

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine***

Evangelist: Charles Willis
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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Job 19:20
2. Matthew 7:15
3. Isaiah 6:5
4. Jeremiah 13:23
5. Isaiah 40:15
6. Proverbs 16:18
7. Proverbs 13:24

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Corwin Richardson
Announcements: Billy Lovell
Encouragement Talk: Tyler Blazek
Opening Prayer: Josh Emerson
Scripture Reading: Arturo Orozco
1 Timothy 6:1-10
Song Leader: Jacob McAdams
Table Talk: Eddie Bowen
Contribution: Brad Smith
Helper: Kyle Crain
Fruit of Vine: Ryan Haarmann
Helper: Harper Flores
Helper: Tony Gross
Closing Prayer: Pete Galvan

Sunday Afternoons

Mar 31 Nothing
Apr 7 3PM Group Visitation (Meet & Go)
Apr 14 Nothing
Apr 21 Parent Planned Youth Devotional

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: Jacob McAdams



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist
in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

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What Is Easter?

Webster defines “Easter” as: “An annual Christian festival in the spring celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. It is from the Old English meaning: dawn goddess.” This early meaning of the word helps us understand that originally the celebration taking place at this time of the year was to “the goddess of spring, in whose honor sacrifices were offered” (New Unger’s Bible Dictionary, p.329).

The word “Easter” is only found in the King James Version of the Bible and is not a faithful translation from the original language. Everywhere else that Greek word is translated “Passover”. It is not believed the translators were pressured by King James and his government to include this word in the translation.)

The word “Easter” in the English is derived from “Astarte” which in many other languages is the name of the goddesses most commonly known as the Babylonian name “Ishtar”. That “Easter” is derived from “Ishtar” is not a new thought, but one definitely claimed by the 8th century monk Bede.

You may wonder – how did the worship of a pagan goddess end up a Christian celebration? Good question! Was it because God wanted men to adopt this pagan ritual? No. The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology and The Britanica Online Encyclopedia both tell us Easter was established by the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. They decided it should not follow the Jewish traditions of the Passover but should be observed on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. History proves that the Council of Nicea was one of the steps of apostasy which led to the formation of the Catholic Church. What we see in the celebration of Easter is a group of men deciding it would please God for us to celebrate the resurrection once a year. They did not have the authority of God to create this celebration, nor can God’s approval be found in scripture.

Is it wrong for men to observe Easter as a religious holiday? Will God approve of

our service to Him? Consider Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:22-23, "Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare unto them, depart from Me you who practice lawlessness." These were doing a good thing that would surely be pleasing to the Lord (they reasoned). But no, it did not please the Lord because it was "lawlessness". It was something done without authority, without His approval. Easter is a similar non-approved practice which will not please God. It did not originate from God but from men who were already unlawfully organized in the council of Nicea in 325 AD.

Just because we don't believe in an observance of Easter as a religious holiday does not diminish the importance of the resurrection of Christ. We are simply trying to do all things as God has instructed us. We are to worship Him in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). That means if it is not authorized from God we cannot practice it and please Him. We would not be worshipping "in truth".

The memorial Jesus initiated for our remembrance is the partaking of the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-29, which is substantiated in 1 Cor. 10:16-17 and 11:20-34). This observance is to take place on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) which occurs every week. For man to add additional memorials or take away memorials is not of truth (Rev. 22:18-19).

What is Easter? A man-made festival which is not approved of God.
By Charles Willis



"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"
(Matthew 6:28-30)

Know Your Bible

Where does the common phrase come from?

1. The skin of my teeth.
2. A wolf in sheep's clothing.
3. Woe is me!
4. Can a leopard change his spots?
5. A drop in a bucket.
6. Pride goes before a fall.
7. Spare the rod, spoil the child.
8. The blind leading the blind.

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Jesus, Our Peace

by Charles Willis

The establishment of the Old Covenant created a unique and special people that were called the children of God. The nation of Israel was given a special status and God watched over them, protecting them and providing for them beyond any other nation. There was a difference between the Israelites and the other nations placed there by God. He separated them and blessed them.

The non-Israelites (Gentiles) were disdained by the Israelites. The Circumcision (Israelites) referred to them as the Uncircumcised. Paul tells the Ephesians that the Gentiles were "at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). They were strangers to the Old Law (covenant of promise), excluded (by God) from the commonwealth of Israel. They were without God because God chose and blessed Israel as His children.

Now Christ has brought the Gentiles near to God. "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall" (Eph. 2:14). No longer are there two groups: Israelite and Gentile. Both groups are now one. The 'wall' that divided us has been removed. This can only be a reference to the Law given by God which designated the Israelites as His chosen people.

How was this accomplished? Jesus did this "by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace" (Eph. 2:15). "Enmity" is whatever stands between two people that makes them enemies. Paul says the Old Law is what made them enemies. Jesus abolished the enmity – Jesus abolished the Old Law. The two groups are now one new man who is at peace. Jesus is our peace.

A second argument is presented in this reading from Ephesians 2 that extends the idea of Jesus being our peace. Verse 16 goes on to say: Jesus reconciled them "both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity." We have peace with one another – but more importantly we can both have peace with God. The "enmity" of verse 16 refers to what causes us to be the enemy of God – our sin. Jesus abolished in His flesh the enmity between us and God, thereby reconciling us to God through the cross. We no longer have to be the enemy of God. The forgiveness of sin is possible through Him. As verse 18 says, "we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father".

This was why Jesus came – to be our peace. "And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near" (Isaiah 57:19; Ephesians 2:17). All men can be at peace, reconciled to God through Jesus. This is the only way we can be at peace with God.