

The Examiners

...Examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so... Acts 17:11

WHY WE REJECT THE DOCTRINE OF TRADITIONAL GOOD FRIDAY

The teaching of traditional religion about the day the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified is fictitious and purely unbiblical. **JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE ON THAT PARTICULAR FRIDAY.** Let us consider the following truths:

There were 4 Sabbaths that occurred on that week Christ was crucified:

- The Passover Sabbath
[1 John 18:39, Leviticus 23:4-8]
- The Regular Sabbath
[Not Saturday]
- The Feast of First Fruits
[Leviticus 23:9-14]
- The Feast of the Unleavened Bread
[Leviticus 23:8]

The Jews measure their days from sun-down to sundown [from 6:00 PM to 6:00 PM], not from midnight to midnight [12:00 MN to 12:00 MN].

On that week, from 6:00 PM Tuesday to 6:00 PM Wednesday was the Feast of the Passover. The Passover lamb was slain [1 Corinthians 5:7] and the memorial meal was eaten on Tuesday night, [not on traditional Thursday], the eve and the preparation for the actual Passover which fell on Wednesday [not on traditional Friday].

The Jews celebrated the Passover once a year every Wednesday of the Jewish month of NISIN [April], which is the

last week of the 50 days celebration of Jewish religion. Gregorian calendar was not yet in used then.

That particular Wednesday was also the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread described in John 19:31, designed also as the preparation day for the rest of the week [Exodus 12:11, Leviticus 23:6-7]

That particular Thursday and Friday was designated as Jewish holy days as no worship or killing days, which they cannot violate by having somebody hanged and died on a cross. **THERE WAS NO CRUCIFIXION THAT FRIDAY.**

Jesus was in the tomb for three days and three nights (72 hours) based on the veracity of the Scripture [Matthew 12:40, 1 Corinthians 15:4].

If Jesus Christ was crucified and buried before 6:00 PM of Friday and was resurrected on early Sunday morning-then He was dead and buried in the tomb for only one and half (1½) day and not three days and three nights as declared by the Word of God.

The Word of God cannot lie. The Bible is the Truth not the teaching of self-righteous men who invented foolish church doctrines.

We also reject the teaching about Resurrection on Sunday because He rose from death not on Sunday early morning. Jesus Christ did not die on Friday and He did not rise from the grave on Sunday.

We have to reject the traditional views and teaching of holy week because of its erroneous and fictitious nature.

We reject the teaching of traditional Good Friday because Jesus Christ was crucified during the Passover as the Lamb of God.

Jesus Christ rose from the grave before 6:00 PM of Saturday because 6:01 PM was already Sunday. He was in the tomb for 3 days and 3 nights. If Christ was buried on Friday, then, He was in the tomb for 1½ day only.

When it comes to spiritual truth, the Bible is always the authority not the church dogmatic teachings.

WHY WE REJECT THE DOCTRINE OF PALM AND EASTER SUNDAYS

Jesus Christ and His disciples went to Bethany six (6) days before the Passover [John 12:1-11].

On the next day, five (5) days before the Passover, Jesus Christ and His disciples entered Jerusalem [John 12:12].

If the Passover was celebrated on the first Wednesday of April, therefore, Jesus Christ and His disciples entered Jerusalem on Saturday (not Sunday).

THERE WAS NO PALM SUNDAY SINCE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ENTERED JERUSALEM ON SATURDAY AND NOT ON SUNDAY.

The Lord Jesus led the apostles in celebrating the Passover meal on the eve of Passover. They ate the Passover meal before 6:00 PM of Tuesday since 6:01 PM is already Wednesday.

For reference, take note that in Luke 23:44, 12:00 NN is sixth hour and 3:00 PM is ninth hour. Also, 5:00 PM is the eleventh hour.

There was no Good Friday because Jesus Christ was hanged and died on the cross on Wednesday.

There was no Ash Wednesday in the Bible. No writer of the Scriptures ever mentioned it.

There was no Black Saturday in the Bible. No writer of the Scripture ever mentioned anything about it. God did not die. It was the humanity of Christ that was slain. His perfect humanity died spiritually. His Deity cannot die.

The early Church did not celebrate Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday and Easter Sunday.

The Bible mandated the believers to celebrate only two symbolic rituals: namely the Lord's Supper and water Baptism by immersion.

Satan is the master of deception and two of his favorite schemes are seclusion of believers and substitution in the area of truth, teachings, and practices.

He secludes the genuine believer from the truth or he secludes the truth from the believers. He hides them behind the bushes of lies and deception.

He brings something that looks like the genuine or truth and replaces it. Satan wanted to displace all the truths in the hearts of believers something that is exactly the look alike. Denominational doctrines are nothing but look alike of the Biblical truth.

THE LAST TEN DAYS OF JESUS ON EARTH.

6 DAYS BEFORE PASSOVER Jesus and His disciples went to Bethany -John 12:1-11	FRI
5 DAYS BEFORE PASSOVER Jesus and His disciples Entered Jerusalem John 12:12	SAT
	SUN
	MON
PASSOVER MEAL Foot washing John 13:1	TUES
PASSOVER Prayer - John 17 Arrested Death Burial Leviticus 23:5	WED
UNLEAVENED BREAD Leviticus 23:6	THU
HOLY DAY-NO WORK	FRI
REGULAR SABBATH Leviticus 23:3	SAT
FIRST FRUITS Leviticus 15:20	SUN

THE CROSS OF JESUS

THE CROSS: (STAUROS) was the instrument of death. Death by crucifixion originated somewhere in the East. Alexander the Great learned of it from the Persians. The SPQR borrowed the idea from the PHOENICIANS through CARTHAGE and perfected it as a means of capital punishment.

THE ROMANS reserved crucifixion for slaves, assassins, and for those who committed heinous crime like rebellion and sedition against the SPQR. Only rarely were Roman citizens subjected to this kind of treatment.

Upon receiving the death sentence the condemned person was flogged with Roman lashes or a whip loaded with sharp metal, bones and stones. He was then required to shoulder the cross bar upon which he was extended

and carry to the place of his crucifixion.

At the crucifixion site he was stripped and tied or nailed to the cross bar, which then was fastened to an upright post. A projecting peg gave the condemned a place to sit his feet to relieve the strain on his arms. Death therefore was slow in coming, except when it was hurried by soldiers breaking the crucified man's leg [John 19:31].

Crucifixion was abhorrent to the Jews [1 Corinthians 1:23, Galatians 3:13], as much to the Romans (CICERO, in Verses 1, 5, 66). The Jews considered crucified men accursed by God [Deuteronomy 21:22-23].

In the New Testament, when the term STAUROS (cross) refers to Jesus Christ the term has both a literal and figurative meaning.

LITERALLY, it meant the physical instrument by which Jesus was put to death [John 19:17, 20:25, Matthew 27:35 and 2 Corinthians 13:4].

FIGURATIVELY, the cross of Jesus became the mark of God's redemptive action in history. It was symbolic of the means God employed for releasing into the world a power that is sufficient to save men for good [1 Corinthians 1:18].

Since the cross was reserved for the criminals, it symbolized the sufferings and humiliation Jesus endured with joy for the Royal Family of God [Hebrews 12:2]. It indicates the depths to which He was willing to go to lift up the worst and lowest of men.

JESUS' CROSS- also stood as the symbol of God's unique purpose for Him [Acts 2:23, Matthew 16:21, John 18:11]. This is a METONYM FOR HIS MISSION, a symbol both of God the Father will for Jesus Christ and His

voluntary submission to the will and purpose of God.

In relation to Christ, the literal and the figurative cross has spiritual meaning to us His beneficiaries. THERE WAS ONLY ONE CROSS-where He died and the cross that saved us through His death.

THE CROSS-IS JUST THE INSTRUMENT NOT THE CAUSE AND SOURCE OF REDEMPTION. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY CAUSE AND SOURCE OF SALVATION.

The cross is just like the electric chair or lethal injection today. Wearing a cross as in pendant is like wearing an electric chair.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not remain on the cross. He was buried but rose from death. To depict Him still hanging on a cross is to say that He did not rise from death and that is blasphemy.

AN IDOLATROUS CROSS

IN ONE of the military campaign of Israel to free EDOM from heathenism, they became impatient of the terrible journey and so they grumbled against God [Numbers 21:4-5].

THE LORD sent fiery serpents to bit the Hebrews, so that many of them died. They asked Moses to intercede and the Lord told Moses to make a bronze serpent, mounted it on a standard (a measuring rod) for every one to see. Everyone who was bitten but looked at the bronze serpent did not die [Numbers 21:6-9].

NUMBERS 21:8 was an exemption of EXODUS 20:4 for several reasons:

The Hebrews repented prior to the making of the bronze serpent.

The purpose of the bronze serpent was to remove the effect of poisonous VENUM in the bodies of those bitten by snakes.

The bronze serpent was to serve as a reminder of their disobedience and the resulting divine discipline (their death) [1 Corinthians 10:9].

The bronze serpent was not designed to be an object of worship.

No personal faith was involved in the part of those who were bitten, but only obedience to take a look.

100 YEARS later, Hezekiah broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made. For almost 100 years, the Israelites burn incense to it. The idol was called NEHUSHTAN, the name given by King Hezekiah [2 Kings 18:4].

There was no time in the history of Israel that they did not worship idols.

They were never free from attraction of idols worship. When they went out of Egypt, they brought the idols of their Egyptian masters and worshipped them [Joshua 24:14, Ezekiel 20:8-18, 23:3-8].

The worship of idols was an abomination to the protagonists of Hebrew monotheism. The prohibition against idolatry found expression in the Decalogue [Exodus 20:4] that forbade the representation of God in any form. The commandment was not an attack to artists or sculptors but on the idolaters.

To worship idols is to go whoring after other gods; therefore idolatry was described as adultery [Hosea 1:2,9:1, Ezekiel 16:15-17, 23].

Idolatry degrades both God and man. It denies the existence of the only true God whose glory cannot be adequately

captured in any tangible form. A visible representation of the deity tends to restrict a person's concept of God, for he will base his concept of God, consciously or unconsciously upon the image or idol.

The crucifix or cross is lifeless, powerless and cold. It cannot bring hope or real comfort to anyone. It cannot drive away demons or spiritual beings since material objects that have no spiritual power do not threaten them.

If Hezekiah destroyed the bronze serpent because the Israelites offered incense to it, then all the assumed representation of the true God must be destroyed also.

Anything can be an object of worship whenever a person ascribe to it any form of adoration, veneration, praise, worship, reverence and honor that truly belongs only to God.

CARRYING YOUR CROSS DAILY

THE cross was used also of the followers of Jesus Christ, both literally and figuratively.

LITERALLY, because crucifixion was a frequent occurrence and the spectacle of condemned men carrying their crosses to the place of execution was very common. Christ's words about taking up the cross daily and following Him must first of all have been interpreted literally.

These words must have been understood as a prediction of the same physical means of death for His disciples. It was fulfilled in the early Church history [Matthew 23:34, Romans 5:3].

METAPHORICALLY, it was for Christ, the symbol of our sacrifice that His

followers must bear the cross [Mark 8:34-35].

TO BEAR THE CROSS means a growing progressive life under the control of the Holy Spirit- that is to reside inside the plan, will and purpose of God.

TO DENY SELF means to live and function under the power of the Holy Spirit and to reject the leadership or dictatorship of the old sinful nature.

THE CROSS- means the will, the plan, and the purpose of God for every regenerated believer. The cross is not our personal problems, self-made miseries, poverty, injustice, hardship in life.

TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND TO DENY YOURSELF is to live under the power of the Holy Spirit and to accept the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of your life while advancing toward the goal of SPIRITUAL MATURITY, which is the will of God.

If in the experience of Jesus the cross was a metonym for His mission (death on the cross), the believer is called upon to do the will, the plan, and purpose of God in positive volition.

The cross symbolizes His life under the will of the Father. The cross has become a symbol of full obedience and positive volition for the Lord Jesus.

The bearing of literal cross has nothing to do with repentance or obedience, humiliation, self-sacrifice of the person doing it for God. God despise it no matter how sincere it maybe.

There is no need to imitate the cross-bearing of Christ, because we cannot duplicate His redemptive work on the cross. God the Father accepted His once and for all sacrifice not because of the cross but because of He is the One and only God-Man.

If Christ would die today to redeem men, He will die by lethal injection or by electric chair. Then, some people will be wearing a miniature lethal injection or of an electric chair.

THE CROSS-DOES NOT SYMBOLIZE CHRISTIANITY BUT CRIMINALITY, NOT SALVATION BUT DECEPTION, NOT THE POWER OF GOD BUT POWER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

The cross of Calvary must be printed in the soul of every regenerated saint not in any where in the house. The house is not a believer- Jesus did not die for the house.

It nice to see crosses of many variations in the cemetery –since it symbolizes death not life.

The cross of the believer is to do the will and purpose of God. The cross of every believer is invisible but glorious. The result is far greater than anything in this world –the glorification of God in time and in eternity.

NT writers assume the historicity of the crucifixion of Jesus and focus their attention upon its significance. In it they understand that He, "who was in the form of God, did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped at," was willing to "humble Himself," take "on the form of a servant," and endure "even the death on the cross" (Phil. 2:6-8).

This demonstrates the ultimate of humiliation and degradation. Yet, they affirm, the crucifixion of Jesus, the Messiah (Christ), was the will and act of God with eternal and cosmic significance. At the simplest level, the crucifixion of Jesus was the means by which God provided salvation, the forgiveness of sins (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Christ's crucifixion becomes the summary of the Christian message (1 Corinthians 2:2). The cross of Jesus, the beloved Son of God, is the supreme demonstration of the love God has for sinful man (John 3:16; 15:16).

In Jesus' death, God deals concretely with the sin and guilt, which offends His holiness and separates man from His Creator. Because of the cross, God becomes both the righteous and just Judge and, at the same time, the one who makes forgiveness available and justifies believers (Romans 3:26).

The condemning legal demands set against man has been "canceled," nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14). The word of the cross is God's Word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross once and for all members of the human race. His spiritual death on the cross is unique since it was designed to save souls. He died for the sins of all men not for His own crime. His physical death was unique – it assures or guarantees our resurrection.

There is no way to duplicate the death of Jesus Christ since His physical birth was unique – without the Seed of Adam. He died without sin and not able to sin. The cultic rituals of the Lenten season are not only ridiculous but also blasphemous. Such activities (like crucifixion, carrying wooden cross, egg hunting, and the like) are not Biblical and have no spiritual relevance.

Our spiritual death is something we did not choose but passed to us through Adam. Christ's spiritual death was His own choosing and decision.

The celebration of the Lenten season and its rituals and activities therefore is not Scriptural.

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