

Easter Holiday

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- Today is a very important day to all who call themselves Christians. This is the very day in the year that Jesus rose from the dead.
- People are celebrating it in various ways:
- Pagan Practices of the rites of Spring
- Easter Egg hunts, Bunny Baskets of Candy
- Catholic Traditions
- Ash Wednesday; Good Friday;
- Later Churches Modifications.
- These are Historical Facts – Not found in the Bible

What Does God Think of All This?

- God recorded the first act of worship to reveal His feelings toward two distinct types of worship. Hence we can know exactly how He feels and responds.
- *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Gen 4:3-5*
- God respected Abel and his offering
- God did not respect Cain or his offering.

What Does God Think of All This?

- *So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Gen 4:6-8*
- If you do well – He had not done well.
- Cain needed to repent and do it differently
- If he would only repent and do as told.
- All Would be Well.

What Really Happened?

- *For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And **why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.** 1 Jn. 3:11-12*
- Cain's sin was not the only murder – his evil works began first and caused the murder.
- There was something about Cain's worship that God saw was evil and that is why He did not accept it.
- What was wrong with His works and how does this relate to holidays today?

What God saw in Abel's Offering

- *By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*
Heb 11:4
- Abel offered his worship by faith
- Faith made it a more excellent sacrifice than Cains.
- This led God to give witness to his righteousness in the manner in which he offered the sacrifice.
- God testified of his gifts (by accepting them)
- Though He is dead ... He is still speaking today...
- Speaking: Offer all worship to God by faith.

What Abel Said to Cain

- *Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' 50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Lk. 11:49-51*
- Abel was the first prophet who was persecuted and killed for preaching by inspiration.
- His words were inspired
- What did he tell Cain?
- The same thing he is speaking today.
- Offer your worship to God by faith.

The Problem Revealed & Solved

- *By faith* Abel offered to God a **more excellent sacrifice** than Cain, through which he **obtained witness** that **he was righteous**, God **testifying of his gifts**; and through it he being dead still speaks. Heb 11:4
- Abel's excellent sacrifice allowed God to witness and testify that Abel was righteous.
- The one thing stated that made Abel's offering excellent was he approached his worship with faith.
- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* Rom 10:17

The Way of Cain

- *4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were **marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men**, ... 11 Woe to them! **For they have gone in the way of Cain***
- Cain forged a path that many have followed.
- It has been repeated again and again throughout the history of God's people.
- Every time man devises a method of worship that is not by faith (found in the Word of God).
- They are following Cain and ignoring the words of Abel.

An Example of the Way of Cain

- *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace. Lev 10:1-3*

Jesus Said What Abel Said

- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24*
- Those who worship MUST worship in spirit and truth.
- *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17-18*
- We know it is in “truth” when it is in His word.
- If it is not in His word, it is not the truth
- If it is not in His word, it is not by faith.

Origin of the Easter Holiday

- Issues with the celebration of Easter.
- IT IS NOT IN THE BIBLE ... a tradition of men only
- He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:
*'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men. Mark 7:6-8*
- *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your **aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,** 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, 1 Peter 1:18-19*

What we Must offer by Faith

● Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until **that day** when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Mark 14:25

● What Day?

● Now **on the first day of the week**, when **the disciples came together to break bread**, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. Acts 20:7

● For first of all, when you **come together as a church**, ... when you **come together in one place**, ... **eat the Lord's Supper**. 1 Cor 11:17-21

● **On the first day of every week** each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. 1 Cor 16:2

We Are to Remember Jesus every 1st Day

- It is nowhere mentioned in the Scriptures as an annual event.
- We have to follow Cain and change it to an annual event.
- What would Abel say?
- It must be in the Scriptures or it is not by faith.
- It must be by faith or it is an evil work.
- Cain killed Abel for saying this.
- How do we feel? Do we agree with Abel or want to walk in the way of Cain?

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Sources of Tradition

- *8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. Mark 7:5-10*
- *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from **your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers**, 1 Peter 1:14-19*
- *Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 2Th. 2:15*
- Since the traditions we are to hold are taught in the epistles, we are still listening only to Abel when we do it.