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Dear Friends,

Some Things we should Know about: - EASTER!

*I want for you to be blessed this very special month, with some words of wisdom from a dear brother in Christ, **Mr Neville Lister**. He has laboured long and hard for the Lord in full time ministry, and just because he may have reached the twilight years of our earthly walk, his interpretation of God's Word has not! It remains alive and well; penetrating right to the very centre of our spirit, to encourage and enlighten us, today and always; Just as Jesus said in **Matt 24:35** **"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."***

*So, enjoy this message, sent to you in love from the Lord, penned by Neville, and recycled by JBM! **Easter is a very precious time on God's - Calendar of Redemption!** And this letter is a very appropriate and timely reminder to us!*

Whilst the observance of Christmas is commemorated annually on 25th December, the observance of Easter fluctuates between March 22nd and April 25th. There's a time in Spring when the length of the day and the length of the night are equal, and that is known as the vernal equinox.

In the year 325 A.D. it was decided at the council of Nicea, that the annual celebration of Easter, (in particular, the Sunday as



Resurrection Day), would be governed by the vernal equinox full moon.

That time, in the Northern Hemisphere's Spring season, saw the new life of nature (plants, animals and bird life), emerge - from being buried in the Winter's snow and ice. **This typified Christ's Resurrection, and the transforming power of Christ's resurrection, in the lives of those who, by an act of faith, pass from death to life;** just as John 5:21-29 states.

Living as we do in the Southern Hemisphere, makes our Easter fall in Autumn instead of Spring, and therefore **we miss the impact** of this demonstration of resurrection to new life; **of the Spring season's transforming power at Easter time!**

The word "**Easter**" is derived from the supposed goddess of Spring called 'Eostre' – **denoting newness of life. For Christian believers, Easter is the commemorative season of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ,** following His sacrificial and atoning death, which was foreshadowed by the Passover and all the Old Testament sacrifices.

The wonder of the Christian observance of both Christmas and Easter is seen in the fact that, while their origins were associated with paganism, **Christianity has converted the central focus of celebration, to Christ as Saviour and Lord. Amen!**

Since both seasons have been commercialised almost to the point of ruin, yet within our own country of Australia, they are both wonderful opportunities to **freely proclaim Jesus Christ as the world's only Redeemer! Amen!**
Hallelujah!

Some Christians observe what is known as Lent. This is a 40 day period leading up to Easter, used as a time of preparation and fasting, in readiness to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus more meaningfully.

When we talk and sing about the "cross", we are not enhancing some mere religious relic or shrine. Whether Christ died on a cross, stake, pole or tree...is not the issue to be considered. The crucial fact is, that in God's 'foolishness' (1 Cor 1:17-25), **He planned to redeem a people for Himself, by the crucifixion of His Son,** (John 3:14-16), who died for our sins, was buried, rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures, and was seen by many people ... (1 Cor 15:1-8).

God has declared this same Jesus to be both Lord and Christ, by seating Him on His right hand (Acts 2:29-36), and affirms that at His Name, every knee should bow, and every



tongue should confess, Jesus Christ as Lord. (Phil 2:2-11).

The reason that Christ died, rose, and revived...is that He might be not only our Saviour and Redeemer, but that He might be Lord, and Master of all we are and all we have (Rom14:9-12).

*We must not allow some of the bad things that happen in the church to turn us off seeking Christ. **Jesus Christ did not die to make us religious; but to make us righteous; that is – to put us in right relationship with God.** It takes **obedient faith** to not **only get right with God, but to daily live right, in His sight.** **His instruction book (The Bible) is His manual** for “right” daily living! And, the often repeated cliché still applies - **‘When all else fails - read the instruction book.’** When His instructions are followed, He gives beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and hope for despair. Amen!*

*The real issue at stake is not - do I belong to a certain religious denomination, or, do I regularly attend a certain local church; **but...have I received God’s Son?** (1 John 5:10-12). I can be a Mohammedan, without Mohammed. I can be a Buddhist, without Buddha. **But...I cannot be a real Christian without Christ;** for to be a Christian means, to be a “Christ’s one”. John 1:12 says...it’s by “receiving Christ” that we become God’s child.*

***What should we do about all this?** Peter’s reply to those who asked him this same question, at least shows us where we should start...when he said... **“Repent and be baptised every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ.”** (Acts 2:37-39).*

*The following are some Bible readings **that will help make the observance of Easter more meaningful.***

Genesis 22:1-18 Abraham’s offering of Isaac – a preview of God’s giving of His Son.

Exodus 12:1-27 The original Passover which was fulfilled in Christ’s death, in Luke 22.

Leviticus 16:1-34 The day of atonement. The sin offering (goat), and the scape goat, depicts Christ’s atoning death.

Psalms 22:1-31 Many phrases from this prayer of David prophetically relate to Christ’s suffering and death.



- Isaiah 53:1-12* *The Prophet Isaiah's amazing glimpse of the coming Messiah as The Suffering Servant Saviour.*
- Zech 9:9, 13:1-7* *The New Testament illumines Zechariah's sin cleansing fountain; the One wounded in the house of His friends; and the scattering of the sheep, when their Shepherd is smitten.*
- Matthew 26-28* *Matthew's account of events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus.*
- Mark 14-16* *Mark's account of the same story.*
- Luke 22-24* *Luke – a gentile (non-Jewish) physician, gives his account and includes Christ's ascension.*
- John 18-21* *John's account includes many details omitted by the other writers.*
- Acts 1:3-12* *Acts 2:22-41. Statements by Luke and by Peter.*
- Revelation 5:1-14* *The eternal song of the redeemed ones, gives all the glory and honour to "Him that sitteth upon the throne" (God), "and to the Lamb" (Jesus Christ). Amen!*
- Revelation 1:18* *"I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore." Amen and Amen!*

We thank you Neville, for Blessing us with your words of wisdom, and we pray God be glorified as we meditate upon them. Amen!

Till next month

From my house to yours

Blessings of the abundant kind!

Leila Nord.

