

The BEACON



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March 2013

We the members of the Newton church of Christ would like to invite you to join us for our services.

On Sundays at 9:45 AM we meet for bible study, and 11:00 AM for Worship.

Wednesdays we meet at 7:00 PM for bible study.

We are determined to follow the New Testament pattern for the organization, work and worship of the church. We want to be able to show "book, chapter, and verse" for all of our practices.

Since the Lord's church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), our purpose is to promote the teachings of Christ and to give our greatest effort to live by those teachings (John 1:14; 14:6; 2 John 9).

June 10th thru the 16th we will have a Gospel Meeting with guest speaker, Ron Halbhook.

NOTICE

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR REQUEST TO RECEIVE THE BEACON

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN IT TO US AT:

NEWTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

P. O. BOX 893

NEWTON, NC 28658

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN CALL DURING THE WORD AND SWORD TV SHOW.

Name:		
Address:		Apt. #
City:	State:	Zip:
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Additional Information:		

Avoiding Truth

"For John the Baptist is come eating no bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a demon. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold, a gluttonous man, and a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners." (Luke 7:33-34.)

The contrast in the passage above is quite clear. The point we wish to emphasize is regarding the attitude of those who heard the truth. John taught truth, but those who did not want to receive it simply brushed it aside by saying, "John has a demon." Jesus taught the truth, but it was not accepted because of the same attitude that had rejected what John taught. The attitude manifested was the same in both cases, only the excuse was different. How is it with you, reader friend? Do you excuse yourself from obedience to the truth by hurling some accusation against him who proclaims it? The truth remains the same regardless of your action. Lay aside every excuse and in humility obey the gospel of Christ!

Many Americans interpret *freedom of worship* as *freedom from worship*.

**The man who says there are 250 Gods is a heathen;
the man who says there are 250 faiths ought to be put in the same class.
Read Eph. 4:4-6.**

It is better to be despised for the right than praised for the wrong.

**Too many preachers are reading books about the Bible
when they ought to be reading the Bible itself.**

The Bible only makes Christians.

Your soul is important to us .

**If you would like to set up a study, or if we can help you in any way,
please contact us..**

**We meet at 656 St. James Ch. Rd. in
Newton, NC
Join Us**

**Sunday
Bible Study - 9:30 AM
Worship – 11:00 AM**

**Wednesday
Bible Study – 7:00 PM**

**Website:
www.WORDANDSWORD.com
contact@wordandsword.com**

**Phone:
(828) 465-3009**

**The Newton church of Christ
P.O. Box 893
Newton, 28658**

The Facts About Easter

Easter according to Webster is "an annual church celebration commemorating Christ's resurrection." We notice that this day comes at a different time each year. Here is how the date of Easter is determined:

"Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or next after the vernal equinox (Mar. 21 in the Gregorian calendar); if the full moon happens on Sunday Easter is celebrated one week later. Easter Sunday cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25; dates of all other movable church feasts depend on that of Easter." (Webster.) Those who observe Easter and other "movable church feasts" do not get their authority from the Bible!

In the second century there was bitter controversy over which day Easter was to be kept. Some observed it on any day of the week, and others celebrated it only on the nearest Sunday. "The Council of Nice (Nicaea), 325 A. D., decreed that it should be on Sunday, but did not fix the particular Sunday." (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, II, 889.) The rule concerning when it was to be celebrated, as mentioned by Webster, was adopted in the 7th century.

The word Easter is only found one time in the English translation of the Bible and there it is a mistranslation. The passage is Acts 12:4. Albert Barnes, noted Presbyterian commentator, gives a good explanation of this in his comments on the phrase, "Intending after Easter."

"There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply after the Passover. The word Easter now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honour of the resurrection of the Saviour. But the original has no reference to that, nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed at the time when this book was written. The translation is not only unhappy, as it does not convey at all the meaning of the original, but because it may contribute to foster an opinion that such a festival was observed in the time of the apostles." (Barnes Notes on the New Testament, XI, 190.)

The word translated "passover," and the one used in Acts 12:4 is pascha meaning "a passing over." It is used with reference to "the paschal festival, the feast of passover." (Thayer, Greek- English Lexicon of the New Testament.) This same word is used in Matt. 26:2; Mk. 14:1; Lk. 2:41; 22:1; John 2:13, 23 and others, and in every instance is translated "passover." The American Standard Version translated it "passover." We have no objection to the name Easter, which comes from the "name of old Teutonic goddess of spring, Anglo-Saxon, Eastre" (Webster), except that it is pagan and not Christian. The point is this: EVEN IF WE DID USE THE WORD "EASTER" HERE, IT WOULD NOT BE WHAT IS CELEBRATED TODAY, BUT RATHER THE JEWISH PASSOVER. It is absurd to think that Herod wanted to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The scripture says that he "put forth his hands to afflict certain of the church." (Acts 12:1.) "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Christians." (Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th ed., VII, 859.) (continued next page)

With reference to the Jewish passover, which was eaten on the 14th of Nisan (our April) it is stated, "In fact the Jewish feast was taken over into the Christian Easter celebration; the liturgy (exultet) signs of the passing of Israel through the Red Sea, the Paschal lamb, the column of fire, etc. Apart, however, from the Jewish feast, the Christians would have celebrated the anniversary of the death and the resurrection of Christ." (The Catholic Encyclopedia, V, 225.)

Notice in the preceding, the words "In fact." We must say that the fact was not that which was stated, but just the opposite. The apostle Paul under the Divine guidance of the Holy Spirit warned against the observance of feast days, new moons, etc. After he declared that "the bond written in ordinances," i. e., the Law of Moses, was nailed to the cross of Christ, he said, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's." (Col. 2:16- 17.)

It seems to me that the truth is stated in the following: "In apostolic times the Christians commemorated their Lord's resurrection every Sunday, by meeting on that day for worship. When Paul refers to Christ as "our passover" (I Cor. 5:7) his language is metaphorical and cannot be regarded as containing any allusion to a church function." (A Dictionary of Religion and Ethics, p. 140.)

Easter has become to many the one time of the year that they attend church services. Concerning urging of Catholics to receive Holy Communion the question was asked, "They must go at least once a year if they would be regarded as Catholics?" "Father" Smith answers, "Yes, during Easter time." (Father Smith Instructs Jackson, p. 159.) Many Protestants hold this view and even some Christians entertain the idea. They forget the admonition, "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is ... " (Heb. 10:25.)

We would not belittle the resurrection of Christ at all. It is one of the bedrock facts of Christianity. The Deity of Jesus rests upon it. (Rom. 1:4.) Christians today meet every first day of the week as did the early Christians to observe the Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7.) The first day of the week is a memorial to the resurrection. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, which is the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), serves as the form of an individual's death to sin, burial in baptism, and resurrection to walk a new life as a new creature in Christ. (Rom. 6:3- 11; Col. 2:12.) "IF ANY MAN SPEAK, LET HIM SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD." (1 Pet. 4:11.) Easter began to late, and without the authority of God!

By Ferrell Jenkins Apostolic Doctrine, March 1961



The Word and The Sword

**Airs The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
From 8PM to 10PM on WHKY14 Hickory**

