

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Easter? By Ron Boatwright

What is Easter? Easter is a pagan religious holiday. Easter is nothing but the name "Astarte" or "Ishtar," one of the many names of the Babylonian goddess, Semeramis. What is the origin of Easter? Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words notes: "The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean [Babylonian] goddess, the queen of heaven. . . the pagan festival of 'Easter' was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate Western religion, as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity" (W.E. Vine, 1985, "Easter"). Easter can be traced back to various pagan rituals. Also associated with Easter are the 40 days of Lent. Lent is also of pagan origin. The 40 days of Lent was celebrated by the pagans in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammyz who was a chief Babylonian pagan god and husband of the goddess Ishtar. The pagan worship of Tammyz had even spread to Jerusalem in about 600 BC as we read in Ezekiel 8:12-18. God calls this pagan worship an abomination, which is disgusting to Him.

God's word says, "But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain" (Galatians 4:8-11).

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SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

No Bible Study This
Week Study of

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Drive-in Service
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Family Bible Study
7:00 PM
No Bible Study This
Week



Please visit our
website
nscocmeridian.com

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congregation
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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

Listening For The Voice That Says, "Peace Be Still" By Mike Riley

Readers of the classic comic strip Peanuts will recall Snoopy's innumerable attempts to write a novel – which always began with the same sentence, "It was a dark and stormy night." In all the years that the late Charles M. Schulz drew the strip, Snoopy never finished writing that book, or even progressed very far beyond this infamous opening. Many fans never knew that Snoopy's first line wasn't original.

The line is actually the beginning passage of the novel Paul Clifford, written in 1830 by English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Typical of his time, he wrote in a flamboyant style, using an excessive amount of words, that would never be seen in publication today – the kind of flowery writing we call "purple prose."

At some point in our life, we all have chapters that begin with, "It was a dark and stormy night." Like poor Snoopy, we often find ourselves at a loss to make the rest of the story lead toward a happy ending. Neither the darkness nor the storm is literal – rather, they are the darkness of anguish, grief, and doubt, and the storms of raging forces about us that we are powerless to control.

We cower in tears within the shuddering walls of our lives, covering our ears to shut out the icy wind howling outside our windows and the pounding of the rain against our roofs. If ever a Bible story were to begin, "It was a dark and stormy night," it would have to be the account of Jesus and His disciples on the boat in the middle of Lake Gennesaret (often called the Sea of Galilee).

During a violent storm, the apostles were appalled that Jesus slept in the hold of the boat while they feared for their lives – "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Jesus, arising, silenced the storm with three small words – "Peace, Be still" (Mark 4:35-39) Sometimes, on our dark and stormy nights, we, like Jesus' followers, rail against Him for appearing to disregard our misfortunes.

We wonder why He does not arise for us as He did for them, and eliminate our troubles with a quick, "Peace, be still." We ask, "Does He not care whether or not we are overtaken and consumed by the circumstances that beset us?"

We need to be reminded that our experience may be like that of Elijah:

"And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire, a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11-12).

We may have to endure a few whirlwinds, earthquakes, and fires before we're ready to listen quietly to the voice of God, speaking to us through His word. The dark and stormy night may be preparing us for Wisdom yet to come (James 1:3-5; cf. Proverbs 2:1-6). The psalmists of the sons of Korah wrote:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling" (Psalm 46:1-3).

Does the earth ever shake beneath our feet? Do the mountains of our universe crumble into the ocean? Do the waters of stormy life flail around us and terrify us? Yes, sometimes they do. And in those times, God speaks to us through His Spirit, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

The older this writer gets, the fewer things I fear. Some fears are lessened because of mature understanding. For example, I know there are no monsters in the bedroom closet, or under the bed. Some fears fade through resignation – I am fully aware that awful things happen in life, but I also realize I can't change that fact, and go on.

And yet, there remains a little child within me that is still afraid of the dark and stormy night and the many horrors associated with it. However, the more mature person in me is learning to listen for and to the Voice that says, "Peace, Be still."

Easter and Lent, with all their pagan symbols, were adopted by the Catholic Church centuries after Christ's ascension. Those who observe Easter and Lent are in reality worshipping false gods. This false worship is abhorrent to the one God of Heaven. Easter and Lent are pagan traditions of men and are actually frauds pawned off on unsuspecting and well-intentioned people. God commands us to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Only the Bible contains the truth of God's word. Simply claiming that something is Christian and is done to honor Christ doesn't make it acceptable to God. One dishonors God in observing these ancient idolatrous practices, in violating God's explicit commands in Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1. Easter doesn't represent the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but honors the pagan god, "Astarte". In worshipping idols our worship becomes vain and useless for Jesus says, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). One will lose his soul in the vain worship of false gods.

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Serrie Smith, Donna Hill)
- All those affected by COVID-19
- Connie Montgomery
- Ken and Millie Williams
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2020 is in foyer
- April - Rowell
- May - Rowell

Announcements

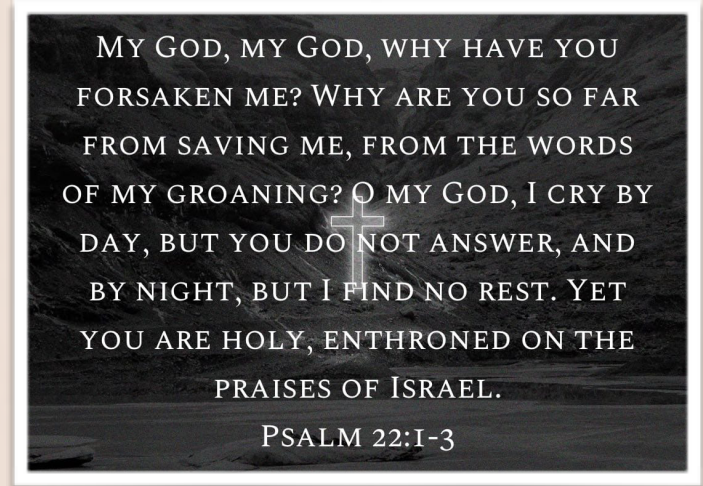
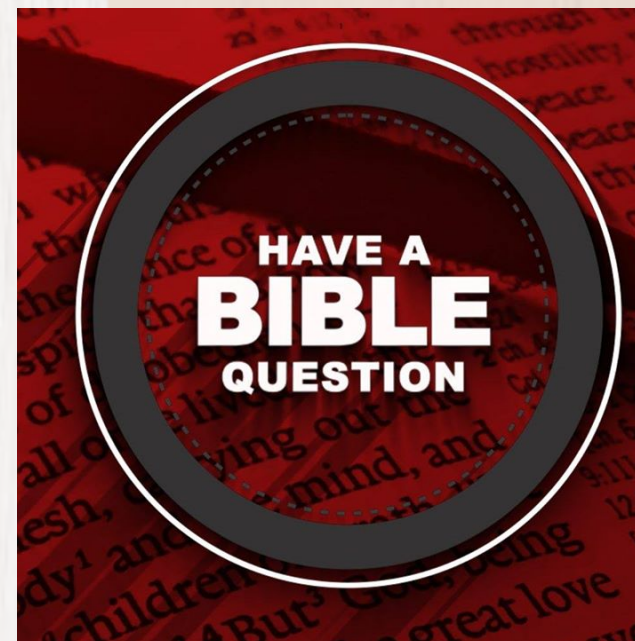
- No Sunday Bible Study or Evening Worship or Wednesday Night Bible Study Next Week
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April Birthdays & Anniversary's

- None

Every Sunday Morning

@ 6:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



Men to Serve

Sunday Morning

- Announcements/Opening Prayer - Tristan Rowell
- Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
- Head of Lord's Table - Tristan Rowell
- Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- Assist on Lord's Table - Chuck Rowell
- Closing Prayer - Chuck Rowell

Sunday Afternoon - No service

- Comcast Cable 8
- Comcast Cable 438
- Comcast Cable 1012
- DirecTV 12
- Dish Network 9306
- Dishnet Local 49
- Over-the-air 11.3