

# Easter

— Human Tradition vs. God's Pattern of Worship —

- The Resurrection Is Central  
But Not Through Human Holy Days
- God's Pattern for Remembering Christ
- The Danger of Man-Made Religious Practices
- True Worship Must Have Divine Authority

The Bible clearly teaches that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential to our faith.

- Without it, our hope would be empty ([1Cor.15:14](#)).

Yet, an important question must be asked:

- How does God want us to remember and honor, that resurrection?

Many today observe a yearly religious holiday called “Easter.”

- But is this practice found in Scripture?
- Did the early church observe such a day?
- Or has God already given a pattern, for remembering Christ?

In this lesson, we will examine:

- The difference between believing the resurrection and celebrating a human holiday
- God’s pattern for remembering Christ
- The danger of adding religious practices
- And The necessity of Bible authority in worship

Let’s begin by, clearly establishing what the Bible teaches, about the resurrection itself.

## I. The Resurrection Is Central — But Not Through Human Holy Days

First, we must understand the difference, between believing truth and adding human practice.

### A. The Resurrection Is Essential to Faith

Paul explains why the resurrection is the foundation of Christianity.

- He said, “I declare unto you the **gospel**, which I preached unto you, which also ye have **received**, and wherein ye **stand**; <sup>2</sup> by which also ye are **saved**, **IF ye keep in memory** what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.  
<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you, first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins, according to the scriptures;  
<sup>4</sup> and that he was **buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day...” ([1Cor.15:1-4](#))

Explanation:

- “**Gospel**”, means — good news
- “**rose again**”, means — Jesus was physically raised from the dead.

Paul shows what happens, if the resurrection were not true.

- He said, “If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching **vain**...” ([1Cor.15:14](#))

Explanation:

- “**Vain**”, means — empty, without value.

Paul further emphasizes the personal consequence, of the resurrection of Christ to every believer.

- He said, “Who was **delivered** for our offences, and was raised again for our **justification**.” ([Rom.4:25](#))

Explanation:

- “**Delivered**” means — given up to death for our sins
- “**Justification**” means — being declared righteous before God

The resurrection is not optional—it is the very heart of salvation.

Believing the truth, is not the same as creating a yearly observance.

Now let's ask: how did early Christians honor this truth?

## B. The First Century Church, Did Not Observe Easter

We examine what the early church practiced, regularly.

- The Bible says “**Upon the first day of the week... the disciples came together to break bread...**” ([Acts 20:7](#))

Explanation:

- “**Break bread**” = Lord’s Supper
- “**first day**” = Sunday.

Jesus rose on the first day, giving meaning to that day.

- Scripture says, “**Jesus was risen early, the first day of the week...**” ([Mk.16:9](#))

Explanation:

- The resurrection is connected to the weekly gathering — not a yearly holiday.

Additionally, we see that the early disciples consistently assembled together, not for an annual observance, but as an ongoing practice.

[Acts 2:42](#) shows the regular, continued practice of the early church, in their worship and fellowship.

- The Bible says, “**they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**” ([Acts 2:42](#))

Explanation:

- “**Continued stedfastly**” means — devoted consistently, not occasionally
- “**Breaking of bread**” means — the Lord’s Supper

Some may point to [Acts 12:4](#) in the King James Version, where the word “Easter” appears. However, the original Greek word is “Pascha,” which means Passover. This same word is translated “Passover” throughout the New Testament.

In the context of [Acts 12:4](#):

- The passage refers to the Jewish Passover season, not a Christian holiday.
- The surrounding verses mention the days of unleavened bread, confirming this timing.

Therefore, this verse is not evidence of an early Christian observance of Easter, but simply a translation choice in the KJV.

The resurrection is central to our faith, but Scripture shows no command or example, of a yearly religious celebration, like Easter.

This leads us naturally to consider:

## II. God’s Pattern for Remembering Christ

### A. The Lord’s Supper Is the Appointed Memorial

Jesus established a memorial before His death.

- He said, “**For as often as ye eat this bread... ye do shew the Lord’s death, till He come**” ([1Cor.11:26](#))

Explanation:

- “**Show**” means — proclaim
- “**till He come**” means — ongoing remembrance.

Additionally, the Scriptures show, the spiritual significance of the Lord's Supper, for those who partake. Paul explains that the Lord's Supper, is not just a memorial, but a sharing in the blessings of Christ.

- Scripture says, "The cup of **blessing** which we bless, is it not the **communion** of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the **communion** of the body of Christ?" ([1Cor.10:16](#); [Lk.22:19](#))

Explanation:

- "Communion" means — sharing or participation
- This shows the Lord's Supper is a spiritual fellowship with Christ

God did not leave remembrance up to human choice — He gave a clear memorial.

But how often should this remembrance take place?

## B. Weekly Remembrance, Not Yearly

We again see the regular timing.

- Scripture says, "Upon the first day of the week..." ([Acts 20:7](#))

Explanation:

- Which Indicates a recurring pattern — each and every week.

The Old Testament shows, how God expects patterns to be followed exactly.

- "See... that thou make all things according to the **pattern**..." ([Heb.8:5](#))

Explanation:

- "Pattern" means — divine blueprint from God.

Furthermore, the Scriptures show that the Lord's Supper was not only commanded, but expected to be observed whenever the church assembled.

Paul corrects improper behavior in the assembly, and, in doing so, affirms the regular gathering of the church, to partake of the Lord's Supper.

- The Bible says, "When ye **come together** therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper." ([1Cor.11:20](#))

Explanation:

- "Come together" means — the church assembling regularly
- The correction shows, they were expected to partake properly when assembled (not as a meal)

Just as the Sabbath meant every week, the Lord's Supper is a weekly remembrance—not a yearly event. God has already provided a pattern: Remembering the death of Christ weekly, through the Lord's Supper.

If that is God's pattern, what happens when man creates his own? Let's now consider,

## III. The Danger of Man-Made Religious Practices

### A. Adding to the Gospel Is Condemned

Paul warns against altering God's message.

- He said, "If any... preach any other gospel... let him be **accursed**." ([Gal.1:8](#))

Explanation:

- "Accursed" means — condemned by God.

Even good intentions, do not justify change.

- Paul said, “If I yet pleased men, I should Not be the servant of Christ.” ([Gal.1:10](#))

Explanation:

- Serving God requires following Him — not people.

Any addition, even though sincere, leads away from truth and is dangerous to one’s soul ([Prov.30:6](#); [Deut.4:2](#); [Rev.22:18-19](#)).

There is another danger connected to religious traditions.

## B. Worship Without Authority Is Vain

Jesus addresses man-made religious practices.

- He said, “In vain they do worship Me, teaching... commandments of men.” ([Matt.15:9](#))

Explanation:

- “Vain” means — empty, rejected by God.

Paul warns against human ordinances.

- Which are, “After the commandments and doctrines of men...” ([Col.2:22](#))

Explanation:

- Human teachings, do not have divine authority.

Worship that feels right is not enough — it must be authorized by God. Adding religious practices not found in Scripture, leads to vain worship.

So then, what must guide everything we do?

# IV. True Worship Must Have Divine Authority

Let’s now consider the standard God requires.

## A. All Must Be Done, by Christ’s Authority

God gives a clear rule for all actions.

- The Bible says, “Whatsoever ye do... do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” ([Col.3:17](#))

Explanation:

- “In the name of” means — by His authority.

Jesus Himself, teaches what kind of worship God accepts.

- He said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him, must worship Him, in spirit and in truth.” ([Jn.4:24](#))

Explanation:

- “Must” means — required, not optional
- “Truth” means — according to God’s Word

Jesus has all authority.

- He said, “All power is given unto Me...” ([Matt.28:18](#))

Explanation:

- “All power” means — complete authority.

After Peter and John healed a lame man and preached about Jesus, they were brought before the Jewish council and asked:

- “By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?” ([Acts 4:7](#))

Explanation:

- “Power” means — authority or right to act
- “Name” means — the source of authority (in this case, Christ)

Even the enemies of truth understood this principle:  
Every religious action must have clear authority behind it.

If Christ did not authorize it, we cannot practice it in worship.

Finally, we must examine, how serious God is about this.

## B. God Rejects Unauthorized Worship

An Old Testament example shows God’s seriousness, regarding the sons of Aaron,

- Who, “...offered **strange fire**... which He commanded them Not.” ([Lev.10:1–2](#))

Explanation:

- “Strange fire” means — unauthorized worship.

Additionally, we have a clear example, where a man tried to do what seemed right—yet God still rejected it. King Saul tried to justify his disobedience, by claiming he intended to honor God.

- But he was told, “...to **obey is better than sacrifice**...” ([1Sam.15:22](#))

Explanation:

- “Obey” means — to follow God’s instructions exactly
- “Sacrifice” means — an offering meant to honor God

The New Testament confirms, that sincerity alone is not enough to please God. Paul describes people, who were religiously sincere, but not guided by God’s truth.

- He said, “For I bear them record that they have a **zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.**” ([Rom.10:2](#))

Explanation:

- “Zeal” means — strong passion or sincerity
- “Not according to knowledge” means — not guided by God’s revealed truth

Finally, we have a powerful New Testament example, showing what happens when people try to act in the Lord’s name, without His authority.

- Where unbelieving Jews said, “...we adjure you by Jesus... whom Paul preacheth...” ([Acts 19:13–16](#))

They tried to use the name of Jesus without belonging to Him or acting by His authority.

- The evil spirit answered, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?”  
Then the possessed man attacked them, and they fled wounded and ashamed.

Explanation:

- The speakers were unbelieving Jewish exorcists, including the seven sons of Sceva.
- The outcome was failure, humiliation, and injury, because they tried to use the Lord’s name, without the Lord’s approval.

Good intentions, cannot replace obedience to God’s instructions.

And worship that God accepts, must be authorized by Christ — not created by man.

If God rejected worship, He did not command in the past, we must be careful, not to offer the same today.

Let's now bring these truths together in some,

## V. Closing Thoughts

We have seen that:

- The resurrection is essential
- God gave a weekly pattern to remember Christ
- Man-made religious practices are condemned
- True worship must have divine authority

Some Lessons learned:

- Truth must come from God's Word—not human tradition
- Sincerity is not enough without authority
- God's pattern is complete and sufficient
- We honor Christ best, by obeying Him

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