

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 birth 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*) -

Year-Round Gifts

THE GIFT OF PRAISE - Appropriate mention right in front of another person, of superior qualities or of jobs and deeds well done.

THE GIFT OF CONSIDERATION - Putting yourself in the other's shoes, providing genuine understanding of their side of the case.

THE GIFT OF CONCESSION - Humbly saying at just the right point, "I am sorry, you are right, and I am wrong."

THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE - Never forgetting to say, "I thank you," and never failing to mean it.

THE GIFT OF ATTENTION - When the other person speaks, listen attentively, if directed to you personally, meet their eye squarely.

THE GIFT OF INSPIRATION - Plant seeds of courage and action in the other person's heart.

THE GIFT OF PERSONAL PRESENCE - In sickness, in trouble, or in great joy, there is nothing quite equal to your personal expression of sympathy or congratulations.

RESOLVE to give these gifts each day. You will be pleasantly surprised of what you will receive in return.

- *Bulletin Digest*



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

News Notes

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled until further notice.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Postponed until Thursday, Jan. 8th.

BIBLE STUDY CHANGES: This Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, 7:00 p.m. instead of Wednesday Dec. 24th. Also, NO Bible Study next Wednesday Dec. 31st, but we will meet for a Fellowship Breakfast & Devotional Jan. 1st. 9:00 a.m. at the Fellowship Bldg.

PANTRY: Canned fruit.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: SICK & SHUT-IN: *Mercy Health-St. Elizabeth Hospital:* Nancy Hadley, 1044 Belmont Ave., Youngstown, OH 44504 (Room 8502). *At Home:* Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

ALSO REMEMBER THESE WITH HEALTH ISSUES: Christy Claypool, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. Jackie Brown (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811.

