

Christmas and Christ

Introduction

1. Today is Christmas day and it is celebrated by most people.
 - A. We all are affected in one way or another by the events surrounding this day.
2. Since Christians desire to serve the Lord, there are questions that arise as to their relationship to this supposed birthday of Jesus.
 - A. In our lesson this morning, we will show that Christians should not observe this day as a religious holy day.
 - B. In doing this, we reveal why there are no special services before, during, or after this day at this building.
 - C. In this lesson, I will be saying things concerning Christmas that would not be allowed in nearly all the denominational churches in our country.

False Reasons For Not Celebrating Christmas as Christ's Birthday

1. We do not celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ because we do not think the birth of Christ is important.
 - A. Since His birth is recorded in the Bible, it is important!
 - B. As the result of His birth, the whole plan of God was unfolded, and the blessings were provided.

Matthew 1:20-21 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

2. We do not celebrate Christmas because we don't want to honor or remember Christ.

A. We wear His name and no other.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1) Denominations cannot make this claim.

B. We honor and remember Him by adhering to the only memorial that He left.

1) The observance of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week is the only memorial that He left for us.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

2) Many things were accomplished because of His death.

a. The abolishment of the Old Law.

Colossians 2:14-16 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,

b. The atonement for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

- c. **The establishment of a new covenant.**
Hebrews 9:15-17
- 3) **Such things are blessings that come as a the result of His death. They were not given at His birth.**
 - a. **Therefore, Christ only ordained a memorial to remember His death.**
 - b. **Man, while emphasizing His birth, fails in his respect toward Him because they do not do only as He has ordained for us.**

Reasons We Do Not Celebrate Christmas as Christ's Birthday

1. **The Bible does not give the actual date of Christ's birth.**
 - A. **It only says that He was born in the days of Herod.**

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

- 1) **It shows the general time in which John the Baptizer began His work.**

Luke 3:1-3 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins

- B. Many different dates have been suggested by men through the years.**
- 1) The Eastern Orthodox church celebrates it on January 6th, others on January 19th, March 25th, etc.**
- C. December 25th is not a logical date for the birth of Christ.**
Luke 2:7-18
- 1) Those knowledgeable of the Bible lands tell us that shepherds brought their sheep into the sheep folds in the winter; thus, the birth of Christ was not in the winter.**
 - 2) Notice now what is recorded in Matthew 2:1-11:**
Matthew 2:1-11
 - a. They were already away from the stable; however, the nativity scene has the shepherds and the wise men together in the stable.**
- D. Since we are not told the day of the year when Christ was born, and not told how to celebrate His birth, we must conclude that Christ does not want us to commemorate His birth.**

2. We do not celebrate Christmas as Christ's birthday because doing so violates many divine principles.

A. Since it is not in the Scriptures, it is not a good work as far as God is concerned

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1) The good works that please God are those ordained by God.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2) Individuals not acting according to the law of God will be told to depart.

Matthew 7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

B. It causes one to not have God (2 John 9)

C. It is a presumption (Psalm 19:13)

D. It is of man (Matthew 15:9)

E. It is adding to the Word of God (Revelation 22:18)

F. It is another gospel (Galatians 1:8)

3. **We do not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday because it is of human origin, namely the Roman Catholic Church.**
 - A. **Any reliable encyclopedia will give the true origin of Christmas.**
 - **The Encyclopedia of Religion by Fern: “According to authentic records, no church festival was held in celebration of Christ’s birth, until the first half of the forth century.”**
 - **The World Book Encyclopedia: “Bishop Liberious of Rome in 354 A.D. ordered that December 25th be adopted as the birth date of Christ.”**
 - **The Britannica Encyclopedia: “Liberius gave this reason for having Christmas: “We have a Mass for every Saint, but there is no Mass for Christ.”**
 - **From the above came the name “Christmas” – “Christ and Mass”**
 - B. **Those in denominations are heard to say, “Let’s put Christ back into Christmas.” However, they need to realize that Christ was never in Christmas!**

What About the Non-Religious Aspect of Christmas?

1. **Christmas is both religious and secular in nature.**
 - A. **The same is true with Halloween and Valentine’s Day.**
 - B. **Even our days of the week once had religious significance (Sun Day, Moon Day, Thor’s Day, Saturn’s Day, holiday – holy day)**
 - C. **The Sabbath, or Saturday, once had religious significance and still does to many (the Jews and Adventists).**

2. **In this regard, Christians can do certain things of a secular nature on Christmas day.**
 - A. **It is a time when most have a day off and a good time to visit friends and relatives. For family enjoyment with the children, Christians can put up a tree and exchange gifts if they wish.**
 - B. **Those with knowledge who understand there is no religious significance to these secular things can do them if they want.**
 - C. **This same principle was stated regarding meats sacrificed to idols.**
1 Corinthians 8:4-8
 - 1) **Those with knowledge could eat meats that had been previously dedicated to an idol in the market places and not sin.**
 - 2) **Those who ate it as a thing offered to an idol sinned.**
3. **Christians must be careful not to attach any religious significance to Christmas.**
 - A. **It isn't religious until made so by the participant. This is true of Easter, Thanksgiving, St. Valentine's Day, etc.**
 - B. **We must be careful not to be part of any religious services in observances of it — candlelight services, religious plays, etc.**
 - 1) **We must be alert to school activities because they will have our children participating in religious things before we realize it.**

- C. We must be careful not to have an impression of believing it to be Christ's birthday.**
- 1) In sending religious greeting cards. If one wants to send cards, he should send the non-religious type.**
 - 2) In singing the religious seasonal songs.**
 - 3) In decorating with ornaments (stars, angels, vs. pixies and candy canes).**
 - 4) Also, there is considerable danger in going all-out for the decorations outside the house – giving the impression that one celebrates it as a religious holiday.**

Conclusion

- 1. We can do the non-religious things on Christmas if we so desire.**
 - A. Even in the non-religious things, we need to be alert to wrong impressions, and walk wisely before God and man.**
- 2. If we practice the things of Christmas to commemorate the birth of Christ, we do so without Bible authority, and this brings the curse of God.**
 - A. Let us be content to observe the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week as Christ ordained. Thereby, we demonstrate that we truly love and respect Him.**

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Matthew 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

