

Answers!

Lesson #8

Question #15: **Shouldn't we observe Lent?**

Answer: **We cannot earn God's favor through our good works.**

Explanation:

Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by Catholics and some Protestant denominations. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Those who observe Lent believe that giving something up for Lent is a way to attain God's favor.

The Bible teaches that grace cannot be earned. Jesus taught that fasting should be done discreetly. Repenting of sin is something we should do every day of the year, not just the 40 days of Lent (46 including Sundays). Lent is sometimes an exhibition of one's sacrifice. Other times it is an attempt to earn God's favor or increase His love toward them.

Moses (Exodus 34:28) and Jesus (Luke 4:2) fasted for forty days. This was a complete fast – no food. Never is it repeated in Scripture or taught that we should do the same. It was just history not a doctrine.

Further Explanation:

A believers' involvement in such activities as Lent, Advent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. could put a "stamp of approval" on those days, which then might confirm someone in a belief system of working for God's merit or salvation. Read **Ephesians 2:8,9** and **Titus 3:5**.

Do not attack people who are practicing something that is unscriptural. Rather use it to show them that we are not saved by our own works.

Further Notes:

Answers!

Lesson #8

Question #16: **What about those who have never heard?**

Answer: **God is witnessing to them in at least 4 ways universally, and up to seven ways if believers are obedient!**

Explanation:

The Bible lists four “universal” witnesses of God:

1. Creation – **Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-6**
2. Conscience – **Romans 2:15**
3. Christ – **John 1:9**
4. Comforter (the Holy Spirit) – **John 16:7-11**

There are also three witnesses that are up to us as believers:

1. Christian – **Philippians 2:15**. Individuals should be a witness by their life, their lips, their literature and the luminaries (missionaries) they help send out
2. Church – **Revelation 1:20**. Believers should plant churches in every city, town or village in the world as a visible testimony, a congregation of light bearing Christians.
3. Canon – **Isaiah 55:11**. This is another word for the Bible. Believers should do their part to put the Scriptures into the language and hands of every person on earth.

God’s four universal witnesses are enough to start anyone on a path to seek the Lord. But in these days of confusion, the witness of the Christian, the church and the distribution of the Canon (Bible) is a must.

Further Notes:
