

Christmas

Should We Celebrate It Or Not?

Introduction:

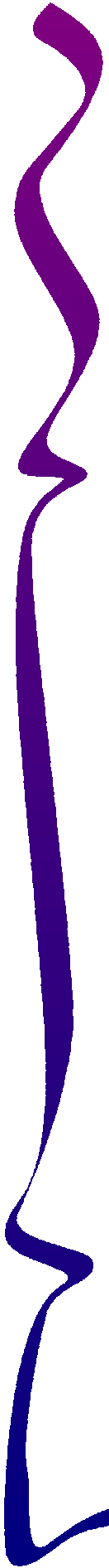
1. This may be one of the hardest holidays to talk about.
 - a. One reason is that this holiday is closest to people's hearts.
2. This is many times, the only time when people come to service.
3. Let's provide all the information, so we can make our decision.

I. THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

- A. December 25th was picked because it was already a holiday—a pagan holiday.
- B. In the third century a bishop in Rome decided to celebrate this date as the birth of Christ.
- C. The Roman Church finally fixed December 25th as the birthday of Jesus Christ after the great persecution that took place around A.D. 310; which connects the visitation of the wise men from the East, being celebrated twelve days later.
 1. It is important to understand the no one knows the date of Christ's birth.
 2. The Roman Census that was taken during this time was taken in the spring.
 - a. Shepherds were in the fields (Luke 2:8-14).
 - (1) Notice that as you read Luke 2:14 that the angels are not singing.
- D. The name Christmas is actually two words: Christ and mass.
- E. The Roman Church celebrated this particular mass in honor of the birth of Christ.

II. SHOULD A CHRISTIAN DO?

- A. A Christian should study.
- B. Understand some of the facts:
 1. It is unlikely that Jesus was born on December 25th.
 2. The New Testament does not authorize a religious holy day for Christ's birth.
 3. The Bible teaches us about the virgin birth of Christ. This subject can and should be taught anytime including December.

- 
- C. Some people will have nothing to do with the holiday because of Galatians 4:10-11.
 - D. Others refer to Romans 14:5-6.
 - E. I believe the key is that we do not celebrate this holiday as the birth of Christ.
 - F. Instead for us, it is a time for family.

Conclusion:

1. There are many questions that are asked about Christmas.
2. What we need to remember is that we should conduct ourselves in ways befitting members of the Christian faith (1 Timothy 4:12).