

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 27, 2016

“Why Easter is Not in the Bible”

Easter (Webster): An annual Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, held on the first Sunday after the date of the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21.

1. Easter is not in the Bible because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so important.

- a. The resurrection brings our present salvation.
 - It brings our justification (Romans 4:25).
 - It brings new birth (1 Peter 1:3).
 - It secured our resurrection (Ephesians 2:5-6).

- b. The resurrection brings our future salvation.
 - It will bring us into God’s presence (2 Corinthians 4:14).
 - It will bring us a new body (1 Cor. 6:14; Philippians 3:21).

- c. The resurrection moves us to holy living.
 - It moves our mind toward God (Colossians 3:1).
 - It moves our strength toward God (Philippians 3:10).
 - It moves our will toward God (Romans 6:8-14).
 - It moves our heart toward mankind (1 Cor. 15:10; 58).

2. Easter is not in the Bible because of the New Testament teaching regarding religious celebrations.

The Old Covenant was filled with annual celebrations:

- Passover
- Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Feast of Firstfruits
- Feast of Weeks
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Feast of Tabernacles

These festivals were described as a shadow of the substance, which is Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:16-17; cf. Hebrews 10:1).

The grace of God has released us from the festivals of the Old Testament Law (Romans 7:6); it is the work of man that binds us.

Those who consider one particular day as being more religiously significant are described as weak in faith (Romans 15:1-5).

This does not mean that holding to one day above another is wrong. Rather, it is unnecessary. To establish a day that people are obligated to hold sacred is wrong since it would lead people to be judged.

As was his custom, Paul often used a religious day of obligation to serve the work of the gospel, namely the Sabbath (cf. Acts 17:1-2).

At Valley Bible Church, we conduct annual Easter services for the opportunity to reach people for Christ because so many are seeking to attend church that day due to their religious background.

May we look for ways that people are open to hearing about death, burial and resurrection of Christ so that they too may enjoy the blessing of forgiveness of sin.