

I Never Liked Math

When I was nine years old or so, I remember going to Sunday School at the Presbyterian Church. My brother and I had attended fairly regularly as Sunday Church was what we did. I remember we actually used to read the Bible and would play “find the verse” games. It was this infilling of scripture, and God’s nudging, that questions began to stir.

Aside from the church “Halloween parties” and the Christmas observations, Easter was more questionable than the others. Christmas was always a pile of presents for someone else’s birthday, and Halloween was the overload of candy. Easter had candy too, but it was usually Peeps and those ugly chocolate bunnies that were hollow and was a mix of carob and old socks. We would just eat the sugared yellow eyes off of them and leave their broken blind bodies in our “Easter Baskets.”

It was the Palm Sunday, Good Friday to Easter timeline that raised an eyebrow.

Albeit I was still in elementary school but counting to three was not difficult, like it is for the entire Protestant/Catholic Church.

I could understand to a point of the Palm Sunday observance (at that time) as it was when Jesus made His entrance into Jerusalem.

John 12:12-16- “On the next day, a great crowd of people who had come for the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, Took branches from palm trees and went out to meet Him, and were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.” Now after finding a young donkey, Jesus sat upon it, exactly as it is written: “Fear not, daughter of Sion. Behold, your King comes, sitting on a colt of a donkey.” And His disciples did not understand these things at the beginning; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him, and that they had done these things to Him.” (**Matthew 21:4-9**)

The donkey ride may not have been too comfortable as Jesus went into the Temple and turned over the tables of the money changers.

Matthew 21:12-13- “And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers, and the seats of those who were selling doves. Then He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you have made it a den of thieves.”

He did not tolerate their disrespect of His Father's House just as David did not allow Goliath to hurl insults toward His God's Army (**1 Samuel 17:26**). David did more than turn over tables, he killed Goliath and cut off his head (**1 Samuel 17:50-51**). Are we missing a spine in this area? Just a thought...

Celebrating "Good Friday" as the day that Jesus Christ was crucified never made much sense. First off, calling it "Good" Friday definitely did not make any sense to a nine-year-old. Jesus Himself did not want to be called good.

Matthew 19:16-17- "Now at that time, one came to Him *and* said, "Good Master, what good *thing* shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good except one—God. But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Mark 10:17-18- "And as He went out to the road, one came running up and knelt down before Him, and asked Him, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" But Jesus answered him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except one; that is God."

Luke 18:18-19- “And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Then Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One—God.”

Maybe the twisted meaning behind it was that it was *good* that Jesus laid down His life for our sins? Your guess. But the real question for me was a math problem. Jesus said that He would be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. Was He lying? We know He cannot (**Titus 1:2**).

Matthew 12:38-41- “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Master, we desire to see a sign from You.” And He answered *and* said to them, “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, in like manner the Son of man shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. *The* men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah *is* here.”

I am not sure of what level of math I was at nine years old, but even a calendar does not show three days between Friday and Sunday. Even though Satan had set to change the days and times, *three days is three days*.

Daniel 7:25-28- “And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the set times and the laws. And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and one-half time. But the judgment shall sit, and his dominion shall be taken away to be consumed and to be destroyed unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, Whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom. And all kingdoms shall serve and obey Him.’ Here *is* the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts troubled me greatly, and my countenance changed. But I kept the matter in my heart.”

If Jesus was in fact crucified, died, and was buried Friday around 3 P.M., and arose on Sunday morning around 6 A.M., that is only 39 hours, far short of 72 hours equaling three days and three nights. How wonderful it is to know the days and times in God’s word and being able to calculate with a degree of certainty the day and time of these events. Jesus being the Passover Lamb, the Passover would have

had to be on the Friday. From our studies we know it was not. But that's all-Jewish Old Testament stuff anyway...

The bulk of the entire Christian churches around the world are celebrating Easter this coming Sunday. I have seen on one blog site; they call this week "Passion Week." Oh joy, another manufactured addition to the list of "slap a Jesus label on it." In their minds, it is a good thing Jesus was risen on a Sunday as it justifies their observance of "The Lord's Day." We have shared what is going to transpire on The Lord's Day" and it is certain there will not be much rejoicing.

By their own words and traditions, they condemn themselves. It almost seems futile to share scripture with Sunday "churchers." But when we are asked or when a conversation presents itself, we had better have our brain loaded with scripture before shooting our mouth off.

1 Peter 3:14-17- "Now on the other hand, if you do undergo suffering for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. But you should not be afraid of their terror, and you should not let yourselves be intimidated; But sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope *that is* in you, with meekness and reverence; Having a good

conscience, that, whereas they may speak against you as evil doers, those who are reviling your good way of life in Christ may be ashamed. For *it is* better, if *it is* the will of God, *for you* to suffer while doing good than *to suffer for* doing evil.”

We do not cast our pearls before swine, nor do we solicit members or hand out booklets. Drawing them in to the truth is God’s responsibility (**John 6:44**). We must do our part and be ready when He sends them our way.

I must admit, I am getting weary of so many folks on these websites and blogsites, preaching a false gospel. They will be accountable for the bobbleheads that follow them like lemmings off a cliff. I do not make any personalized comments, but I will post scripture when the opportunity presents itself. Rarely, if ever, do I get any kind of response. This past week, I did get a response from a former co-worker, one who I have been on mission’s trips to Costa Rica.

I had posted scriptures pertaining to death in response to “going to heaven.” The response I received was interesting and contradictory. It was the perfect example of “cut and paste” Christianity. So much scripture was ignored. The “thief on the cross” from Luke 23:43 was one cited and “being absent from the body is to be present with the Lord” was another. These were offered as proof we go to heaven,

but ignoring Genesis 3:19, Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, Acts 2:22, and John 3:13 to name a few.

Luke 23:39-43- “Then one of the malefactors who was hanging there railed at Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” But the other one answered and rebuked him, saying, “Do not even you fear God, you who are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving due payment for what we did; but this Man did nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you today, you shall be with Me in paradise.”

Missing word meanings and context is vital to “getting it.” Of course, God’s calling is the fundamental reason for understanding, seeking on their part would follow (**Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9**). It is far too easy to accept the fairy tale from the guy behind the box on Sunday morning than to read God’s word and do what He says for us to do.

Jesus did tell the thief on the cross that he would be remembered, “I tell you today, you shall be with Me in paradise,” meaning; that on “this day” (future tense) he would be in Paradise (Christ’s Kingdom). My former co-worker tried to justify that

the thief went to Heaven with Jesus as only Jesus's body went in the grave. Jesus was immediately returned to spirit upon His death. That may be in a Sport's Illustrated or a Mad Magazine, but I have yet to find it in God's Bible.

The other comment was pertaining to "absent from the body and present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8- "We are confident, and we are willing to be *away* from *this* home (*that is*, out of *this* body) and instead to be at home with the Lord." (AFV)

The King James renders this same verse as "we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

It is almost as if they intentionally leave out words to fit their narrative, which is exactly what is being done. The Apostle Paul is making an opinionated statement of preference. It is not an "either or" option. If you are absent from your body, you are dead. Sharing scripture with the misinformed is like playing tennis with someone who has no strings in their racquet. It really becomes pointless after a while as the lightbulb may flicker but without God's intervention, it will never

light. Seeing how many folks can read something right in front of them and still dismiss it confirms they have a reading problem in addition to flunking math.

As I mentioned, I never liked math. When I was trying to obtain an associate degree, I had to take a math or a science course. I chose a science course over math, figuring it would be easier. Surprise, physics is not easier, at least math has numbers and not symbols like physics. I know God knew what would benefit me as it later came in to use playing with explosives. “ $\text{Log } P = 7.1094 - \log r$ ” is a partial formula for calculating explosive overpressure. A good thing to know when you are blowing things up. It makes my eyes crossed to think about it now. However, knowing what the Bible actually says is a better formula for keeping us out of His blast zone.

I am so incredibly grateful to God for allowing my nine-year old mind to question the poor arithmetic in Sunday School. Being aware of God’s truth, is by far greater than any man-made traditions I once celebrated. We can certainly do without all the chocolate bunnies and other deceptions surrounding the Easter tradition. I hope all those enjoying colored eggs and new bonnets and all the frills can count to one thousand. That’s’ how many years they will have to wait to wake up and find out they did not go to heaven. Amen.

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