

# CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTMAS

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. At the close of the year comes the holiday known to us as Christmas. All are affected by events surrounding this day
- B. Since Christians desire to serve God, questions arise as to their relationship to this supposed birthday of Christ
- C. Should Christians observe as religious holy day (holiday)
- D. We will be saying things about Christmas that would not be allowed in nearly all denominations in our country

## DISCUSSION:

### I. NEGATIVE REASONS FOR NOT CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AS JESUS' BIRTHDAY

- A. Not because we think His birth is unimportant. His birth unfolded God's whole plan and provides us blessings Matt 1:20-21
- B. Not because we don't want to honor or remember Christ.
  1. We wear His name and no other Acts 11:26;
  2. Remember Him by observing only memorial He left The Lord's Supper 1Cor 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
  3. Much accomplished by His death: Old Law abolished Col 2:14; Atonement provided 1Pet 2:24; New Law established Heb 9:15-17
  4. These blessings result of His death, not His birth

### II. POSITIVE REASONS WE DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AS JESUS' BIRTHDAY

- A. Bible does not give actual date of Christ's birth
- B. Prophecy: Birth Isa 9:6; Place Mic 5:2; Manner Isa 7:14; Time Dan 2:44; Matt 2:1
- C. Announced by angels to shepherds in the field: (not in fields Dec 25 - cold at night - aprox 30's) Lk 2:7-18
- D. Dates set: Jan 6, others Jan 19, March 25, etc.
- E. Shepherds & wise men not together in stable; already in house when wise men arrived Matt 2:1-11
- F. Not told day Christ born, nor how to celebrate, therefore it is unauthorized and violates divine principles
  1. Not in Scriptures - not a good work 2Tim 3:16-17
  2. Causes one to not have God 2Jhn 9
  3. Presumption Psa 19:13
  4. Adds to Word Rev 22:18
  5. Another gospel Gal 1:8-9
- G. Don't celebrate because it is of human origin, and therefore, vain worship Matt 15:9
  1. World Book Encyclopedia: "Bishop Liberius of Rome in 354 A.D. ordered that December 25th be adopted as the birth date of Christ"

2. Britannica Encyclopedia: "Liberius gave this reason for having Christmas: 'We have a Mass (a term used to describe the main eucharistic liturgical service) for every Saint, but there is no Mass for Christ.'" which resulted in the term "Christmas"
3. People say: "Put Christ back in Christmas" He was never in Christmas

### III. WHAT ABOUT THE NON-RELIGIOUS ASPECT?

- A. Christmas is both religious and secular in nature
  1. Same is true with Halloween and Valentine's day
  2. Even days of week once had religious significance: (Sun Day, Moon Day, Thor's Day, Saturn's Day)
- B. Christians can do secular things on Christmas day
  1. Most have day off - good time to visit friends and family. enjoy time with Children - put up a tree and exchange gifts if they wish
  2. If they understand and attach no religious significance to these secular things
  3. Principle of meats sacrificed to idols 1Cor 8:4-13; Rom 14:1-23
- C. Must be careful not to attach religious significance
  1. Not religious until made so by participant. True of Easter, Thanksgiving, St. Valentine's Day, etc
  2. Careful not to be part of religious services observing it -- candlelight services, religious plays, etc
  3. We must be careful not to leave an impression of believing it to be Christ's birthday
    - a. If one wants to send cards, send non-religious.
    - b. Non-religious songs (Jingle Bells. etc)
    - c. Decorate with non-religious ornaments
    - d. Be cautious about going all-out for decorations outside the house
    - e. Yes, I believe can have decorations, exchange gifts, etc, but be careful not to leave impression that we are observing it as Christ's birthday
  4. We need to teach our friends and neighbors the truth on this and other Bible subjects as have opportunity

## CONCLUSION:

- A. We can do non-religious things on Christmas Yet, even in non-religious things, be alert to wrong impressions, and walk wisely before God and man Eph 5:15
- B. If we practice things of Christmas to commemorate the birth of Christ, we do so without Bible authority
- C. Wrong to do even non-religious to commemorate Christ's birth.