

Sunday, April 17, 2011 – Will You Celebrate?

It is sad, but not surprising, that there are those in the Lord's church who would leave the impression with the world that Christians (the Lord's church) celebrate "Good Friday" or "Easter." It simply isn't so.

I do not believe in the religious celebration of "Easter" or a "Holy Week." Yet many people who are not faithful in their "church attendance" put forth every effort to attend on two "special" occasions each year, "Christmas" and "Easter."

Much is made by the religious world over "Christmas" because it is alleged to be the birthday of Christ. Many folks attend some special "Christmas service" to honor the Lord. Where in the Bible are we told that Christ's birthday is December 25th? Where does the Bible authorize us to celebrate the birthday of Christ? The Bible is silent in regard to these matters.

Likewise, where are we told to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ in a "once a year" fashion? God's word is silent in regards to this matter also.

The connection we have with Christ's resurrection is found in **Romans 6:3-5** which states:

**"Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with [him] in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of his resurrection..."**

Some will say, "The bible mentions Easter." The Greek word "pascha" is found 29 times in the New Testament and 28 times it is translated "passover." The one exception is the unfortunate KJV rendering of "Easter" in **Acts 12:4**. The King James translators were wrong. When correctly translated "Passover" in **Acts 12:4**, and understood correctly, a number of days are meant, not just one. The passage refers not to Passover day, but to the whole celebration of Passover which lasted eight days. It was merely as a convenient reference to a particular time in the year, after which Herod could proceed to execute another apostle without offending Jewish sensitivities; after all, the purpose of seizing Peter and planning his execution was for Herod to endear himself to the Jews.

God's Word does authorize members of His body to remember our Lord's death as we partake of the Lord's Supper while worshipping Him in spirit and in truth (**Matthew 26:26-28; I Corinthians 11:23-29; John 4:24**). This is to be done every first day of the week, and not merely once-a-year (**Acts 20:7, 2:42**).

The Lord's Supper was instituted to remember Christ's death, but nothing was instituted to remember his resurrection. Does it matter? Yes!

If we wish to glorify God, then we need to glorify Him in the way that He instructs (**John 4:24**), and not in a manner that we like (**Matthew 15:8-9**). Religious Easter celebrations, sunrise services, and the like are the invention of men and not the will of God.