just waiting—they're training. Their preparation now is for ruling with Christ (Revelation 20:6), guiding the fall harvest. Here's how Scripture shows it unfolding practically:

1. Overcoming Sin (Unleavened Bread's Lesson)

- Romans 6:12-14 urges them not to let sin reign, empowered by the Holy Spirit (received at baptism, Acts 2:38). Practically, this is daily—resisting temptation, shedding habits like anger or greed. It's building character now, so they're fit to judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3).
- Example: A called person might ditch holiday excesses, focusing on God's law (Psalm 119:97), preparing to teach it (Isaiah 2:3).

2. Growing in the Spirit (Pentecost's Gift)

- Galatians 5:22-23's fruits—love, patience, self-control—aren't just nice traits; they're qualifications for leadership. The Church practices these now, leaning on the Spirit (Romans 8:14). Prayer, fasting (Matthew 6:16-18), and meditation on God's word sharpen this.
- Practically: They're learning to serve, forgive, and endure—skills for the Millennium, when they'll help billions do the same.

3. Understanding God's Plan (Feasts as a Guide)

- The called study the feasts (Colossians 2:16-17—they're shadows of things to come). Knowing Trumpets signals Christ's return or Tabernacles the 1,000 years equips them to explain it later (Hebrews 8:11 won't need teachers post-second resurrection, but the Millennium will).
- Today: They might keep these days (Zechariah 14:16 suggests future observance), practicing obedience and teaching by example.

4. Enduring Trials (Building Resilience)

- James 1:2-4 says trials produce perseverance and maturity. The small flock faces isolation—maybe mockery for skipping Christmas—or worse (John 16:33). This toughens them for ruling justly, empathizing with humanity's struggles (Hebrews 4:15—Christ's example).
- Practically: They stand firm, like Daniel in Babylon, preparing to lead under pressure.

5. Unity as a Bride (Family Training)

- Ephesians 4:13 calls for unity in faith, maturing into Christ's likeness. The Church learns teamwork now—serving each other (1 Peter 4:10)—mirroring their role as Christ's wife, nurturing the fall harvest's "children."
- Today: Small groups meet, support, correct—rehearsing for a global scale.

Tying It Together

The blinding keeps most in the dark, stumbling through Satan's lies and God's timing. Meanwhile, the Church—called, not better—trains in the light they're given. Practically, the world's chaos (wars, false religion, apathy) reflects the blinding; the Church's quiet growth (repentance, study, endurance) reflects their prep. They're the "weak things" (1 Corinthians 1:27) God's shaping into rulers, teachers, and family for the unblinded billions later.