

CHRISTMAS Q & A CONTINUED...

for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse" (1 Corinthians 8:4-8).

What about what the world thinks? Someone once told me they didn't celebrate Christmas because they didn't want the world to think that they believe December 25th to be Christ's birthday. This seems like a catch 22 situation to me. After all, by not

celebrating it, the world might think you don't believe in Christ at all. Further, Paul didn't tell the Corinthians to refrain from eating that meat because the world might think they were idolaters.

What about Santa Claus? The Bible teaches unequivocally that it is wrong to lie and deceive (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; 1 Peter 2:1; Revelation 21:8; etc.). Enjoy "Make believe" with Santa, but do not deceive your children by making them believe Santa Claus is real. That is a lie! Further, It's hypocritical in that you are teaching your children to be honest while lying to them. God condemns hypocrisy! Be honest with all! 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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Where did the word "Christmas" come from? The word means "Christ's Mass." It came from the Roman Catholic church in the 4th century AD. "X" is the symbol for the Greek word "Chi," the first word in the Greek name for Christ. Therefore, "X-Mas" means "Christmas."

Was Christ born on December 25th? Most likely not. While the Bible does not deemphasize the birth of Jesus, it also does not tell us the day He was born into this world. To celebrate December the 25th as Christ's birthday is to add to the word of God. I rejoice that Christ was born into the world, but I have no Biblical precedent for celebrating any **specific** day as His birthday.

What about the three wise men? The Greek word in Matthew chapter two is "Magai." It is disputed whether these were astronomers or kings. The text does not tell us how many there were. It is thought there were three because of the three gifts mentioned in the text, but to say affirmatively that there were three is to add to the word of God.

Is Christmas a religious Holy Day or is it a National Holiday? Both, it depends on your viewpoint. Originally, Christmas was celebrated

in America as a National Holiday without religious significance. But protestant churches eventually jumped on the Catholic bandwagon and began celebrating Christmas as a Religious Holy day. I say erroneously because no one has the authority to establish a religious Holy Day except for God (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2); And God has not set up Christmas as such. If He had, we would be able to read about it in the Gospels.

Is it wrong for Christians to celebrate Christmas? Yes and no. Hmmm. It is wrong for the church to celebrate Christmas either as a National Holiday or a religious Holy Day. The church is authorized (and commanded) to come together upon the first day of the week and proclaim the Lord's **death** through the observance of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). But the Gospel says nothing about the local church setting aside a special day (or a special act of worship) commemorating the **birth** of Jesus. If a local church does this it goes beyond the doctrine of Christ and loses fellowship with God (2 John 9).

It is my belief that the individual Christian may celebrate Christmas. But It is... *(Continued inside left...)*

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!