

A Very Special Day

“Easter” is no special day for a Christian. (Give yourself a moment to get past the shock or outrage or disgust you might feel at hearing a professed believer say that. And note that I do not equate Roman Catholicism with Christianity. Now go do a little internet research as to Easter's origins, then come back here and please continue reading.)

If the church were to celebrate annual holidays, I can think of two which might make the list:

- 1) The anniversary of the **Lord's death and resurrection**, and
- 2) The anniversary of the **beginning of the church**.

Note that Jesus was crucified and resurrected during “the days of unleavened bread.”

Luke 22:1 Now the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** drew near, which is called Passover.

Mark 14:12 on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,

The lamb was sacrificed on Passover, then the “days of unleavened bread” lasted one week. (**Leviticus 23:4-8**)

About 6 weeks later was the feast of **Pentecost** on which the Holy Spirit was poured out, the gospel was first preached, and the church began. Note, then, that the church began around A.D. 33. The Roman Catholic church sprang up later, with the first pope recognized centuries later.

So what? So the **Bible example** that we have of the disciples meeting to break bread mentions **both** those Jewish holidays, but neither one was when they met together!

Acts 20:6 We sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.
7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them....

Acts 20:16 (Paul) was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

So, that Sunday in Troas was NOT “Passover”, was NOT “Easter”, and was NOT the day the church began! ***It was just an “ordinary” Sunday.***

Notice that Paul had waited seven days, even though he was in a hurry. That suggests the importance of what he did with the disciples.

Why **every Sunday** is a **very** special day. **On the first day of the week...**

- **The Lord rose** from the dead (John 21:1) and performed signs (John 21:19; Luke 24:13-35).
- The first gospel sermon was preached and **the church began** (Acts 2:1, 41-42).
- **The disciples** put their **money** into a common **treasury** (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

- **The disciples assembled to break bread** to remember and proclaim the Lord's death (Acts 20:7; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:23ff).

So every first day of the week is a very special day, and we gather for a very important purpose, to remember Jesus' death and resurrection. We do this **every Sunday!**

Other notes: "Easter" was introduced by the Roman Catholic church. The appearance of the word "Easter" in Acts 12:4 is simply a mistranslation of the Greek word, "pascha" which means "Passover", explaining why only the King James Version renders it that way. This can be verified with any Greek-English dictionary/lexicon.

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