

“Making the Most of Every Opportunity” David Owens
Colossians 4:2-6 3/24/24

- A. Where did _____ come from and how should we navigate them as individual followers of Jesus and as a church of Christ?
- B. In our understanding and practice of New Testament Christianity, _____ of America’s holidays are _____ religious holidays, but all of them are in the collective consciousness of the people of our country.
- C. Because the Easter holiday is approaching next week, I thought it would be a good time for us to explore the many Easter _____ that have developed in _____ Christianity.
- D. Easter and Eastertide
1. The word appears in the King James Version of Acts _____, but it is a mistranslation of the Greek word for “_____”.
 2. The English word “Easter,” which parallels the German word “Ostern,” is of _____ origin.
 3. One view, expounded by the Venerable Bede (a British monk in the 8th century), was that it derived from Eostre, or Eostrae, the Anglo-Saxon _____ of _____ and fertility.
 4. Eastertide refers to the season of Easter that begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until the day of _____, _____ weeks later.
- E. Lent and Ash Wednesday
1. Lent is the _____ Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the _____ days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan.
 2. It is a time of _____ and _____ for ones sins.
 3. The tradition of Lent can be traced back to the Nicaean Council in _____.
 4. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for many and its traditions originated with a pope in the _____ century.
- F. Holy Week is the week between _____ Sunday and _____ Sunday.
- G. Critical Distinction: there’s a big difference between studying and appreciating the life and ministry of Jesus and creating _____ religious _____ to commemorate Jesus’ life and ministry.
- H. We only believe and practice the _____ of God the Father (Mt. 7:21; 15:8-9; 2 Jn. 1:9; Jude 1:3-4; Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19).
- I. When it comes to religious holidays, like Easter, we do not celebrate Easter by the _____ and with the _____ of some in the religious world, but we celebrate our Lord’s death and resurrection on the first day of _____ week as we see in the New Testament (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29).
- J. Because so many people in our world are thinking about Easter, because of the holiday that it is on our calendar, it is a particularly good time to share the _____ about _____ with them. (Acts 17:23, 1 Cor. 9:19-23; Col. 4:2-6)

Answer Key: A. religious, holidays. B. none, biblical. C. traditions, denominational. D.1. 12:4, Passover. D.2. uncertain. D.3. goddess, Spring. D.4. Pentecost, seven. E.1. solemn, 40. E.2. fasting, regret. E.3. 325 AD. E.4. 11th. F. Palm, Easter. G. special, observances. H. express, will. I. standards, practices, every. J. good, news, Jesus.