

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 31

2024

## 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).

## "Careless Soul, Why Will You Linger?"

We are living in a time when people could "care less" for spiritual matters. Hence the title which stands at the head of this article. In this regard, times have been better in the past. But we seem to have reached a new low in getting response to our efforts. I wonder if times will ever be any better along this line.

The work of the preacher grows more difficult and frustrations become greater as time goes on. Go out and talk to a man whose soul we would like to see saved and invite him to services. He shakes it off with, "I ain't a making you no promises." He seems to think he owes the preacher a promise. When (and if) he finally does come, it likely will be a "one time only" thing, and even then he smirkingly acts like he has done us a big favor by coming. Or try to talk to him on the spot about the salvation of his soul and he is much too busy to listen. Or else he will shrug it off as if something else was far more important.

We go to members of the church who seldom attend services and plead with them to be more faithful. They will shake it off with, "I know I am not coming as I should. I know I should come." These so-called Christians seem to think they owe the preacher this much of a concession. When (and if) they do come as result of the exhortation, it will likely be a "one time only" thing and again they go back to being unfaithful. So it is necessary to try, try again.

What can we do; what can we say to get sinners, both in the church and out, to see that it is not for our sake nor even for Jesus' sake that we want them to obey the gospel?

Why can't they see it is for their own good and for the sake of their own soul that we plead with them? I am reminded of a story the late N.B. Hardeman used to tell. He had engaged in a very heated discussion with a cantankerous old sinner, but to no avail. The argument waxed hot and Hardeman became impatient. Hardeman later said, "I thought once I would tell him to go to hell. But, on second thought, I knew he would go anyway so I didn't tell him." That is a kind of humorous thing and in a way seems to be a little harsh. But in all seriousness, it might open some eyes if some people were bluntly told to go to torment. At any rate, alien sinners and erring Christians many times are "careless souls" and they continue to "linger." I don't know anything to do or anything the Lord wants us to do but keep trying to get them to do what they must do to be saved.

*A. C. Grider*

### Belleville church of Christ

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[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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