

# Perversions and Diversions of Christmas

## Introduction

1. Today there will be many who will attend a religious service somewhere for the first time this year.
2. The holiday season is a beautiful time of year, but Christmas, as celebrated as a religious holiday by most in the world today is done so without any mention of such in the Bible.
3. So what we have is perversions and diversions of Christmas.
  - A. **PERVERSION:** “To lead astray; to misuse; to distort; to twist or turn from what is true.” The apostle Paul stated: **Galatians 1:6-10**
  - B. **DIVERSION:** “Turning aside; distraction of attention.”
    - 1) Example: Sneaking in a Toy.
    - 2) In the Christmas season there are diversions that take us away from the true gospel of Christ.

## Perversions

1. December 25<sup>th</sup> is Jesus’ Birthday.
  - A. Shepherds are not in the fields in that part of the country after November 1.
    - 1) Bible says the shepherds were in the fields when he was born

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- B. Nowhere stated in the Bible that Dec 25<sup>th</sup> is Jesus’ birthday.

## **2. Wise Men at the Manger.**

Matthew 2:11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the **young Child** with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **A. Three Wise Men? (gold, frankincense and myrrh)**

- 1) What if I received money, computer paper and cologne. How many gave me those gifts?**

## **3. Jesus Approves It.**

Matthew 28:19-20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you....

- ### **A. We are only to teach to others those things in which commanded for us to teach others. Is there any mention of keeping His birthday?**

## **4. New Testament Teaches It.**

- ### **A. Where does the New Testament teach us to observe Christmas? Where is Christmas mentioned?**

## **5. The Church Is To Observe It.**

**1 Corinthians 4:6, 17; 11:2, 23-26**

- ### **A. No birthday party for Jesus is ever mentioned.**

- ### **B. If we are to observe it, why is it not mentioned in the N.T.?**

## 6. We Should Celebrate Christmas as a Religious Holiday

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and **hold the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word or our epistle.

### A. Ground Hog Day is a tradition - but do we celebrate it religiously?

**2 John 9-11**

## Diversions

### 1. Rituals = Righteousness

**Matthew 6:2-7; 7:21-23; 23:5, 23**

Colossians 2:18 **Let no one cheat you of your reward**, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

### 2. Traditions = Truth

**Matthew 15:8-9**

**Colossians 2:4-8**

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and **hold the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word or our epistle.

### 3. Giving = Godliness

#### A. Salvation Army Volunteers (Ding-a-ling)

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**.

Colossians 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace **through the blood of His cross**.

#### 4. Benevolence = Brotherhood

##### A. Cornelius was a benevolent man, a devout man.

Acts 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

##### 1) However, was his benevolent acts his salvation?

Acts 11:14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'

#### 5. Christmas Unity = Christian Unity

##### A. Pentecostals, Baptists, Lutherans, etc. all become united during this Christmas season (community skits, plays, choirs, etc.)

**Ephesians 4:4-6**

**John 17: 20-22**

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

##### B. Mud on my shoe = a union, but is not unity!

#### 6. Observing Christmas Makes Me A Christian

##### A. Shooting off firecrackers on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July doesn't make me an American.

##### B. Attending fire safety meetings doesn't make me a fireman.

##### 1) Remembering the birth of Christ once a year doesn't make one a Christian.

## 7. His Birth Gives Me A New Birth

### A. Not so — His death does

**Romans 4:25; 5:6-10**

### B. New Birth means - We are baptized into Christ. We are born again. We are a new creature. We are a babe in Christ.

**Romans 6:3-4; 17-18**

1 Peter 1:22-25 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, **having been born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." **Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**

## Conclusion

1. **Friends and brethren, don't let the traditions of men pervert and divert you from becoming and being only a Bible Christian.**
2. **Keep the traditions of Jesus — as was taught by the apostles.**
3. **The holiday season is a wonderful time of the year. But let us all keep things in their rightful place as we enjoy time with one another.**

