

Apples Of Eden

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. What did Eve eat in the garden that was forbidden her?
 - 1. Most people would answer “the apple.” Songs, poems, stories and jokes about the apple in Eden
 - 2. The Bible merely says “the fruit” - Gen.3:2-3, 6
- B. Several things are only thought to be in the Bible:
 - 1. “Spare the rod and spoil the child” Proverbs
 - 2. “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”
 - 3. “The Lord helps those who help themselves.”
 - 4. “Guardian angels”
 - 5. “Three kings or wise men visiting Christ as an infant.”
- C. Ten doctrinal matters that are only thought to be in the Bible.

I. MORAL AND CEREMONIAL DIVISIONS OF THE OLD LAW

- A. “Only ceremonial law done away with; moral law still binding”
 - 1. Ten commandments
 - 2. Sabbath worship on Sunday
 - 3. Use of instruments in worship
- B. All of the Old Law removed - Col. 2:13-17; Heb. 8:7, 13; Gal. 5:2-4

II. PETER WAS THE FIRST POPE

- A. Word “pope” isn’t in the Bible.
- B. Peter had a wife - Matt. 8:14
 - 1. He didn’t leave her - 1Cor. 9:5
- C. Wouldn’t accept worship from Cornelius - Acts 10:26
 - 1. Was an elder - 1Peter 5:1
- D. Pope is like the apple in Eden: it isn’t there.

III. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

- A. Roman Catholics introduced it into worship in 755 AD; Protestant churches did not begin using it until around 150 years ago.
- B. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

IV. SALVATION BY FAITH ONLY

- A. The phrase “faith only” is used in the Bible only once, and it says we aren’t saved by faith alone - James 2:24
 - 1. Rom. 10:13, 16-17; James 2:14, 20

V. SALVATION WITHOUT THE CHURCH

- A. Christ is the savior of the Body
 - 1. Eph. 5:23, 25-27; Acts 2:47
- B. Many commands for Christians that cannot be kept outside of the church
 - 1. One cannot be saved without keeping the commands that can only be obeyed in a collectivity.

VI. SATAN WAS ONCE AN ANGEL IN HEAVEN

- A. Not in the Bible; in Milton's *Paradise Lost and Regained* and in Dante's *Inferno*
 - 1. Lucifer isn't even Satan's name. Means "light giver or daystar"
 - 2. Prophetic term for a Babylonian king - Isa. 14:4-23

VII. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

- A. Where is the authority?
 - 1. Christians should know that there is not one mention of Christmas in the Scriptures.
 - 2. Christians should know that the birth of Christ belongs in the dispensation of the Law of Moses.
 - 3. Christians should know that the New Testament only authorizes and commands the observance of the death of Christ - 1Cor. 11:23-26.
 - 4. Christians should know that they must not partake of any religious practice that is not authorized in Scripture, and that it is sin to engage in any denominational worship activity - Eph. 5:11.

B. The festival of Christmas became a regular practice about the middle of the fourth century, with the adoption of the December date that had previously been used by pagans as a celebration of the return of the sun after the winter solstice (*Christianity Through The Centuries*, p. 160).

"We need not shrink from admitting that candles, incense, and lustral water were commonly employed in pagan worship and the rites paid to the dead. But the (Catholic) Church from a very early period took them into her service, just as she adopted many other things indifferent in themselves, into the religious ceremonial. We must not forget that most of these adjuncts to worship, like music, lights, perfumes, ablutions, floral decorations, canopies, fans, screens, bells, vestments, etc. were not identified with any idolatrous cult in particular; but they were common to almost all (pagan) cults" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, v. III, p. 246).

"When we give or receive Christmas gifts; or hang green wreaths in our homes and churches, how many of us know that we are probably observing pagan customs. 'The god Woden, in Norse mythology, descends upon the earth yearly between December 25 and January 6 to bless mankind.' But pagan though they be, they are beautiful customs. They help to inspire us with the 'spirit of good will to men' even as the sublime service of our Church reminds us of the peace on earth which the babe of Bethlehem came to bestow" (*Externals of the Catholic Church*, p. 140).

C. Christmas celebrated as a day for sharing with family and friends is harmless as the Fourth of July. Christmas observed as a holy day honoring the birth of Christ, dishonors the will of both the Father and Son, and brings judgment on the celebrant.

VIII. THE RAPTURE

- A. As described by Premillennialists, the rapture isn't found in the Bible.
- B. 1Cor. 15:51-52; 1Thes. 4:15-17; John 5:28-29

IX. "THE LORD WILL UNDERSTAND..."

- A. "As long as I'm doing good, the Lord will allow it."
 - 1. Used to justify more liberalism than any other argument.

2. Saul tried to use this reasoning; Agag and Amalekite sacrificial animals
“Behold to obey is better than sacrifices.”
- B. Among members of the church, it is used to justify forsaking the assembly, to disregard discipline, to engage in immoral behavior when in the company of sinners, immodesty, excuse-making, etc.

X. JUDGMENT AS A SET OF BALANCE SCALES

- A. “The Lord will weigh the good I’ve done against the mistakes I’ve made and the good will outweigh the bad.”
 1. Where is it found?
 2. Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8, 27; 2Cor. 5:10; Ecc. 12:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. You are talked about in the Bible - John 5:28-29