

THE DAY OF TRIUMPH

“Through Death He Might Destroy Him That Had the Power of Death”

I Corinthians 15; Colossians 2; Hebrews 2

April 4, 2010

DISCUSSION OPENERS

- Share some childhood memories concerning Easter. Which of these traditions do you pass on? Which have you dropped?
- Consider media coverage during Easter time. What are areas of emphasis concerning the universal church? the community? the world? As a church body of believers, should we celebrate Easter?



EASTER RESEARCH

- **SPENDING**
U.S. consumers will generate \$14.02 billion - 1.8 % increase from last year and the first holiday spending increase in 3 years. Food and candy alone will account for almost half of total Easter sales, 33.4% and 15.7% respectively. \$700 million is spent on Easter cards. (IBIS World, Inc. 3-25-2010)
- **RANKING**
Fourth in spending after Christmas, Valentine's Day and Mother's Day (National Retail Federation).
- **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**
62-64% of Americans plan to attend church on Easter, those in the pews will be decidedly older and more likely to be female. Compare a 24% weekly attendance of 18-29 year old group to the 46% weekly attendance of the 65 and older group. (Research Gallop Poll - F. Newport)
- **MANIPULATIVES**
To help beef up attendance, Lindenwald Baptist Church in Fairfield (Ohio) will be having two \$500 random drawings to be given away and an Easter Egg Hunt will be provided for the children. (Dayton Daily News, 3-5-2010)

“If Christ Be Not Risen, Then Is Our Preaching Vain”

1. “Easter” is mentioned once in the KJ New Testament, however, the correct translation is actually “Passover.” There is mention of a celebration of the Resurrection in the NT. The Jewish Christians linked it with the Passover, therefore observing it on the 14th day of Nissan regardless of the day of the week it fell upon. The Gentile believers celebrated the Resurrection on the Lord’s Day, Sunday. This difference was settled by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. which ruled that Easter should be observed after the full moon following the first day of spring, varying between March 22 and April 25.
 - A) What was it that actually amazed the Gentiles? Acts 11:17-18
 - B) What instruction was given concerning the observance of this “Passover Feast”? I Cor. 5:6-8
2. Why is the resurrection a critical part of the complete salvation message? I Cor. 15:2-4, 10-17
 - Compare I Cor. 15:20-26 and Heb. 2:14-15. Why is Christ’s victory over death so important?
3. Should the Resurrection, known as Easter, more accurately be described as the Day of Triumph? Support your answer. Col. 2:12-17; 3:1-2

RESPOND: A pastor was quoted that Easter was his one in two day chance (Christmas being the other one) a year to “hopefully draw somebody into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It’s tricky because you have to keep it simple without dumbing it down.” Another pastor stated, “You only have one shot with these people, you’ve got to watch what you say. Guilt definitely won’t work.” What should be our approach toward those who approach Easter this way?

- A) Hebrews 2:3, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?”
- B) John 20:30-31, “These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ.”
- C) Luke 23:42-42, “Remember me when thou comest to thy kingdom.”
- D) Other:

