

## GOOD FRIDAY?

Michael Pickford

What is “Good Friday” and where did it come from?

First, Good Friday did not come from the word of God. As such, it is a tradition of man. When this tradition started I do not know, but I do know it is always the Friday preceding “Easter Sunday.” It is my conviction that individual Christians may freely observe holidays and other traditions as part of their National Heritage, so long as God’s will is not displaced; and so long as they do not bind them on other saints (Romans 14:3-6; Acts 21:23-26; Acts 16:3); but there is a vast difference in what an individual may do and what a church may do (1 Timothy 5:16).

Many “churches” celebrate Good Friday with a special service in which Christ’s death is remembered with hymns, prayers, a message centered on Christ’s suffering, and observance of the Lord’s Supper. There’s certainly nothing wrong with a local church meeting on a Friday evening. And it would not even be wrong to focus the songs, sermon, and prayers on the death of Jesus. But when a church observes the Lord’s Supper on a Friday it violates God’s direction and this is not “Good.” Acts 20:7 directs the local church, by necessary implication, to observe the Lord’s Supper only upon the first day of the week. 🔍

### The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES.....7:00



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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## IS EASTER FROM GOD?

Michael Pickford

On this day many “churches” will be celebrating Easter as a church. They will host feasts, pageants, plays, Easter egg hunts, etc, all paid for from their treasuries. Is this what God wants? ...

**A MANGLED TRANSLATION.** Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, etc have all come to us by way of man-made traditions (Consider Matthew 15:8-9). Jesus did indeed die on the cross for the sins of man, and He arose from the dead, but we have no record of the early church celebrating an “Easter” holiday. Churches who do so depart from scripture when they practice things not authorized in the Bible, and this is condemned (Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9). The KJV translates the Greek pascha as “Easter” in Acts 12:4, but the word means “Passover,” and is translated as such in all other places in the New Testament. The Jewish Passover is what is under consideration in the context, not a Christian religion. Herod was trying to please the Jews by waiting until after “Easter” (Passover), but he would have angered the Jews by observing a Christian religion.

**A MAN-MADE TRADITION.** It is sad when men are deceived by their feelings of safety and security in well established, time-worn human traditions. It is tragic when churches that celebrate Easter think they are pleasing God in doing so. Paul thought he was pleasing God while persecuting the Lord’s church (Acts 26:9-11). Many Jews thought they were pleasing God by serving Him according to their own traditional whims (Romans 10:1-3). Many, expecting to go to heaven for their great spiritual works, will be rejected by the Lord (Matthew 7:21-23). Something may be “spiritual” in nature, produce good results, and be a big part of the “Religious community;” but if God did not authorize it, it is “Lawlessness” (Matthew 7:23).

**A MANDATED TRADITION .** God commanded that the church observe the Lord’s supper every first day of the week in order to proclaim Christ’s death till He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7). This is a tradition handed down from God (2 Thessalonians 3:6). But this simple observance with its basic emblems cannot compete with the fun and excitement of pageants, parades, parties, egg hunts and plays hosted by most of the “Churches” of our day. Folks’ minds are blinded by the light of these shiny treats and their hearts are distracted from the true spiritual significance of our Lord’s great sacrifice of love at Calvary. 🔍

## EASTER

Michael Pickford

“Sunrise services,” Easter egg hunts, plays, pageants and parades will not be found at this church because our desire is not to follow after the traditions of man. We desire to practice only those things authorized in Christ’s doctrine (Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9).

St. Bede, an English historian of the early 8th century writes... “Easter finds its origin in an old Teutonic mythology. The entire month of April was dedicated to Eostre, the Anglo-saxon goddess of Spring.” The festival was later picked up by some early disciples and associated with the Jewish Passover. To most denominations, Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The method for determining the date of Easter is debated. The Western churches (Catholic and Protestant) celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Traditions associated with the idolatrous festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored Easter eggs (the bright colors represented the sunlight of spring).

The Bible never indicates that such a holiday as “Easter” existed. It derives from man and thrives as a man-made tradition (Matthew 15:8-9). Many “churches” celebrate Easter with great pomp while under the distinct impression they are giving honor to God through such practices. I am reminded of those who will say, “Lord, Lord, have we not ... done many wonders in Your name?” (Matt. 7:22). The Lord will say to them, “depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” (Vs. 23).

The word “Easter” is found only in the King James Version of the Bible (Acts 12:4). Albert Barnes wrote, “There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply ‘after the Passover’, ‘meta to pasca.’ The word Easter now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honor of the resurrection of the Savior. But the original has no reference to that; nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed at the time when this book was written.”

In the context of Acts 12, Herod had imprisoned Peter, intending to kill him in order to please the Jews (vs. 3). Since he didn’t want to offend the Jews, he was going to wait until “after the Passover” (Easter, vs 4 KJV). If Easter was a “Christian” holiday, Herod would not have waited until it was over to kill Peter. He couldn’t have cared less about a “Christian” holiday. The Greek word translated “Easter” in the KJV was referring to a Jewish Holiday (Passover), not a “Christian” holiday.

If individuals want to celebrate Easter as part of their National Heritage, so be it, that’s what me and my family do (Acts 16:3; Acts 21:20-26); but no local church has any authority to observe such; and there is no authority for their plays, pageants, decorations, and Easter egg hunts. Individuals may do these at home, but the church is not authorized to finance such. 🔗

## OLD-FASHIONED

Michael Pickford

Many godly virtues are often preceded in conversation by the phrase “Old-fashioned.” We hear of old-fashioned honesty, old-fashioned marriages, old-fashioned hospitality, old-fashioned love, etc. The term “old-fashioned” is defined as a fashion that is no longer in style. Sadly, the reason these things are deemed old-fashioned is because they are so rarely seen anymore.

We live in a nation that is corrupted with deceit, selfishness, divorce, etc. Situation ethics has taken a stronghold in the minds of otherwise decent citizens. Folks will justify lying, cheating, and stealing if the situation

calls for it.

Even the Bible, God’s word, has been called old-fashioned and many are trying to amend it so it will be up to date with current trends and beliefs. Listen; God’s truths are timeless and unchanging (Hebrews 13:8). God’s word is not there to be bent to conform to the whims of the current society. Beloved, “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Romans 12:2). Folks today desperately need to “*Ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it;*” (Jeremiah 6:16).

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson  
Reading: 1 Cor. 15:12-19
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**Thank You For Serving!**

### GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**