LENT SYNOPSIS

by Dr Bruce Woolard

It is that time of the year that many Christians practise Lent leading up to the Passion Week. This particular practise and ritual may seem rather benign, but for those of us who subscribe to Biblical authority we do not have to give up anything that we are accustomed to liking or desiring in order to attain forgiveness or to receive God's blessing. It is good and well to prepare one's mind for the Easter weekend in terms of thanking God for the sacrifice of sending His Son, Jesus, to die on our behalf.

If Christ came to make the sacrifice for sin, our temporal token is an insult to His supreme sacrifice. Usually after Easter people go back to indulging in the things that they sacrificed during Lent. The old practise of Lent is not Biblical and as Bible based Christians we celebrate the fact that Jesus atoned for our sins and that we are saved by God's Grace and not through our works or sacrifices.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

The celebration of Lent is more pagan and mere superstition, it is not a Christian requirement. A simple google search on the origin of Lent and its pagan roots may be helpful. This does not mean that one should not live a life of piety without making adjustments to areas in our life that may hinder or contradict our faith. It simply means that once we have discovered the liberty and freedom found in Christ we do not have to go back to the bondage of superstition – *Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."*

When the Lord sets you free you are free indeed, not to do your own thing but to serve Him in an intelligent and honourable way.

Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."