

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Eddy Dickinson

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Gary Addison
Lannie Key
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Billy Box

Preparing the Lord's Supper Amelia Key

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren
Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson Minister: Greg Lowery

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Groaning For Home



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



May Christians Observe Holidays?

By Wayne Jackson

Is it wrong for Christians to celebrate some of the holidays popular in our society—like giving gifts at Christmas time, allowing children to go trick-or-treating at Halloween, or hunting eggs at Easter?

In considering this issue, several things should be kept in view.

A practice may have originated under certain circumstances but, eventually, have lost that significance—either in whole or at least significantly. There is Bible precedent for dealing with this principle.

Consider the practice of eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols previously—a very lively issue in the first century. Here is the background: A meat sacrifice would be made to an idol. After a certain portion was consumed in sacrificial flames (or by the priests), the balance would be sold as common food in the market. The controversy, therefore, arose: is this meat contaminated simply because it had some connection with an idol?

Paul’s answer is no (see 1 Corinthians 8:1-13). If one has “knowledge”—i.e., that an idol is “nothing”—and his conscience is not offended, he may eat of that meat. It is not contaminated merely by its former association.

Yet, there is this caution: if one is in an environment wherein some “weak” (i.e., without mature knowledge) brother is liable to be damaged, then it would be best to refrain in that instance, lest the weak brother’s conscience be wounded.

It would be wrong to partake religiously of a practice that compromises one’s fidelity to the truth. The apostle deals with such a matter in 1 Corinthians 10. If in a service where sacrifices were being offered to “demons” the Christian were to partake, i.e., have “communion” (koinonia—participation, fellowship), with those involved in the illicit worship, such clearly would be sinful (10:20-21).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Billy Box: undergoing therapy for recent hip replacement surgery, please be praying that he can have a quick and full recovery

Faye Cotton: has stopped taking treatments for now; please be praying that she will regain her strength and defeat this cancer

Denise Kimbrell: receiving chemo treatments; please be praying that with these treatments this cancer will not return

Mary Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please be praying that she makes a full and quick recovery

Lellie Dickinson: undergoing therapy from recent knee surgery, please be praying for a full and quick recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Bill Foster: is at home under hospice care, please be praying for him and his family

Danielle Taylor: recovering from recent spinal surgery, please pray that she makes a full recovery

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: is at home, please pray that she can regain her strength, and continue her fight against cancer

Barb Lemay: friend of Christie & Aaron, from the Midway congregation – she has advanced colon cancer; please be praying that treatments will help

Upcoming Events

April 23 rd	Tri-County Singing {Here}	2:00 pm
May 7 th	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
May 14 th	Nursing Home {Winfield}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Lucas Dunnigan: leukemia cells are showing signs of growth, please pray that the doctors will be able to treat this successfully

Deborah Box: did find a small blood clot, please be praying that medicine will take care of this clot and there will be no further problems

Kay Dodd: diagnosed with colon cancer and will be undergoing treatments, please be praying that the treatments will defeat this cancer

Samuel Walker: having some heart problems, please be praying that he will receive help for this problems

To practice Christmas, Halloween, or Easter religiously would be unwarranted. To do so merely as a cultural custom would be a matter of personal judgment.

In Romans 14, Paul argues the general proposition that there will be different levels of knowledge among brethren and that, to a certain extent, these must be accommodated for the sake of Christian unity. For example, some, out of conviction, choose not to eat meats; others see nothing wrong with such a practice.

The apostle instructs that neither individual is to “set at naught” the other. No man is to create a law in areas of expediency and then demand that all others submit. If an overt act of transgression is not the issue, peace must prevail.

Most folks who are rather sensitive about these cultural practices are not consistent entirely in their own conduct. Consider, for example, the celebration of birthdays. In ancient Egypt, the birthdays of the Pharaohs were considered as “holy” days, with no work being done (McClintock and Strong 1969, 817). Moreover, as John Lightfoot noted: “The Jewish schools esteem the keeping of birthdays a part of idolatrous worship” (1979, 217).

Does this mean that if a man in this era gives his wife a birthday present or if we have a birthday party for a child we have compromised our faith? Surely no one will so allege.

What about the man who takes his wife out for dinner and gives her flowers on Valentine’s Day? Has he yielded to the Romish dogma regarding “Saint Valentine”? When we place flowers on the graves of our loved ones, is this the same as the Hindu practice of putting food on the graves of one’s ancestors? Does having a wedding ceremony in a church building imply that we endorse the Catholic notion that marriage is a “church sacrament”? Surely these queries must be answered negatively.

Practices can change with time and mean different things to different people. We must not compromise the truth, but neither are we permitted to make spiritual laws for others.

Jackson, Wayne. "May Christians Observe Holidays?" ChristianCourier.com. Access date: April 14, 2017. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/316-may-christians-observe-holidays>

Rest from What?

By Tim Dooley

There is a rest for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9). But just who are these people. Satan would have religious minded people believe that all who claim faith alone in God are the people of God. This lie has been extremely successful! No one faithful to the Word of God would teach or believe that folks could earn their salvation. But the truth is no one faithful to the Word of God would teach that there is nothing you have to do either.

Just as God ceased from His work in order to rest he offers rest for us from our own works (Hebrews 4:10). Does this sound like God doesn't expect us to do anything? The fact is, it means just the opposite, we must stop living for ourselves and strive to do those things that are pleasing to God in order to receive His rest (Hebrews 4:11). Jesus left us the prime example by being made perfect through his obedience to the will of the Father and not his own. He then becomes the author of eternal salvation to all who likewise are obedient to Him (Hebrews 5:8–9).

When we are obedient and faithful to Christ he becomes an anchor to our souls (Hebrews 6:19), and we find rest. Do you enjoy that rest today? Do you rest in the assurance of eternal life? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3), confess the name of Jesus with your words and your works (Matthew 10:32–33), and be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). Once you have done these things you must then be a good steward (1 Corinthians 4:2), must be faithful in all things (Revelation 2:10), and labor in anticipation of the rest to come (Revelation 14:13).

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

The Difference Between Knowing & Doing What Is Right

By David Maxson

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. (1 Kings 11:1-3)

When you're reading your Bible do you ever want to throw up your hands and shout: WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

This is one of those chapters. What was Solomon thinking? Wasn't he supposed to be so wise and so discerning? Wasn't he the one who wrote most of the book of Proverbs? Didn't he warn about how the immoral woman would take the life of the simple man?

What was Solomon thinking?

The answer is Solomon was not thinking when he married all of these women. He wasn't thinking because we know that he knew better. God had clearly said what would happen and Solomon ignored what God had said. The fear of the LORD (Solomon said) is the beginning of wisdom, and Solomon simply wasn't listening to God when he did what he did.

Important lesson here: there's a difference between KNOWING what is right and DOING what is right. There are occasions when we do things ignorantly and innocently make honest mistakes. But isn't it true that we often do sinful and destructive things to ourselves and to others when we KNOW that the things we're doing are destructive and sinful?

Father, give us wisdom to apply the things we know to our own lives.

Obtained at: www.northwoodchurchofchrist.org