

Words of *Truth & Reason*

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO OFFER? #2

Many Americans believe in a Creator---but how can we know anything about Him? Has He told us anything about Himself?

Agnostics are people who are indifferent to God's existence and identity. Since God made you, it is obvious that you should be interested in who He is. Rejecting the proof the Bible offers of its divine origin, leaves you without access to identifying your Creator.

Nature offers proof that God exists, but it cannot identify Him. Cultures throughout history created their own ways to identify God, but Egyptian, Greek, and Roman ideas are mere myths. Modern attempts, such as the Koran and Book of Mormon, also fail. The Bible is the only place where God reveals Himself.

Through the teachings of Jesus, God identified Himself as The Father (John 6:45).

By His works, Jesus identified Himself as God (Matthew 9:4-6).

When identified as an equal with the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is identified as God (Matthew 28:19).

When buying a house or car, are you indifferent to the identity of the maker? Then think-- "Every house has a builder, but He who built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4). The only place where God has revealed Himself to man today is in the pages of the Bible.

Inside This Issue:

- **What Does the Bible Have to Offer? #2**
- **What Is Faith?**
- **The First Day of the Week: From Heaven or Men?**
- **Lent: From Heaven or Men?**

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WHAT IS FAITH?

How important is the subject of faith? It is so important that you cannot please God without understanding it (Hebrews 11:6).

The faith that pleases God is not blind faith which exists without evidence. Rather, it is faith built upon sufficient evidence. The miracles of Jesus and the apostles proved that they spoke the word of God, not human opinions. Thus "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith is the natural result of believing what God has said. Faith is not a miracle, nor is faith miraculously given by the Holy Spirit, as some mistakenly say.

Faith is vital because faith saves. Faith alone does not save since "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Saving faith is more than mental faith, it is an obedient faith. It causes us to confess our conviction that Jesus is Christ so we can be saved (Romans 10:9). By faith in the working of God, we must be baptized before our sins can be forgiven (Colossians 2:12). Then by constantly learning and following God's word, faith will define our life (Galatians 2:20). Is this faith your faith?

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK: FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?

If God were put in charge of the “Christian calendar,” what day would be most important?

If you only used the Bible, could you find the day(s) God identified for all Christians to remember?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John identified the day of Jesus’ resurrection as occurring on the first day of the **week**. He did not identify a certain day of the year-- human councils later did that (thus many observe “Easter”).

Luke tells us that the disciples assembled, broke bread, and heard preaching on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Paul commanded saints to give as they have prospered on this day (1 Corinthians 16:2). Since this was the only holy day for Christians, it is what John calls “the Lord’s day” (Revelation 1:10).

Since man’s traditions can change, Saturday is sometimes substituted for worship on Sunday. The Catholic church even created a law allowing Saturday evening Mass to substitute for Sunday Mass. Man may change his habits and traditions, but he cannot change God’s word.

Each week God is calling your attention to the first day of the week—are you listening? Please call or write us with questions or comments on this important subject.

*“... on the first day of the week when the disciples came together...” (Acts 20:7)
“On the first day of every week each one of you is to...” (NASB, 1 Corinthians 16:2)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

LENT: FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?

Did any of the apostles write about a season of special devotion for Christians called “Lent”? Is there any evidence in Scripture of Peter leading an “Easter service”?

This time of year, many churches claim to “walk with Jesus through Lent.” The Bible clearly teaches us to walk with Christ, but what has God said about a holy season called Lent?

Did early Christians observe Lent? Scripture provides no evidence of it. If the history books written by men allude to it in the 2nd or 3rd centuries, remember that the apostles’ warned of new teachings and practices created by men (1 Timothy 4:1-4; Colossians 2:21-23).

The only day that was of significance to all Christians from the beginning was the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). The apostles did not elevate any particular month of the year or annual celebration. If Jesus wanted His church to have a holy calendar, why didn’t the apostles know about it, teach it, and include it in Scripture? Since Peter and Paul never observed Lent, why would we?

God never revealed a holy calendar, so is it from heaven or men? Scripture thoroughly equips us for every good work, but it does not equip the church for a holy day called Lent (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Search the Scriptures, and let us hear from you.

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. Why should you be interested in the question “Who is God”?
2. Does being saved by faith mean that we are saved by faith alone?
3. Breaking bread is the Lord’s supper, meaning that saints eat the Lord’s Supper on the Lord’s _____.
4. Beside the first day of the week, what other days did the apostles teach Christians to remember?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

* Email your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)