

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 17

2022

The Truth About “Easter”

Today is called “Easter Day” by many, and there are many who consider today as a holy day, and they observe “Easter Day” in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You see, “Easter Day” is celebrated all over the world by various religious groups, and they also refer to “Easter Day” as, “the happiest of days,” “the Sunday of Joy,” “the queen of days,” and “the resurrection day.” However, my friends, the fact of the matter is, we have no record of “Easter Day” being observed in the Scriptures in connection to the resurrection of Jesus Christ by the first century Christians. Therefore, let's take a few moments to study the truth about “Easter”, and let's examine some common questions affiliated with Easter.

What Is The Origin of Easter?

The vast majority of secular historians agree that “Easter” and the traditions surrounding it are deeply rooted in paganism. The name “Easter” comes from a pagan figure called “Eastre” or “Eostre” who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe, and a festival was held during the spring equinox by these people to honor her. We also learn that the goddess “Eastre's” earthly symbol was the rabbit, which by the way, is known as the symbol for fertility. Therefore, this is probably why the focus on the “commercialized holiday” of “Easter” is on the so called “Easter bunny” and “Easter eggs.” However, the truth is, the celebration of “Easter” is not associated with any religious authority from God's all inspired word. Now, you see, the apostle Paul penned, *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17). Now, to do in the name of the Lord Jesus simply means, by His authority. Therefore, we do not observe “Easter” as a religious holiday because Christ has not authorized such.

What about Acts 12:4 (KJV)?

In the context of Acts 12 we read about king Herod's persecution of the first century Christians. However, in Acts 12:4 of the King James Version we find the only occurrence of the word “Easter” in the Scriptures, and there are some who use this passage to justify the observance of “Easter Day” as a holy day. You see, in the King James Version we read that after Herod had apprehended Peter, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternion of soldiers to keep him; intending after “Easter” to bring him forth to the people (the Jews). Now, it is very important to understand that this passage is not talking about “Easter” as many think of it. How can we know this? Well, we know this because, the word translated here as “Easter” is the Greek word “pascha” which is derived from the Hebrew word “pesach” and it has only one meaning, which is “Passover.” Therefore, this verse is implying to the “Passover” and not to “Easter Day” as many think of it. Another interesting note is, the King James Version is the only translation to render the word “Easter” in Acts 12:4, for other translations correctly render the word “Easter” in Acts 12:4 as “Passover.”

Was Jesus Resurrected On The Day That Is Called “Easter?”

The truth is, we do not know the exact date in which Christ was resurrected from the dead, for that date has not been revealed to us in the Scriptures. However, it is interesting to note that “Easter Day” usually ranges anywhere between March 22 and April 25, and I don't know about you, but as for me it makes no sense to have such a variation for the so called day of “Easter,” if “Easter” is a certain day of such significance. You see, if God wanted us to know, and observe the exact date of His Son's resurrection He would have revealed it to us, but as we know He did not. However, one thing that we do know concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that it occurred on Sunday, the first day of the week (Mark 16:9). Therefore, as Christians we come together and observe the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, every week (Acts 20:7), and we do this because Jesus Christ commanded us to do so in remembrance of His death (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

So, in conclusion, members of the Lord's church do not regard “Easter Day” with any special significance, and those who do observe “Easter Day” and command and regard it as being a holy day are not following the authority of Christ, but rather, they are following the teaching and traditions of men, and Jesus said, that those who worship Me as doctrines the commandments of men, do so in vain (Matthew 15:9).

Are You Missing Bible Class?

Are you one of those who has drifted out of attending Bible class? We are all creatures of habit, good or bad. Form good habits and good things can happen—and of course, vice versa (Gal. 6:7-9). Has it become a habit for YOU to 'skip' Bible study but come to worship? Which of the following fits you?

- (1) I come to Bible study every once in a while.
- (2) I used to come but have quit.
- (3) I don't need to come. I know enough already.
- (4) I don't think it's important.
- (5) I really ought to come but I'm out of the habit.
- (6) I really want to come, but just haven't done it yet.

While you are pondering the categories let's see if you disagree with or dismiss the following Biblical principles:

- (1) Every Christian needs to grow. (2 Pet. 3:18)
- (2) God's word causes us to grow. (1 Pet. 2:2)
- (3) In time we should be able to teach others. (Heb. 5:12-14)
- (4) We should grow and help others grow by being together. (Heb.10:24-25)
- (5) We have personal responsibility to share with others of our time, our influence, our talents, and our knowledge. (Eph. 4:16)

It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions-is never completed. The road to heaven is paved with good intentions; immediate action. and consistent effort. Why not get on the right road now? Start attending Bible classes regularly! The soul you save may be your own.

✍ John Clark

“Such As I Am”

Paul, in his reply to king Agrippa, expressed the desire that all who heard him might "become such as I am." Paul was a dedicated Christian. He wanted others to be the same. Would you want others to be "such as you are?" What if every member of this congregation was just as dedicated as you are? What if every member put forth just the same amount of effort as you do? What if every member showed the same dedication to teaching others that you do? What if every member gave to the work as you do? Would this congregation be stronger or weaker if such were the case? Each and every one of us should so live that we would desire others to be "such as I am."

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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