



Oologah  
**Observer**

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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## Jesus — the Resurrection and the Life

Roger D. Campbell

After His friend Lazarus died, Jesus went to Bethany, where Martha and Mary, Lazarus’ sisters, lived. Martha came out to meet Jesus, and they had a fascinating conversation about life, death, and rising again/resurrection. We read about it in John 11:21-27.

Jesus assured Martha, “Your brother will rise again” (11:23). Her reaction was, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (11:24). In response to that affirmation, the Master declared three facts which are recorded in the next two verses. Let us take a look at those three truths and see how they relate to real life, real people, and real eternity.

First fact: “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25). When Jesus lived on the earth, He showed His power to raise people from physical death (three specific cases are recorded). Our Lord also manifested His power and authority to spiritually raise those who were dead in sin, as He stated, “. . . the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live” (John 5:25). Jesus came to give abundant life to those who serve Him (10:10).

What about at the last day? “. . . all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (5:28,29). In this world, Jesus gives physical life, a resurrected life from sin, and abundant spiritual life. When the end of the world comes, Jesus

will raise all of the dead and give eternal life to His faithful followers. Life and resurrection, both physical and spiritual, come through Jesus and Him alone.

Second fact: “He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” (11:25). Jesus’ disciples are not exempt from physical death (Hebrews 9:27), but Jesus’ wonderful promise is that they will live again, being raised to live eternally with the Lord. Yes, the righteous will go into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).

Third fact: “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die?” (11:26). Here, the words “never die” are equivalent to “life that never ends . . . life eternal.” A part of us, our physical body, will die. Another part of us, our soul/spirit, will live forever and ever.

The Christ proclaimed that believers in Him will never die (11:26). He previously declared, “I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death” (8:51). What is the requirement for never seeing death, that is, having eternal life? One must keep Jesus’ word. Throughout the book of John, when we read that one who believes has eternal life, such a saved believer is one who obeys Jesus. Think about it.

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## Religious Holidays

W. Kent Graham

Throughout the calendar year many religious holidays are observed. People look forward to these religious holidays and place significant emphasis upon their observance. Have you considered how much emphasis God places upon them?

Under the Law of Moses, God’s people were commanded to keep a variety of religious holidays. God designated specific days as named holidays to be observed according to specific religious rituals. These religious holidays were given by God; in other words, they were of Divine origin. Furthermore, no man was allowed to create religious holidays under the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 4:2).

The holidays of the Old Testament are no longer observed because we are no longer under the Old Law (Colossians 2:14). Yet, the principles surrounding the observance of religious holidays are still the same. We are authorized, or given permission, to observe only those religious holidays which are of Divine origin. Religious holidays which are of human origin, or man-made, are forbidden by God (Psalm 19:13), because we are still forbidden to add to God’s Word (Revelation 22:18). Everything that we do in our lives and in our worship must be authorized by Jesus, including the observance of religious holidays (Matthew 28:18). The Bible reads, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord

Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). This does not mean that men are free to create a religious holiday as long as they pronounce the Lord’s name over it! To do anything “in the name of the Lord” means that we must do only as He authorizes in His Holy Word. When men start out to do those things not authorized by the Scriptures, where will it end? One step leads to another, until eventually the true service of God is lost amidst the multiplicity of human ordinances and man-made religious holidays.

The next time you consider participating in a religious holiday, no matter what it might be, *why not check the Bible to see if God authorizes you to observe the holiday?* If He does, you will find the **designated date** as a **named holiday** to be observed according to **specific religious rituals**. **If you cannot find the holiday in the Bible, it is of human origin and must not be observed as a religious holiday!** Remember the words of Isaiah which were quoted by Jesus:

Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:6-9).

Paul said, “Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Galatians 4:10-11). Now that you know God’s Will regarding our observance of unauthorized religious holidays, what will you do? As you contemplate your answer remember that Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). ■

Ten Best Dressed Women of the Year

1. The woman whose modesty adorns her.

2. The woman who clothes herself in good works.

3. The woman who refuses to wear garments of idleness.

4. The woman who does not garb herself with tattling and gossip.

5. The woman whose warmth is generated by an inner love for others.

6. The woman who dresses that she may not
- be a stumbling block to younger women or men of any age.

7. The woman whose feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

8. The woman who sparkles not with jewelry but with love for her family.

9. The woman who drapes herself with chasteness and fidelity.

10. The woman whose best suit is her love for Christ and His church.

Observations and Concerns

September 6, 2023

Welcome Visitors! Your Presence is our Pleasure.

Praise in Psalm: “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: To those who are always on time and in attendance, we appreciate the encouragement you provide by being present and fulfilling Hebrews 10:24-25.

Summer Series — This evening’s speaker is **Chuck Northrop**. His topic is **“Blessed Are They That Do His Commandments”** (Revelation 22:14).

Our **Gospel Meeting** with Landon Rowell begins Sunday and runs through Thursday (September 10-14). The theme is **“Renewed Christians.”** Flyers are available in the foyer. Please take some and give them to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and others you come into contact.

There will be a **potluck luncheon** following morning services on Sunday. We hope to see everyone there!

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Jim Allison** had a biopsy this past week. The procedure went well, but he has no answers yet.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** is scheduled to have a Loop procedure on her heart on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ **Sammy Gray** will be having medical tests conducted in the coming weeks.
- ▶ The **Huckleby family** was ill this past Lord’s Day and was unable to be with us.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
		Wednesday, Sep. 6	Sunday, Sep. 10 AM
		Sunday, Sep. 10 PM	
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
	Prayer	Bill Dilks	Hayden Praschnik
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Paul Praschnik
	Lord’s Supper		Doyle Jackson
	Lesson	Chuck Northrop	Landon Rowell
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson