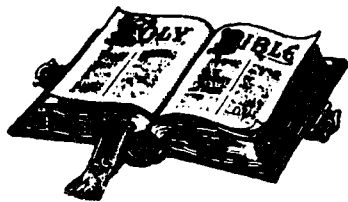


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 32

MARCH, 1995

Number 3

EASTER

Does the **Word of God** AUTHORIZE Christians to observe Easter as the resurrection of Christ? In order for us to determine whether or not we should observe "Easter," it is essential that we lay aside "traditions" and our "emotions" and allow the **Word of God** to be our **standard**. A candid consideration of the following facts should enable us to arrive at the proper answer to our question.

1. The American College Dictionary defines "**Easter**" as "**an annual Christian festival in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, observed on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or next after March 21...**" (p. 379).

2. The word "**Easter**" appears only once in the King James Version (Acts 12:4), and there it refers to the Passover, rather than what is now called Easter. All other translations I have checked say "**Passover**" in Acts

12:4.

3. There is **NO command** in the New Testament for us to observe Easter!

4. There is **NO approved example** in the New Testament of Easter being observed!

5. There is **NO necessary implication** in the New Testament that we should or that we may observe Easter!

6. There is **NO statement** in the New Testament that teaches we should or may observe Easter!

7. Easter **CANNOT** be observed in the name of Christ! Paul said: "**And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,...**" (Col. 3:17). To do a thing in the name of Christ is to do by the authority of Christ! Since Christ has **NOT** authorized us to observe Easter, we **CANNOT** observe Easter in His name!

8. Easter **CANNOT** be observed "**by faith**"! Without

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THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS #581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ., meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial ...

IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL LOVE HIS WORD!

Comparatively speaking there are **not** many people who truly love the **Word of God!** In fact, we read in **God's Word** of some who are **haters** of the Lord Himself. Note the following passages.

1. 2 Chronicles 19:2- (Jehu said to King Jehoshaphat:) "... **Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord.**"

2. Psalm 81:15- "**The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured forever.**"

3. Romans 1:30- (In describing some wicked people of the first century Paul said) "**Backbiters, haters of God, despitiful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents.**"

If a person is a **hater of God** there is no way he can be a **lover of the Word of God** at the same time! Neither is it possible for a person to be a **lover of God** and **hater of the Word of God** at the same time!

THE PSALMIST EXPRESSED HIS LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD! Please consider the following passages.

1. Psalm 119:97- "**O how I love thy**

law! It is my meditation all the day."

2. Psalm 119:113- "**I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.**"

3. Psalm 119:127-128- "**Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false day.**"

NOTE: Love for **God's Word** and hatred for every false way go hand in hand. You cannot have the **first** (love for God's precepts) without having the **second** (hatred for false ways)!

Psalm 119:163- "**I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love.**"

WE SHOULD DELIGHT IN GOD'S WORD! In discussing the man who walks **not** in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful, the Psalmist declared: "**But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**" (Psalm 1:2) Listen as the Psalmist expresses **his** delight in **God's Word**.

Psalm 119:24- "**Thy testimonies also are my delight and my consellers.**"

Psalm 119:77- "**Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.**"

Psalm 119:92- "**Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine afflictions.**"

Psalm 119:143- "**Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me; yet thy commandments are my delight.**"

Psalm 119:174- "**I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight.**"

The apostle Paul expressed his attitude toward **God's Word** when he said: "**I delight in the law of God after the inward man.**" (Romans 7:22).

The Psalmist said: "**Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his**

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IF WE LOVE GOD, WE WILL LOVE HIS WORD!

commandments." (112:1) We should fear the Lord and **delight greatly** in the **commandments of the Lord!** Do we?

WE SHOULD HAVE A LOVE FOR TRUTH AND THUS LOVE GOD'S WORD ON EVERY SUBJECT! We, like the Psalmist, should **"...esteem all thy (God's - CRS) precepts concerning all things to be right; ..."** and **"hate every false way."**

Jesus declared: **"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** (Matthew 4:4). The **"love of the truth"** will cause one to desire the **will of God** on every subject. It is very important that each of us have a **love of the truth**. Paul mentioned some who **"...received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a life: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). From this passage we should be deeply impressed with the importance of **having the love of the truth!** Jesus said: **"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."** (Matthew 5:6).

Let us now consider some reasons **why we should love the Word of God.**

1. **Faith comes by hearing it!** Paul declared: **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17; Also see Luke 8:12; Romans 10:8).

2. **It enlightens the eyes and gives us understanding!** The Psalmist said: **"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes"**

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(19:8) and **"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."** (119:130) Paul said to the saints at Ephesus: **"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)..."** (Ephesians 3:3-5; also see 2 Tim. 2:7 & Psalm 119:104).

3. **It is inspired of God!** **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."** (2 Timothy 3:16-17; also see 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:3 and 1 Cor. 2:9-16).

4. **We live by it!** Jesus said: **"...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."** (Matthew 4:4). We learn from Jeremiah that **"...it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."** (10:23).

5. **It makes free!** Jesus said: **"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** (John 8:32).

6. **It sanctifies!** Jesus said: **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."** (John 17:17).

7. **It is able to build us up and give us an inheritance with all who are sanctified!** In Acts 20:32 Paul said to the Ephesian elders: **"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you and inheritance among them which are sanctified."**

8. **It is able to save us!** James 1:21 says: **"...and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul."** (Also see Romans 1:16).

Yes, if we truly love God, we will love His Word!

(CRS)

faith we **CANNOT please God!** (See Heb. 11:6). Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. (See Romans (10:17). Since God's Word does **NOT authorize** us to observe Easter, it **cannot** be done **by faith!**

9. Observing Easter is **NOT a good work!** If it were, we would be furnished unto it in the **Scriptures!** (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

10. Observing Easter does **NOT "pertain unto life and godliness"** since it is **NOT** given unto us by inspired men! (See 2 Peter 1:3).

11. Since observing Easter is **NOT authorized in the Scriptures**, it can **NOT be done to the glory of God!** (See I Cor. 10:31).

No, Christians are NOT authorized to observe Easter!
(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

A series of GOSPEL MEETINGS is scheduled to be conducted at EAST ALBERTVILLE (4777 U.S. Highway 431) **April 23 - 26, 1995.** We will meet at **9:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM on Sunday** and **7:30 PM Monday through Wednesday.** Here is a list of the speakers.

Sunday AM - JACKIE RICHARDSON of Phil Campbell, Alabama.

Sunday PM - BILLY MacGREGOR of Athens, Alabama.

Monday PM - ROOSEVELT JOHNSON of Columbus, Mississippi.

Tuesday PM - MARTIN LEMON of Franklin, Tennessee

Wednesday - KEN CHAPMAN of Pinson, Alabama.

Please make plans to be with us and **TELL OTHERS!**

NOTICE: If we do not have your "911" number, **please** send it to us immediately! Otherwise, you may stop receiving **THE INSTRUCTOR!** **Thanks!**

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Life is a grindstone, but whether it grinds us up or polishes us down depends on of what we are made.

Our thoughts are the silent builders on the temples of character we are rearing.

Keep your temper; Nobody else wants it.

Learn from the mistakes of others; You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

The more a rumor is spread, the thicker it becomes.

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