

Happy New Year!

Now seems as good a time as any to talk about the calendar. We'll start off by saying that there is no such thing as a secular calendar. That is, every calendar is based on the foundation of Christianity. Every human being, Christian or not, lives according to the Christian God's time.

There are 7 days in the week. How do you suppose we came to the idea? If humans invented time, then why not 5 days? Why not 10? In fact, the French Revolutionaries realized that the 7 day week was based on Genesis 1 (God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th), and so they tried to implement a 10 day week. Let's just say it didn't catch on.

What about the months? Well most of the world observes what's called the Gregorian calendar, appropriately named after Pope Gregory XIII. It was introduced in 1582. The Julian calendar (named after Julius Caesar, the guy who used to make Hot n Readys for \$5.55 (okay, I know the parentheses are getting out of hand, but I'm just as frustrated about inflation as you are)) was used for over 1600 years. The Julian calendar calculated that a year was 365.25 days. Well, they were wrong! A year is really 365.2425 days. A pope fixed all our problems (and that's the only time that happened). God created the sun, and He designed the solar system. Our years rightly reflect that.

And then we're in the year 2023 AD. The counting system of BC (before Christ) and AD (*Anno Domini* is Latin for "the year of our Lord") was developed by a monk, Dionysius Exiguus (470-544AD). We can call him Dennis the Humble. Dennis the Menace is the guy trying to change the letters to BCE (before common era) and CE (common era). Ironically, Dennis the Menace is right. Our Lord Jesus Christ really does usher in the common era. His birth, death, and resurrection really do bring about a new creation. Everything changed after that.

For a long time, Christians observed the new year on March 25. I've ranted about March 25th before. It's 9 months before Christmas, so it's when we celebrate the annunciation of Gabriel to Mary that she's pregnant. March 25 is also the traditional day for Good Friday. Roman legend held that a noble man died on the day He was conceived. (This is a cool thought, but you can dismiss it if you wish. I'm just providing you with data. While we're here, we shouldn't dismiss the world's traditions simply just 'cause. I've heard too many people get angry about the materialism of Christmas. Sure, we can turn materials into idols. But what else is Christmas? God took on material flesh. So we best celebrate with material things. Shopping malls, with all their materialism, are actually subservient to Christ, whether they know it or not.) Tradition also holds that God created the world in the spring, and you guessed it, March 25th is the proposed date.

Nobody knows when the end of the world is except the Father, but I think March 25th would have a nice touch. And then there's JRR Tolkien, who subtly had Frodo Baggins leave Rivendell on December 25th and then make it to Mount Doom on March 25th to destroy the one ring, and thus the new world began.

God creates time, and we best honor God by and with our calendars. The church calendar is the best way to do this. We organize everything around our Lord's incarnation (Christmas) and His resurrection (Easter). Everything else is secondary, although we best honor God by the secondary and tertiary things, too. Go ahead. Celebrate New Years, and remember that it's God who gives us time and makes the world go around the sun. Go ahead. Celebrate Valentines' Day, and remember St. Valentine who was tarred and feathered for loving the Triune God. Go ahead. Celebrate March 25. You know I will.

But before then, we've got Epiphany and Lent to observe. Throw yourself into the Church Calendar. That's a New Years' Resolution your pastor fully endorses.

In Christ,  
Pastor