

Why I Do Not Observe Christmas As The Birthday of Jesus

We are already into the Christmas season. Holiday shopping officially started last Friday. Lights can be observed on houses and trees have been decorated. Phrases such as: Jesus is the reason for the season, and "Happy Birthday Jesus" can be observed on signs around town. Let me tell you some things I do not do during this time of year.

I DO NOT

I do not dress up a "Christmas tree" to symbolize Jesus. I do not bow down to the tree to worship. Idolatry is forbidden in the Bible. I realize that Jeremiah is not describing the modern Christmas tree but there are some similarities. Jer. 10:3 ***“For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple”***. NKJV

Idolatry can take many different shapes and forms. To God and only to God can we show homage and bow in worship.

We do not observe December 25th as the birthday of Jesus. The Bible does not tell us the exact date of His birth. The apostles never mentioned when Jesus was born. First century Christians did not come together to observe the "Lord's Birth." December 25th as

the birthday of Jesus is the tradition of men and not of God. Matthew 15:9, ***"And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*** NKJV

It was not until the Catholic Church established this tradition for men observe December 25th as the birthday of Jesus.

I do not put a nativity scene in my yard to remember the Lord's birth. I almost laugh when I see a manger scene with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, some farm animals, and three wise men. Biblically this is incorrect. The Bible does not say how many wise men came to see Jesus. People have assumed that due to there being three gifts; gold, incense, and myrrh, there must have been three wise men. Such may be inferred but one could easily infer there were two wise men or 12 wise men. You cannot prove there were three wise men neither can I prove there were 12. The wise men did not find Jesus in a manger. Matthew 2.10, ***"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him."*** NIV

I DO

Now let me say some things I do. I do understand the importance of Jesus' birth. His lineage is given to us in not one but 2 of the Gospels, Matthew 1.1-17 and Luke 3.23-38. The promise made to Abraham in Genesis 22.8, ***"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"***. This prophecy was fulfilled in the lineage of Jesus.

I do understand the manner of Jesus' birth to be important. He was born of a virgin, Matthew 1.23. Mary being with child before she "knew" Joseph was prophesied in the Old Testament. Isaiah 7.14, ***"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."***

I do understand the place of Jesus' birth to be important. He was born in the city of Bethlehem, Matthew 2.1. Again, this was revealed in Micah 5.2. What may be lost on some is that Bethlehem was a small insignificant town.

I even understand the timing of Jesus' birth to be important. He was born during the Roman Empire. In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of an image composed of 4 parts. Each part represented a different kingdom. The empires were the Babylonian, Mede-Persian, Greek, and Roman. It would be during the fourth empire that God would set up His kingdom, v. 44. Jesus was born during the days of the Roman Empire. The timing of Jesus' birth was not an accident. ***"In the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ,"*** Ephesians 1.10.

All of the above are important prophecies about the birth of Jesus. As mentioned earlier, the first century church did not come together to observe the birthday of Jesus. Instead of His birth the church came together to observe His death. 1 Corinthians 11.26, ***"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."***

I do have a "Christmas tree" in my house, we do give presents to each other, and we do open those presents on December 25th. How or why do we do these things? We do it as a sign of love for our family and to have a good time. Romans 14.6, ***"He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it."*** This does not allow us to create special religious days or customs but it does allow us to observe days much like we observe the 4th of July.— Dennis Tucker

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