

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

***Matt 28:6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.***

On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. We do not celebrate Easter.

***Col. 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, <sup>17</sup> which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.***

Easter generally is around the time of the observance of Passover (Exo. 12). We do not observe the Old Testament in a legalistic way. God does not like us more, enjoy or more, or accept us more, if we do certain things or not do certain things like observing the Law. The New Testament is very strong about that. Paul uses circumcision as an example of observing the Law.

***NKJ Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.***

***NIV Gal. 5:12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!***

We are free to enjoy the OT feasts. We study them, participate in them if we choose, being convinced that they point to Christ. We do that because of our freedom to worship Christ. It is not dishonor to Passover if don't observe it every year.

Church tradition has been to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter. We are not bound to follow church tradition.

Holidays are times to engage our community. Redeem the holidays to proclaim Christ to people who are hurt and are searching for God.

***Phil 1:15-18 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: <sup>16</sup> The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; <sup>17</sup> but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.***

Christmas, Easter, and some other holidays are great times to be witnesses to the world of Christ's resurrection, to demonstrate the Kingdom of God. Rejoice! You are in the world, but not of it.

***Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.***