

What Does the Bible Teach about Easter?

Do you attend church only on Easter Sunday? Some people think that it is more important to attend church on Easter Sunday than at any other time. Some believe that this attendance only on Easter makes them a Christian. What does the Bible teach about Easter?

First, the Bible teaches us to be faithful at all worship services. We must attend services at times other than Easter. The scriptures teach that Christians should not miss worship service: "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting *one another*; and so much the more, as you see the day drawing nigh (Heb 10:25)." The early church met on the first day of every week to worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). Jesus arose from the dead on the first day of the week (Luke 24:1, 13, 21, and 46). We cannot measure up to the requirements of the gospel by attending spasmodically or only on Easter Sunday (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

Second, the Bible teaches us that we should observe the resurrection of Christ weekly, not yearly. The resurrection is one of the bedrock principles of Christianity, and God has provided a way to keep the resurrection fresh in our minds and hearts. The Bible commands Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper upon every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-24). Christians are to assemble every first day of the week to celebrate the resurrection. When Christ instituted the Lord's Supper, he said, "This do in remembrance of me (1 Cor. 11:24-25)." He also said he would be present when we observe the Supper: "I shall not drink . . . this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom (Matt. 26:29)."

Third, the Bible does not teach Christians to observe special days and seasons, such as Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter (2 John 9). Paul condemned such practices in Gal. 4:10-11), "Ye observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain." Christians are not to exalt one first day of the week over another; but rather, we are to assemble every first day of the week to observe the death, the burial, and the resurrection of our Lord (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 11:23-27).

Finally, the Bible never teaches that Easter is a named holy day. The word *Easter* appears only one time in the King James Version of the English Bible (Acts 12:4). All other versions correctly translate the word *Passover*. "When he had taken him . . . and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to guard him; intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people (Acts 12:4)."