

Christmas - cont.

15:3-5), live his death (Philippians 3:10), and believe his death until he comes again (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

Christmas As Non-Religious

Can a Christian celebrate a practice with a man-made religious background, like Christmas, in a non-religious way? Yes. Observing Christmas (without the religion) is like eating meat (without worshipping idols). Paul wrote that this is fine (1 Corinthians 8; 10).

Some Christians have nothing to do with Christmas. Some Christians exchange gifts, but not on Christmas day and without any of the decorations. Some Christians exchange gifts on Christmas day and with all of the decorations (tree, etc.), but with none of the religion. All this is perfectly fine.

Where Will You Be Next Sunday?

Some churches cancel services on Christmas! Isn't this hypocritical? Some Christians will forsake the assembling to exchange gifts. Don't let a man-made holiday take precedence over the scriptural day of worship. Keep your priorities in order! Worship the Lord first and any civil holiday last.

Christmas - cont.

Where will you be next Sunday? Wait, you ask, what's next Sunday? Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the new year. Will you be present to worship the Lord next Sunday? Some people go to a church service on Christmas and then they won't return all year (except for maybe Easter Sunday). The Lord wants us to remember his death each Sunday (Acts 20:7). Let's be present to do that each Sunday in the new year of 2023!

- Chris Reeves -

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

December 25, 2022



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why No Religious Christmas Celebration at Church?

Why is it that there will be no religious Christmas celebration at the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ? Notice that I wrote “religious Christmas celebration”. I will address a private, non-religious celebration later in this article. But, why no religious celebration at church?

Is it because we do not think the birth of Jesus is important? No. Jesus’ birth is very important. Is it because we do not want to honor and remember Jesus? No. We certainly want to honor and remember Jesus each day of our lives.

The answer to the question is this: it is because we do not have authority in the New Testament to make this day a religious holy day. As Christians, we are not allowed to make certain days religious “holy days” that are not a part of the New Testament gospel (Galatians 4:9-10; Colossians 2:16). Privately, we are allowed to esteem one day above another as a civil “holiday” as long as it does not add to or take from the gospel (Romans 14:5).

Brief History of Christmas

No Christian or local church in the 1st century ever celebrated the birth of

Jesus as a religious “holy day”. There were no “Happy Birthday Jesus” signs, no “Keep Christ in Christmas”, and no “He’s the reason for the season” advertisements.

From the 2nd-4th centuries A.D., different dates for the birth of Jesus were suggested like Jan. 6, Mar. 25, Apr. 18, May 20, Nov. 17, etc. Finally, “Christmass” (*Cristes Maesse*, a mass for Christ) began to be celebrated in the 4th century from 325 to 354 A.D. Then, in 354 A.D., Bishop Liberius of Rome ordered that December 25 be used as the date for Jesus’ birth.

Many today do not know that December 25 was already the date for a pagan festival (Saturnalia) to the Roman sun god Mithras. Some “Christians” then linked this sun worship festival to Jesus being the “light of the world” and the tradition was born. Celebrating Jesus’ birthday on December 25 later spread to Constantinople (A.D. 379), to Antioch (386), and then to Egypt (A.D. 431).

Catholics, who are generally urgent about celebrating Christmas admit the following: “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts...” (Catholic Encyclopedia Online).

What has happened is that human tra-

dition has superseded biblical authority and the celebration of Jesus’ birthday has been blindly practiced without question by many to this day (Colossians 2:8). Protestant churches (1500—1600’s A.D.) simply borrowed the celebration from the Catholics.

So, no Christian or local church in the 1st century celebrated the birth of Jesus as a religious “holy day”. Christmas as the birth of Jesus is not in scripture and it is a presumptuous creation of man mixed with Roman paganism. Christmas as a religious celebration of the birth of Jesus is not authorized by God in the Bible

Remembering Jesus

What then is authorized in the New Testament? Is there a command, example, or implication for Christmas as Jesus’ birthday? No! There is no memorial for his birth, only a memorial in the Lord’s supper for his death (Luke 22:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

How can I remember Jesus and honor him? First, I can be baptized into his death (Romans 6:3). Then, I can remember his death (1 Corinthians 11:24), preach his death (1 Corinthians