

## The Easter Bunny

I know many people put an emphasis on “Easter Sunday.” It changes from year to year as it is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or just after the spring equinox. This year it is rather confusing because the first full moon was on March 28<sup>th</sup> (a Sunday) but Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon. Therefore, Easter can be between March 21 and April 25, some years Easter is early and some years it is late.

Let me for the record state, I like chocolate bunny rabbits, those peanut butter cups shapes like eggs, and any type of snicker bar. It is fun to have easter egg hunts and family time together.

As I thought about “Easter” I wondered about the easter bunny. Where did the whole idea of a rabbit with a basket full of eggs come from? Why do we have “Easter egg” hunts? Here’s what I imagine it all means. The easter bunny is always white. Have you ever seen a brown easter bunny? If you said yes, it wasn’t the real Easter bunny. The white represents purity and sinlessness. That brown bunny isn’t pure but tainted with sin. The two ears of the bunny represent the dual nature of man. Man is a physical being with a spiritual and eternal element. Have you ever seen a one ear bunny rabbit? I don’t think so, and if you did you should have taken a picture so I would believe you.

As I studied more about this bunny rabbit and its eggs, I focused on the symbolism of the eggs. The eggs represent God’s grace. The good things our Creator has given to mankind. What can be better than snicker bars and chocolate bunny rabbits? All the spiritual blessings our God has given to mankind, Jesus and His death on the cross, our fellowship with Him, ability to pray to Him, our brothers and sisters in Christ, the hope of heaven, etc. Thus, we have the multi-colors to represent the various blessings of God.

What about the egg hunt? That had me stumped for a while. Easter eggs are hidden in various places, tall grass, under things, in bushes, low tree branches, etc. Well, here’s what I determined, they represent Satan’s attempts

to keep us from God's various blessings. He tries to hide them from us so we will forget them and our spiritual basket remains empty. You have heard of the parable of the sower, Matthew 13.1-9, this contains the same ideas.

Finally, the egg hunt itself, what could it represent? How about faith and works? You see, everyone who shows up for the egg hunt is expressing faith that those eggs will be out there and they have candy inside of them. But such faith will do no good if not combined with works. You can see the eggs but until you pick them up you won't have any in your spiritual basket. Therefore, you have to seek, find, and pick up those eggs.

If you are with me up to this point, I am really concerned about you. What I have written is speculation shrouded by human think so's. You will notice one passage cited, Matthew 13.1-9 which strangely fits my speculation. You can find passages in the Bible speaking of God's grace. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) There are passages speaking of being saved by faith and works. "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:24-26). But much of what I wrote is non-sense.

Which is my point. Why do people place so much emphasis on what is not in the Bible? Why are many willing to go by mere human traditions and endanger their souls? Is it because it is new, think of those at Mars Hill, "For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing." (Acts 17:21) Unfortunately, when Paul told them about the true God, they sneered. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." (Acts 17:32)

Perhaps some believe that which is not in the Bible because of human traditions. If earlier generations believe then I might as well believe the same thing. On the internet I read where the "Easter Bunny" came from Lutherans

who said the bunny judged whether the children were good or bad. Thus, the bunny left the eggs for the good children. Traditions are good and fine until we are dealing about our salvation. The only traditions we should keep are those based on God's word. "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle." (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

Let us make sure our faith is based on God's word and not some fairy tale.  
– Dennis Tucker