

The Observance of Days

Easter with a hint of Lent and a Good Friday

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Galatians 4 : 4 – 11

“...You observe days and months and seasons and years.”

‘paratereo’ - to inspect alongside, that is, note insidiously or scrupulously; to neglect nothing requisite to the religious observance of

What is Easter?

Easter brings with it the idea of fertility and new life. A time when families gather and welcome Spring and when new life emerges after the dead of Winter. But for children, Easter is the time when we, as parents, load them up on sugar, hide colorful eggs, and provide them with a basket full of goodies.

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You probably didn't know

The first recorded celebration of Easter was in the 2nd century and was originally celebrated two days after Passover.

In 325 A.D. the Roman Emperor Constantine and the council of Nicaea ruled that Easter would only fall on Sunday. Easter Sunday would be the first Sunday to follow the full moon after the Spring Equinox. In Western Christianity the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon is Easter Sunday.

Many Pagan religions had major seasonal day of religious celebration at or following the Spring Equinox.

Eggs were originally banned during Lent by the “church.”

The egg symbolizes resurrection to “Christians.” Painted red to symbolize Christ's blood, along with the yolk showing us His resurrection. The egg became the symbol of new birth/life.

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What does Lent, Good Friday, and Easter bring?

Lent represents Jesus' fasting in the wilderness and His temptation of Satan in preparation of the beginning of His ministry.

Good Friday brings a remembrance of His suffering, sacrifice, and death upon the cross.

Easter brings a remembrance of His triumph over death and His resurrection.

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Lent (United Methodist Church - <http://www.upperroom.org/lent101>)

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

40 day period (excluding Sunday's) prior to Easter. Symbolic to Jesus' fasting in the wilderness. – Matthew 4 : 1 – 2

Beginning on “Ash Wednesday” after “Fat Tuesday” (Mardi Gras)

Mardi Gras is a time of parties, food, and indulgence.

Ash Wednesday is the day of repentance and rededication to God.

Why Ashes? – Job 2 : 8; 42 : 5 – 6

The ashes come from the palms used on the previous year's Palm Sunday. Which represents the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem. – Matthew 21 : 7 – 8

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Good Friday (Christianity.com - <http://www.christianity.com/god/jesus-christ/what-s-so-good-about-good-friday.html>)

What is Good Friday?

The Friday before Easter Sunday.

The day “Christians” commemorate the suffering and death on the cross of Jesus.

Many spend this day fasting, in prayer, in repentance, in meditation.

Why Good?

1st – It was a terrible thing that took place.

Matthew 27 : 27 – 50

2nd – It was a wonderful thing that took place.

Hebrews 9 : 26 – 28

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Easter (about religion - <http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatisseaster.htm>)

What is Easter?

The Sunday after the culmination of Lent and Good Friday.

It is the end of “Holy Week”

The day in which “Christians” celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

It is typically the most well-attended Sunday service of the year.

Is Easter found in the Bible?

Acts 12 : 4

“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”

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Do we see first century Christians partaking in Lent?

No.

How about “Fat Tuesday,” Palm Sunday?

No.

Do we see first century Christians partaking in Good Friday?

No.

Do we see first century Christians partaking in Easter?

No.

All of these days are man made in order to celebrate the Life, Teachings, Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of the Christ.

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We do not need these days, we already have them.

Every day of your life!

Romans 12 : 1

Lent is once a year. For 40 days.

Ash Wednesday is once a year. For 1 day.

First Day of *EVERY* Week.

Acts 20 : 7

Palm Sunday is once a year. For 1 day.

Good Friday is once a year. For 1 day.

Easter Sunday is once a year. For 1 day.

We do not need these practices, we already have one.

The Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11 : 23 – 26