

Is Jesus The Reason For The Season?

Travis L. Quertermous

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is one of the cardinal doctrines of true Christianity, as well as one of the greatest events in world history (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-20). But what of the holiday known as Christmas? Can it be found in the Scriptures?

The simple truth is that the Bible does not give us the date of Jesus' birth and there is no Scriptural or historical evidence that the apostolic church celebrated an annual holiday in honor of it. Some Christians began to celebrate Christ's birth by the end of the 2nd century A.D. December 25 was arbitrarily chosen by church officials in the 4th century, but even this is probably an error. On the night of Jesus' birth, the shepherds were "living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night" (Luke 2:8), thus indicating a date in spring or summer. The fact is that the word "Christmas" was not even coined until the 11th century.

Churches of Christ believe in the practice of New Testament Christianity. We reject the creeds, dogmas, and traditions of men. Since Christmas is not authorized as a religious holiday in the New Testament, we do not observe it as such. For us, it is a secular holiday and a season of giving, but not the birthday of our Savior. Are you interested in simple, non-denominational Christianity? Then why not contact us today to learn more?

- Dexter Church of Christ, Dexter, MO - via *Bulletin Gold*

A Gift List Anyone Can Afford

- ◆ The gift of listening, even when we are busy and don't want to be bothered.
- ◆ The gift of a handshake, pat on the back, or a hug.
- ◆ The gift of a note or letter long put off.
- ◆ The gift of laughter, a cartoon or quip, a riddle or joke.
- ◆ The gift of a game with a person who needs a partner.
- ◆ The gift of a favor at the least expected time.
- ◆ The gift of cheerfulness to those around you.
- ◆ The gift of privacy for the others who need it.
- ◆ The gift of a compliment.
- ◆ The gift of a smile.
- ◆ The gift of a prayer for all those you gifted above.

-Author Unknown -



The motive of giving reveals the character of the giver more than the gift itself.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Harry Nice and Karen Strum at the recent passing of his sister and her aunt. May God comfort them in this loss.

CONFESSION: Melissa Nelson.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

CHANGE OF BIBLE STUDY DAY: For this week only our regular mid-week Bible Study will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd INSTEAD OF on Wednesday, Dec. 24th.

PANTRY: Pancake mix & syrup.

SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY: Marilyn Sprout is scheduled for major surgery Wednesday, Dec. 31st at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. Crystal Baker (Connie Cowdery's daughter), her surgery is pending. Remember these ladies in your prayers.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Peggy Williams has requested prayers for her seriously ill brother, Larry Yost.

OTHERS WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Weirton Medical: Linda Wiersbicki. Trinity West, Steubenville: Beulah Rice. At Home: Gene Miller, Abigail Brandenburg (granddaughter of Mike & Brenda Harris), Dan Williams, Ella Beagle, Linda Martin, Margaret Board, Ilene Rayl, Carl Miller, Harry Nice, Marilyn Sprout, Randy Beagle, Michelle Harlon, Bette Gentry, Virginia Rickerd, Bertha Seman. **Don't forget to encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.**

THE REWARDS OF KINDNESS

There's an old proverb, that if practiced each day,
Would change the whole world, in a wonderful way.
Its truth is so simple, it's so easy to do,
And it works everytime and successfully too.
For you can't do a kindness without a reward
Not in silver or gold but in joy from the Lord.
You can't light a candle to show others the way,
Without feeling the warmth of that bright little ray.
And you can't pluck a rose all fragrant with dew,
Without part of its fragrance remaining with you.

Helen Steiner Rice

Happy Holiday Season