

WHAT DOES YOUR CHURCH DO FOR EASTER? by Carl McMurray

Have you ever gotten the question in the title? How did you answer? I will tell you that it stumps me. It doesn't stump me because I can't answer, it stumps me that someone who calls themselves a Bible believer would even ask that question. You see Easter is nowhere, no how, not one place mentioned in the original text of any Bible translation. No colored eggs, no rabbits, no freakishly colored little chicks, no fertility goddess, no sunrise services, no plastic eggs hanging on trees, no drama plays, no Cadbury creamed eggs, none of the above are found in Scripture. The only single time the English word Easter is found in any Bible is in the KJV (Acts 12:4) where the Passover is mistakenly translated by this word. So with no mention of Easter to be found in Scripture, why in the world would someone think the Lord's church would be celebrating this day.

Please understand I'm not decrying individuals who want to make a holiday (Romans 14:5-6) and color eggs (a Chinese tradition) and hide eggs and/or candy for the kids. And I'm certainly not against rabbits, I think they're delicious. I'm just asking what business is it of the church of Christ to make this a religious and holy day?

Some may well respond, "But this is the day Jesus was raised on!" And, they would be right. But, we are already told how to celebrate his death and resurrection. We remember his death with unleavened bread and fruit of the vine and in so doing we proclaim his life in his coming again, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. And we have examples of what day to remember this incredible event on in Acts 20:7. There is no need and certainly no instruction from God to make this Lord's Day any more special than the other 51 Lord's Days in the year. We say EVERY Lord's Day, "This is the day he was raised on!"

It is only among those who have already left the Bible pattern and have already decided to pick and choose what day they will celebrate our Lord's sacrifice on where this denominational practice takes root. That is why the Lord's Supper is now eaten on Saturday, at weddings, funerals, and with monthly and quarterly observances. It is Satan that convinces men that if they make this one day special, then the Bible pattern of celebrating the resurrection each Lord's Day will not be important. He convinces men that it is ok to pick and choose when we will eat the Lord's Supper and that God accepts OUR picking and choosing and OUR decisions about this greatest of celebrations.

What does the Lord's church do on Easter? The same thing it does every other Sunday of every other month and year. We celebrate the death of our Lord and we intend to proclaim his resurrection and life until he comes again.