

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday, a Sad Day

Larry Ray Hafley

In many respects, "Easter Sunday" is a happy holiday, filled with childhood fun - Easter egg hunts and the ever present chocolate bunny, along with new clothes, and family meals. Our own children enjoyed such times as they grew up. Those days are fondly remembered. Christians must separate the sacred from the secular, the spiritual from the social, and use moderation in similar matters, never causing their good to be evil spoken of.

However, in other respects, Easter is a sad day. Sad, because millions treat it as an ordinance founded by Christ. Unlearned and ignorant men, who have no concept of the true nature of Christ and his resurrection, will conduct "Son Rise" services to commemorate and celebrate the resurrection of Christ (**Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-26**). Clad in costly robes, with smoking vessels, they posture their piety and pretend to trek along trails trod by the Son of God. Parades and fashion shows flaunting the flesh will violate the very spirit of the meek and lowly Nazarene whom they would feign emulate. True people of God will weep that myths are perpetuated by pretender priests and prelates who know nothing of the humility and humiliation of Him who died for us all.

Sadly, even some of our own brethren have adopted the days and ways of human religious traditions while rejecting the divine and spiritual ones. They keep the doctrines and commandments of men, such as Easter, while they reject the weekly communion of the body and blood of the Lord (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17**). This is contrary to the revelation of our resurrected Redeemer. We are not to go beyond "*that which is written*" (**1 Cor. 4:6**). We must abide in the doctrine of Christ in order to be of God and to have his favor and fellowship (**2 Jn. 9; Rev. 22:18, 19**).

Yet, some who "weep" to show their alleged "love for Jesus" rail on us when we appeal to them with the word of Jesus. They embrace Easter and other inventions and innovations of men, and reject the words of Him whom they so ardently and emotionally claim to "be in love with." Jesus asks them, "*Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say*" (**Lk. 6:46**)? The disobedient have no response, except to cry against those who remind them of that word which will judge them in the last day (**Jn. 12:48**). They plead for pity and charge us with persecution while they continue their march with those who love the "*wages of unrighteousness*" (**2 Pet. 2:15**).

Certainly, Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead (**Acts 2:32; 13:27-31; 1 Cor. 15:1-6**). Christians remember those events every Lord's day as they are directed to do so (**Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:2, 23-26**). Accordingly, we shall show the Lord's death today as we did last Sunday, and as we shall do again next Sunday, Lord willing. We shall not have affiliation or association with the Easter tradition, for it is not of God, but of men. Though one may draw nigh to God this day, "thinking that he doeth God service," his worship will be "*in vain*" because Easter is a tradition of men, not a teaching of God (**Matt. 15:8, 9; 2 Thess. 2:15**).

Truly, it is a sad day. Sad to see so many deceived by that which is not rooted and grounded in the faith of our risen Redeemer (**Col 2:4-8, 18-23**).

"One Thing I Know"

James Hahn

I have always appreciated the response of the man in **John 9** when the Jews tried to pressure him into condemning Jesus as a sinner. *"He therefore answered, Whether he is a sinner, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see"* (**John 9:25**). I wish some of my brethren would have the same attitude this man had. There is an attitude manifested by many that says, "if you don't know everything you can't be sure about anything."

We should be humble and recognize we can be wrong. This is why we need to constantly study the word and examine the things we believe and practice in the light thereof. However, I do not believe this humility demands that we accept anything or everything that comes along and that we accept the position that we just can't be sure or definite about anything.

I may not know everything but there are some things I know are true and I am not ready to leave or compromise these truths simply because there are other things I do not know. We must continue to *"contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints"* (**Jude 3**). Paul said, *"I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day"* (**2 Timothy 1:12**).

"Glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad." – **Psalm 105:3**

News and Notes

New pew Bibles — The Lockman Foundation, publisher of the NAS Bible, has donated 36 pew Bibles to the church. We have ordered 24 more to complete the replacement of the older Bibles we now have. You can send a note of appreciation to lockman@lockman.org.

Connie Cobern is in CCU at Hendersonville Medical Center with fluid on her lungs (like she has had before). She was expected to be off the ventilator by now and should move to a regular room soon.

Jack Dalton, Tanya Stubblefield's dad in Atlanta, has been having little strokes and can no longer walk or feed himself. Tomorrow he is moving to a facility that provides greater care. Tanya is going down this afternoon to help her sister with his move. She plans to come back Tuesday.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Barry Fultz info is available at www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Estelle Hayes broke a tooth last week.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, is almost one year removed from his surgery and is doing exceptionally well.

Cotton Read continues to have breathing problems.

Nancy Read goes to the doctor Wednesday to get out the rest of the stitches in her eye from her cataract surgery.

Joyce Werner is still recovering from her fall almost two weeks ago. Last Thursday she got the cast off her hand.

Out of town, Visiting: Jim (AM) and Tanya (PM) Stubblefield.

New Reports from men we support: None known.

Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

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Troy Nicholson
trojenn@bellsouth.net

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).