

## PUT CHRIST BACK IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that we do not observe Christmas as a religious practice and that Christ should be in every day of the year.
2. Text - Lk. 2:1-14
  - a. Read more often at this time of the year
  - b. That is good - Always good to read and study Bible.
3. People celebrate Birth of Christ on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.
4. Questions asked about what we do or do not do:
  - a. Do you all have any special programs at the church? No !
  - b. How do you all observe Christmas? Individually.
5. Often see the statement: "Let's put Christ back in Christmas".
  - a. Instead of saying happy Holidays many insist we must say "Merry Christmas" because we are leaving Christ out of this day.
  - b. No longer do they call it a "Holiday Tree" but a "Christmas Tree"

### Discussion

#### I. CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

- A. No proof that Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> is the birth date of Christ
  1. But it is a fact he was born as our Savior
  2. The exact date of his birth is not important or God would have given it to us.
    - a. He has given us everything we need to be pleasing to Him
    - b. 2 Pet. 1:3 - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

3. Dec. 25th was adopted in the 3rd or 4th century by the Roman Catholic Church.
    - a. We cannot learn from the Bible the exact season He was born.
    - b. We do not have any idea which month or what day of the month.
    - c. People trying to guess the time have placed his birth in every month of the year.
    - d. Eastern Religions celebrate it on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.
  4. If the observance of the Birth of Christ had been celebrated by the Apostles and the early church, then it would have been stated in the New Testament.
- B. Christ is just as precious as if he had been born on Dec. 25, 2004
1. He should be more precious than if he had been born today
  2. If he had only been born today we would know nothing about:
    - a. His birth - His life - His miracles - His teachings
    - b. His Death, Burial, Resurrection & Ascension
    - c. We would know nothing about the N.T. Church.
  3. In fact if he had only been born today we would not have the New Testament. We would still be living under the law of Moses.
- C. We can rejoice in Christ on Dec. 25th just like the other 364 days
1. We do not have to cease to be happy in Christ on Dec. 25th just to be different from others.
  2. Paul says "Rejoice in the Lord Always" Phil. 4:4
  3. This would include every day of the year - even Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

## D. Can Christians observe Christmas?

1. Yes! There is no reason why we cannot enjoy the Holiday Season as individuals and families.
2. We can give and receive gifts at this season or any other season of the year.
3. There is not enough happiness in the world anyway. [Carton]
4. We can observe Christmas just like we do the 4th of July or Memorial Day or any other national holiday.
5. We can do this without celebrating Christmas as the birthday of Christ.
6. We can observe that to which others may attach a religious significance, even though we ourselves do not.
  - a. 1 Cor. 10:25-32 - eating meat offered to idols
  - b. They could eat the meat that was offered to Idols as long as they realized that it was not in worship of an idol.

## E. God revealed the day of His resurrection

1. God did not give us the date of the birth of Christ
2. But God did reveal the day of the week on which He was raised from the dead - the 1st day of the week - Mk. 16:8-9 - Lk. 24:1-47
3. This 1st day of the week or Sunday is called "The Lord's Day" in Rev. 1:10
4. God wants us to celebrate this day - Acts 20:7
5. The Lord's supper is to be observed every first day of every week.
6. God commands us to remember the resurrection of Christ not the birth of Christ.
7. We have no authority to celebrate the birth of Christ in a religious way !

F. We can and do celebrate this national holiday

1. We can visit and exchange gifts with family and friends
2. We can read the story of Jesus's birth any time of the year
3. But we do not have any authority to celebrate it in a religious sense - so we have no special religious activities for Christmas !

G. Some people sin in celebrating the birth of Christ

1. Drinking is always on the increase - This is disgusting and sickening
2. We cannot commend such things as using a season to honor Christ and yet it becomes nothing more than a season of drunkenness, immorality, reveling and sin.
3. Many people think that the commercialization of the season has ruined what it is all about.
4. So sometimes we hear people say "Let's put Christ back in Christmas". ---  
let us say it another way ----

## **II. "LET'S PUT CHRIST BACK IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY"**

A. It's just as important to put Christ back in George Washington's birthday as it is Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.

1. Why pick one day of the year?
2. If we don't serve Christ every day we cannot give him due honor in any one of the other 364 days of the year.
3. We need to put Christ back in:
  - a. George Washington's Birthday - Feb. 22, 1732
  - b. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - Feb. 12, 1809

- c. Groundhog Day - Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- d. New Years Day
- e. The 4th of July
- f. Thanksgiving
- g. June 10<sup>th</sup> - that's my birthday !!!

B. Let's put Christ back in every day of every week

- 1. Sunday - Rev. 1:10 Acts 20:7 - WORSHIP -
- 2. Monday - Ecl. 12:13-14 - fear God and keep His commandments
- 3. Tuesday - Gal. 6:10 - do good unto all men
- 4. Wednesday - Heb. 10:25-26 - not forsaking the assembly
- 5. Thursday - Gal. 6:9 - not be weary in well doing
- 6. Friday - Lk. 9:23 - deny self - take up his cross daily
- 7. Saturday - Jn. 4:35 - fields are white unto harvest

C. Let us be thankful for every Day and put Christ back in each one

- 1. Ps. 118:24 "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
- 2. Let's live fully every day - that day - and not try to live it before it arrives or after it is gone - Mt. 6:34

D. Every day we should remember:

- 1. Christ was born - exact day is unknown but he came in fullness of time - Gal. 4:4

2. He lived and taught perfectly
    - a. Heb. 4:15 - tempted but without sin
    - b. Jn. 7:46 - never man spake like this man
  3. The gospel - Death, burial, and resurrection - 1 Cor. 15:1-4
    - a. Obey it - Rom. 6:1-6
    - b. Live it - help not hinder the spread of the gospel
  4. Christ is coming again - Heb. 9:27-28
- E. The only way we can put Christ back in any day of the year is to put Christ in Christians:
1. Christ is to be in a person - not a thing, a day, or a holiday season.
  2. Christ is to be a permanent resident not an annual visitor for just one day.
  3. Gal. 2:20 "Christ liveth in me."

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Let us put Christ back in our lives - every day
2. We can only do this if we are in him
  - a. There is only one way to get into Christ
  - b. Gal. 3:27
  - c. Baptized into Christ - preceded by HBRC
3. We can celebrate the life of Christ by living for Him every day of the year - not just one day celebrating his birth.