

## ***Easter Sunday***

There is no such thing as "Easter Sunday" in the Bible. Many people have been led to believe that there is a special day, set aside by God, called "Easter Sunday". The religious world has been taught that this is the day that Christ resurrected from the dead and that we are commanded to observe the Lord's Supper that Sunday in remembrance of that occasion. Let's take a Bible look at this.

1) Use of the Word 'Easter' in the KJV Bible.

The word "Easter" does occur in the King James Version of the Bible. "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people" (Acts 12:4).

2) Easter Refers to Passover.

The word translated 'Easter' in Acts 12:4 is translated 'Passover' 28 times in the New Testament. Only this one time did the KJV translators render it 'Easter.' The American Standard Version renders it properly - 'Passover.'

3) No Example of Observance.

Read the Bible as much as you will, you will not find one command, or example, of Christians observing a special day called "Easter". We do read of early Christians meeting on the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). We find them being told to "lay by in store" upon the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:1-2). But no where are we told to meet for an "Easter Service"!

4) The Resurrection of Jesus.

The Bible teaches us to remember the death of Christ. As we partake of the Lord's Supper, the death and resurrection of our Lord is remembered (I Cor. 11:23-26). This is to be done weekly, not just once a year!

**- by Johnie Edwards**

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## ***Neither Protestant nor Catholic***

It's pretty easy to see that this congregation or church is not Catholic. There is no Roman priest in charge of the parish or nuns to serve, no Vatican connection or leader status for the Pope, and no incense or infant baptisms in our worship and work. Since it is obvious we are not Catholics most will say we must be Protestants.

The assumption made is that Christians are either Catholic or Protestant. If you are not one you must be the other. But we are not Protestants either. We are not of the Protestant Reformation that protested the excesses of the Catholic Church and sought to reform it. Beyond Catholic tradition and Protestant theology we are, simply, Christians.

We understand that this sounds strange in a religious world complicated with so many denominations. If you ask a man today what he is religiously he doesn't say "I am a Christian." He says he is a Baptist or a Methodist or a Presbyterian or a Pentecostal. In the New Testament followers of Jesus were content to be, simply, Christians (Acts 11:26).

Christ's people were described by God in several ways in the Scripture, long before Catholics and Protestants existed. To God they were His children (1 John 1:1-3). To Christ they were His disciples (John 8: 31-32). To each other they were brothers (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). And to the world they were, simply, Christians (1 Peter 4:16).

We are not claiming to be the first denomination, the best denomination, the most conservative denomination, the non-denominational denomination, or a denomination at all! We simply follow the New Testament to be Christians, in the unity Christ called for (John 17:21) as an invitation to the world, there for all to see.

**- by Robert Hines**

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## ***"Depart From Me ..."***

The Bible says in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not

*prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

Many, many, today fall into the category mentioned. They are making all kinds of claims of doing "worthy works" and always, "in the name of the Lord." Just to make a declaration that a thing is "in the name of the Lord" - or by his authority - doesn't make it so. Some of the ones making these claims have been exposed as religious frauds. The word "iniquity" - as is used in the quoted verse - is translated by the word "lawlessness" in several other translations. That is, these people the Lord was talking about were spiritual "outlaws." They were doing their "wonderful" works outside the realm of Bible authority.

But hear what the Lord says their end will be: *"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [or lawlessness]."*

**- by Bob Craig**

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## ***Solar Eclipse – Evidence for Us!***

The upcoming solar eclipse provides a unique opportunity to witness God's precision-designed universe and solar system in action. This certainly provides us with positive evidence for our faith.

Astronomers have provided predictions of this celestial phenomenon for decades in advance of the actual occurrence. The exact path of the eclipse is well known and publicized. The timing for the event is precisely described. In fact, upcoming eclipses - even hundreds of years in the future - can be specifically predicted. For instance, the next eclipse that will be visible in North America will be on August 23, 2044. How is all of this possible? It is possible because of the clock-like accuracy of God's creation.

Atheists, of course, believe that everything exists because of blind chance - a 'big bang' explosion that brought our universe into existence. Have you seen the aftermath of an explosion? There is certainly no order or design evident in the rubble left behind. Our universe, on the other hand, is an incredible demonstration of God's design and amazing creative power.

The Psalmist eloquently stated, *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."* (Psalms 19:1 NASV) We will have a wonderful example of this truth in the eclipse.

**- by Greg Gwin**