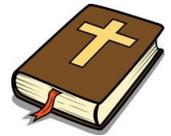


Celebrating Easter?

Human clubs get to make up the rules for human clubs. And man-made churches get to make the rules for such churches (although God does not recognize and approve them as His). If the Lord did not command something, His church must not do it. Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28:18-20). All authority remains with Jesus Christ.



When Jesus was twelve, he was unintentionally left behind by his parents. How long did they search for him?

Can we comprehend that Easter is not the same thing as celebrating the fact of the resurrection of Jesus (and it never will be)? Combining “Easter” (a pagan deity) with “Passover” and the resurrection of Jesus are three different things mingled together later than the first century. Pagans celebrated Easter, Jews celebrated Passover, and Christians celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (weekly, not “once a year”).

When the Law said nothing about priests from Judah, but said something about priests from Levi (Hebrews 7:10-17), then priests from Judah were not authorized. You did not have to read the words “thou shalt not” have a priest from Judah. You had to find positive authority.

Likewise, we have to have positive authority to invent “one day out of the year” as more “holy” and “sacred” than other times of the year. Particularly, this word “Easter” is not a biblical term, and the fact that the Bible says nothing about it means something significant.

Time and culture brings change in human traditions. Today, Easter is NOT a conscious effort to worship a pagan deity (any more than “Thursday” is a conscious effort to worship the god Thor). Easter is NOT altogether religious; it is secular: Easter eggs, bunnies, treats, etc. (i.e. having nothing to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ). Easter is NOT any more biblical than it was in the first century. Easter is NOT the same thing as celebrating the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Culture does not get to dictate to the church what it should do as far as holy days are concerned. To adopt a pagan “holy” day into the church is not authorized by the Head (Jesus Christ).

Easter is not in the Bible. The English word “Easter” came from the Anglo-Saxon “Eastre” or “Estera,” a Teutonic goddess to whom sacrifice was offered in April, so the word was transferred to the paschal feast. The word does not *properly* occur in Scripture, although in the King James Version has it translated in Acts 12:4 where it stands for “Passover,” as is correctly rendered. The original word is “pascha,” meaning “Passover.” The same word occurs 29 times in the New Testament and translated “Passover” every other time. A careful reading of Acts 12:1-4 will make it obvious that “Passover” is correct. There is no trace of Easter celebration in the New Testament.

By what authority is Easter? Would we adopt a modern secular term with such diverse secular tradition and invent a yearly festival to memorialize the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? Certainly, the answer is no. Why not do what Jesus said to do “in remembrance of Him?” Please read these Scriptures to support partaking communion with one another... Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-29.

Is it right to celebrate together the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the first day of every week? Yes. Why would we neglect doing what has been commanded to do “in His memory” and then invent a yearly celebration that Jesus never commanded and the early church never observed? Does that make sense to you?

On a personal note. If I want to think about the death, burial, and resurrection of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at a time that corresponds with the event known as “Easter,” then you may. If you want to rise up early and meditate on what happened on that day in history when Jesus Christ came back to life, then you may. However, we must realize that there is no HOLY festival that is somehow more sacred, special, or sanctified by God. See Galatians 4:9-11; 2 John 1:7-11. Man-made traditions in religion are not authorized by God. They never have been authorized and they never will be.

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday...

Friday Bible Study: from 7 to 8 PM.

Singing: at Morton St, Tuesday (4/23)

7PM, Come sing to the LORD...

Ladies Day: Collinsville, Saturday (4/27)

9AM—1PM “Daughters of the King”

VBS T-shirt: Please provide size for ordering on bulletin board flyer (\$10).

Ladies Day: in Bonham, Saturday (5/4)

starts 8:30AM “Riding the Fence: Ain’t No Such Thing!”