

Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

March 31, 2013

✚✚✚ Welcome to our Worship Service! ✚✚✚

Devotional:----- Ralph Yoder
Message:----- Henry Nissley
Offering:----- Alms
SS Lesson:----- 1 Corinthians 16

Adult and Youth Verse: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 1 Cor. 16:13

Intermediate Verse: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34

Junior Verse: Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14

Today's Host Family: James & Elsie Yoder

Primary Verse: Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Eph. 6:1

Preschool Verse: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Ex. 15:26

SS Lesson for next week:
2 Corinthians 1

Adult and Youth Verse for next week:
Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 2 Cor. 1:22

Next Sunday Hosts: Everett & Elmina Yoder

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The Belt of Truth (Excerpt from The Battle for Truth)-by Stacia McKeever

March 8, 2013 -Kids Answers <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/kw/belt-of-truth>

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth. . ." Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

In ancient days, one of the first pieces of armor a soldier put on was his belt. The belt wrapped around his shirt and protected his lower body. It provided a place for the soldier to attach his breastplate and sword-holder.

As members of God's kingdom, we need to make sure that we put on truth. The Lord wants us to be truthful inside and out (Psalm 51:6). We are to tell the truth and speak truthfully with everyone (Ephesians 4:25). And we need to know the difference between truth and error, right and wrong, in whatever we hear or read or watch (Hebrews 5:14).

So how can we know what is true?

How Can We Know What Is True?

One of the characteristics of the Creator God of the Bible is that He is a God of truth (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 33:4). He cannot lie (Titus 1:2), so we can trust whatever He says to be true (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). Jesus said that He is the truth (John 14:6).

We need to read and study God's Word, the Bible, so that we can know what truth is and spot the lies of the enemy when we hear them in books, in movies, on TV, or from our friends.

We need to always compare what we learn to what the Bible—the source of truth—says. In the Bible, God tells us about many things, including history, science, and morality. So whenever the Bible touches on a topic, we need to believe it and accept and use it as our standard for truth.

Announcements:

- ✓ This Evening: Open Evening
- ✓ Youth Bible Study tonight at Robert Martins at 6:30.
- ✓ Sister's Sewing Tuesday. Hot dish: Louise & Rachel; Salad: Edith & Elmina; Dessert: Pauline & Elsie.
- ✓ Brotherhood Meeting Tuesday evening at 7:00.
- ✓ Wednesday Evening: Prison Service (Northwest) 5:30 PM. To go: Elam, Loren, & Jason- devotions.
- ✓ School devotions this week by: Everett Yoder
- ✓ School field trip planned for April 9th. all those who would like to go along should let one of School Board know by this Friday so we can plan the loads & menu. Thanks.

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

April 1, Happy Birthday! Kathy Yoder, 1992

April 2, Happy Birthday! Joshua Nissley, 2002

April 5, Happy Birthday! Simon Yoder, 1932

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Jesus and the Easter Bunny –

If the average youngster was asked what Easter is all about, he or she would probably respond with comments about the Easter Bunny, or about Easter eggs, or about jelly beans and other candy. To this, the average adult would say, "Oh, how cute."

How sad!

Most children don't know beans about what Easter is all about. Most parents don't take time to tell their children what Easter is all about. Many parents don't know any more about what Easter is about than their children. They may equate it with a special church service, but that is as far as it goes.

I'm not much for religious holidays like Christmas and Easter because they are man-made holidays. They did NOT originate with God, or with Jesus, or with the apostles, or with the early church. They originated with man and they involve many pagan traditions that have absolutely nothing to do with God, or with Jesus, or with Christianity.

Easter did not become a holiday until the fourth century during the reign of Constantine (surprise, surprise – the same

guy that made Sunday the official day of worship, and the same guy that led us to believe that there are three days and three nights between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning, and the same guy that erected the first church buildings, etc., etc.). The word Easter is derived from Eastre who was the goddess of spring. Easter bunnies and Easter eggs and Easter lilies, etc. originated from pagan (heathen) celebrations of spring. They are carryovers from celebrations that were very unchristian in nature.

In the mid 1600's the English Puritans dropped the celebration of Easter because they disliked the ritualism that had developed. Most of the Protestant churches in the United States followed this Puritan tradition until the late 1800's. Think about it... outside of the Catholic Church, Americans have only celebrated Easter for just over 100 years. In that time, Easter has become so commercialized that many Americans don't have the slightest idea what it is supposed be about.

What is Easter about? What are we supposed to be celebrating?

Easter is about God's son, Jesus Christ. We are celebrating the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Jesus died for your sins and for my sins – but death could not hold him. On the third day (three days and three nights) Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive! WOW, that really is something to celebrate, isn't it?

There is biblical evidence that the early Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ every time they came together to BE the church. As a Christian in the 21st century, I continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ every time I meet with other Christians to BE the church (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies..." John 11:25

Why don't you... tell the true story about Jesus to your children, your friends and your neighbors? Tell them that because of Jesus, even though people die, they will not stay dead.

The resurrection of Jesus has absolutely NOTHING to do with Easter eggs and Easter bunnies. I know this may be difficult for some to accept – but it is the truth.

This would be a great time to read about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. You can read about this in Matthew (chapters 26-28), Mark (chapters 14-16), Luke (chapters 22-24) and/or John (chapters 18-20).

Don't just GO to church; BE the church
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