

**WHY
WE
CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS**



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Introduction:

It is obvious we live in a humanistic secular society today. This humanistic world system does not want to hear about a creator. They also refuse to believe that one is a sinner and needs a savior. Groups such as the ACLU have spent millions of dollars removing God from our schools, courthouses, and society via our corrupt legal system. In recent years we have seen prayer eliminated in our schools. Separation of church and state is the buzzword of the day. Courthouses and public buildings are forced to remove references to God's Ten Commandments, religious symbols such as crosses. The nativity scene is banned in many cities and Christmas trees are seen as politically incorrect, as they might offend nonbelievers.

Secular America finds itself in a great dilemma. The love of money causes the market to embrace the Christian holidays, but "Jesus" does not fit into the politically correct agenda of Secular Humanism. So the words "Jesus" and "Christ" are replaced with phrases such as, "Happy Holidays". This can be expected from an Anti-God society, but when Christians do the same I believe we make a big mistake.

At a time when society is rejecting God's word and declaring outright war on true Christianity, I believe it is most important that Christians use every opportunity to lift up Jesus as Lord and Savior to a pagan society. Also we should at the same time bring pressure upon the business community by requesting Christ be the reason for the season. Where one spends their money determines which business will make large profits. The saying, "Money talks", is true so why let Godless business owners dictate the trend to remove Jesus or mention of "Christmas". We should use this time of the season to witness for Jesus and present the Kingdom of God to a lost humanistic society.

Some Christians today are touchy, sensitive, and full of objections about Christmas. To you I say (in the words of Scripture): If you regard the day, regard it unto the Lord. If you do not regard the day, then BE SURE YOU ARE CHRISTIAN ABOUT IT. Do not judge or criticize others for an honest, worshipful, loving, and giving attitude

about the Christmas holidays. I want to answer some of the objections raised by those who oppose the observance of Christmas.

Please prayerfully consider the following material. It is my prayer that every born again believer in Christ will use the Christmas holiday season to talk with people about Jesus. To emphasis His virgin birth, to explain his eternal past, to talk about His soon return, To reinforce Biblical teaching within our families the importance of receiving into our heart God's gift of salvation and eternal life through His only begotten son, Jesus who is indeed the Christ. May God bless you as you continue to live for Christ and as you seek His will for your life daily.

WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man **be fully persuaded in his own mind**. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..."
Romans 14:5-6

SOME ARGUE: DECEMBER 25 IS NOT CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY

A. Every leap year people are born on February 29

- Does this mean they should only celebrate every four years?
- Would you tell your little child he or she could not have a birthday this year because they were born on the last day of February in a leap year?
- Would it be wrong to celebrate their birthday any other day except the exact day (February 29) which only comes every 4 years?

- The exact day is not what is important...The important thing is, another year has passed and she is a year older. She deserves to be recognized just like other children
- I have personally have celebrated birthdays or special days important to my children and grandchildren on days other than the "real" day so as to accommodate work schedules or to take advantage of a three day weekend etc. Many people I know do the same.

A. What about Thanksgiving?

- The last Thursday in November is not the only day we get blessings from God. Since we get blessings all through the year, is it wrong to arbitrarily set aside a whole day to celebrate the Lord's blessings?
- The important thing is not which day we set aside on the calendar. ...The important thing is the **reason for setting aside the day.**

B. We don't know the exact date of Christ's birth

- The Bible does not tell us the date on which Christ was born
- There are no other trustworthy sources to rely on to know for sure the exact date
- It could be possible that December 25 (in spite of the arguments to the contrary) is the date. It probably was not. Most of the arguments against December 25 are based on normal weather conditions for that time of the year, but no one knows what the weather was like the year that Christ was born. It could have been a mild winter. We will never know the exact day until eternity.

d. Christians should not waste the opportunities of this date

- Christmas is an accepted time to speak of Christ. Secular America is trying to change this daily. But it is still an accepted time to portray pictures depicting the birth of Christ in a manger. Why should we help the humanistic crowd do away with manger scenes and an entire season set aside by our forefathers to honor the day and time God chose to lay aside the splendor of heaven and become a man
- It is a time we should teach about the virgin birth, the baby in the manger, the angels singing, the shepherds coming to worship, the wise men bearing gifts from afar.
- We should continue to use Christmas to teach the gospel

SOME ARGUE: CHRISTMAS IS A ROMAN CATHOLIC HOLIDAY

A. Some say we should not use the word "Christmas" because it is Roman Catholic and refers to a mass.

- Does that mean we should not call Isleta, NM by its name because it is Indian? What about Sandia, Manzano, Las Cruces, Las Alamos, and Socorro? All of those are either Indian or Roman Catholic names

B. This line of reasoning came from the Seventh Day Adventists.

- They do not accept worshipping on Sunday. They say Sunday was named after the god of the Sun. But they worship on Saturday. Saturday is named after Saturn!
- When Christians worship each Sunday they do not gather to worship the Sun.
- We do worship the SON....Jesus

C. Some make an artificial distinction about Christmas

- It is foolish to make an artificial distinction about Christmas when none exists in the minds of those who observe the holiday.
- For many years of my life I celebrated Christmas without even knowing what a Roman Catholic was.
- Christmas was always a time to celebrate the birth of Christ It had nothing to do with the Roman Catholic mass.

SOME ARGUE: CHRISTMAS WAS A FORMER HEATHEN HOLIDAY

A. There was a pagan feast day on this date

1. It was called the Mithraic Feast Day to celebrate the victory of some Pagan God. This pagan holiday was celebrated throughout the Roman Empire.
2. Christmas was probably celebrated on this date to keep new converts from going back into Paganism on this date.

This would be like

- a. The church celebrating "HALLELUJAH NIGHT" instead of Halloween.....
- b. Or having WATCH NIGHT service to pray in the New Year instead of drunken parties on New Years Eve.
- c. Or CHRISTIAN BANQUETS for our graduates on Prom Nights instead of allowing them to participate in ungodly parties where drugs, alcohol, and promiscuous sexual conduct are rampant.

The celebration was an alternative to something evil, not a continuation of the evil.

Christmas is not a Pagan holiday at Crownridge Church or at Pastor Steve and Mary's home. We speak about Jesus.....In years past I never knew the true meaning of Christmas... but I can say with certainty that for the past thirty-six years December 25 has been under new management and so have I. I was once lost, but now I'm found.

SOME ARGUE: CHRISTMAS TREES ARE AN ABOMINATION

A. Some believe that Jeremiah 10 speaks of the Christmas tree

Jeremiah 10:3-4 says, "For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it (the silver and gold) with nails and with hammers, that it move not. (KJV)

B. This scripture is actually speaking of idols

Read Jeremiah 10:5-6

They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. 6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

It is simply ridiculous to think we worship a tree

1. Some have gone so far as to make something evil out of everything normally put on a tree.
2. Popcorn strings are supposedly to feed the gods (Popcorn wasn't even discovered until the Europeans came to America).

3. Electric lights are supposedly to guide the gods to the popcorn strings. ...I suppose they had electric lights in Jeremiah's day?

SOME ARGUE: THERE IS TOO MUCH OF A PARTY SPIRIT AND A LOT OF DRINKING AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Unfortunately this is ABSOLUTELY true, but it should not stop us from doing good or right.

1. After one of the marriages I performed some years back, I was informed that some of the church going individuals in attendance went drinking after the reception. I ask the question, does that mean we shouldn't have anymore weddings? That would be silly.

A. People can be found drinking on the Lord's day

1. Just because some abuse it, should we count Sunday as the "Devil's day" and give up gathering together to worship? No...that's all the more reason to worship God on that day.
2. Just because some think that Baptism saves them should we abandon baptism altogether?No! We need to teach the truth and practice the scriptural method of baptism.
3. Likewise, just because some abuse Christmas, that is no reason to abandon it.

SOME ARGUE: IT'S IMPROPER TO GIVE GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS

A. Giving honors God when it is done properly

Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- The problem is not gift giving...the problem is when we focus on the gift and not the giver....when we seek materialism rather than our heavenly father who, "..... so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (KJV)

B. When the Word of God was revived, the Jews exchanged gifts

Nehemiah 8:9-12

And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, **and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord:** neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, **and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.**

C. When the Jews were saved from extermination by Haman they exchanged gifts

Esther 9:22

"The Feast of Purim, a feast to the Lord celebrating the great deliverance God gave the Jews in answer to the prayers of Mordecai and Esther and other devout Jews when wicked Haman planned to kill all the Jews. It reads: "...that they should make them days of feasting **and joy and of sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor.**"

Many have asked me over the years what has Christmas been like at our home?

First may I say, we have never mislead our children to believe in Santa Clause or Easter bunny etc.). We always explained in detail the real Christmas and Easter story as recorded in Gods word.

As we went looking for a tree each Christmas, we would make much ado, allowing our children to help pick out a tree. They would be involved in the decorating process. This precious time allowed us to speak to them about spiritual issues in a natural way without being "preachy". Everyone was in a good mood and eager to share their thoughts openly. Many years when the funds were low we designed and cut out decorations. We invented as many special categories as children and presented special awards to the most creative, best colors etc. insuring an award for everyone.

Sometimes we urged our children to give away their favorite toy to someone else. We always rewarded them for their giving spirit. We visited a nursing home making plaques, or writing poems for folks we knew or heard about. We sang Christmas carols and prayed. I always asked my children to help me pray for these individuals teaching them not to be ashamed to pray in public places for folks.

Christmas Eve we sat around the tree drinking hot chocolate and singing Christmas carols. I would always read Luke 2:1-19 as my

wife Mary and the Children huddled together on the living room floor in front of the tree. The light would be blinking and hearts were filled with anticipation for the next day's big event.

We always used this special time to talk about God's gift to us...Jesus and asked our children if they would like to receive God's gift into their life to forgive them of their sin. Each year we all would rededicate our lives to Jesus at this special time. Visitors in our home would sit with us and we invited many over the years to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts. We always wrapped extra gifts consisting of boxes of cherries or home-made cookies to give to unexpected guests.

I have always believed Christmas is a special opportunity to speak with tender hearts about Jesus and also to witness to the world. If one becomes caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season, forgetting the Christ they are celebrating they lose a great opportunity to pass a legacy to the next generation.

I pray you make the most of the Christmas season to win your children for Christ, to recommit your life to Jesus, and to witness to a lost and dying world. You may be the only Bible someone ever reads! Let Jesus shine forth!!!



*Loving Jesus
With a Passion for
His People
His Purpose
His Presence*

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