

## No Room for Jesus

Michael Pickford

Luke tells us that Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7). After reading this, we think it is awful that those folks couldn't make room for Jesus. If only they would have known Who he was, surely they would have given Him the biggest room in the Inn.

Sadly, there are many homes that no longer have room for Jesus. I'm talking about so-called Christian homes; families who no longer sit down together and pray with one another, or study the word of God together. Jesus has been edged out by hectic schedules,

immoral TV programs, ungodly music, and various secular activities. In many homes wives are rebellious towards their husbands, husbands abuse their wives, and children are not being brought up with proper discipline in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 5:22-6:4). In many homes Sunday morning is a time for golfing, hunting, or fishing rather than going to the house of the Lord (Hebrews 10:25). In many homes, speech that imparts grace to the hearer has been replaced with language that reflects bitterness, resentment, and unjustified anger. Friends, invite Jesus back into your home. Make room for Him! 🔍

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



## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

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

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* –Acts 17:11

Volume 6, Number 48

December 19, 2010

## CHRISTMAS MYTHS

Michael Pickford

Christmas is to me a National holiday and I celebrate it as such. I do not celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus for two reasons: 1) The Gospel never says anything about celebrating December 25th as Jesus' birthday. 2) I simply do not believe Jesus was born on December 25th or any other day in December. Consider a couple of things which are taught about the circumstances around Jesus' birth, and believed by the majority of religious folks today.

MYTH # 1: "Jesus was born on December 25th." False! The fact is, the Bible simply doesn't tell us what day Jesus was born. Luke 2:8 tells us that immediately after Jesus' birth, "There were...country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." Now, this just doesn't happen in the winter. Jesus was most likely born in spring, summer, or early fall.

MYTH # 2: "There were three wise men who came to Jesus in the manger." False! Actually, there are two myths in this one statement. First of all, the Bible records that "wise men from the east came to Jerusalem."

We are not told how many there were. Secondly, modern day nativity scenes show the wise men at the manger. But, the text tells us they came to a house (Matt. 2:11). And, Jesus was probably two years old before they arrived, certainly not an infant as we are led to believe (Matt. 2:7, 16).

MYTH #3: "Santa Claus is real." Parents often bring their children up to believe this myth is actually true. To do so is to lie to and deceive your children. "But it's fun." Yes, no one ever denied that sin is fun; even the Bible points out this obvious truth (Hebrews 9:27). As Christians, we are not to tell lies, much less build up and carry on a years long scheme of deception (Ephesians 4:25). When children learn their parents have lied to them about this, they may wonder what else they've been lied to about. "Is God real?" We expect our children to be honest with us, and punish them when they're not. In turn, let's be honest with them in all things, lest we become hypocrites!

Be careful what you believe. Just because something is taken for granted to be true by the general public, doesn't necessarily make it so. 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# JOY TO THE WORLD!

Michael Pickford

Many are surprised to hear that there's not a single word in the Bible about a holiday called Christmas. The word "Christmas" is not there, nor are there any examples of anyone in the Bible ever observing anything called Christmas.

As I understand it, Christmas originated with the Catholic church. The local church has no scriptural authority to have pageants, parades, decorations, or dinners in honor of Christmas. As an individual, I have no problem observing Christmas as a National holiday. To much of the world, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. To me, this is something to rejoice in all through the year. If Christ had not been born into this world, He could never have made that great sacrifice of love on the cruel cross so that I might have the forgiveness of sins and a living hope of eternal bliss in heaven. This is why the Bible states in view of Christ's birth, "*Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people*" (Luke 2:10).

After Mary had conceived of the Holy Spirit, an angel said to Joseph in a dream, "*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*" (Matthew 1:21).

We do not know exactly what time of the year Jesus was born, although it is likely it was during warmer months (Luke 2:8), and even the year the Lord was born in is debated. However, we should continue to be joyful daily over the fact that He came into this sin-cursed world to live sin-free and offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

By the way, though God did not set up a memorial for Christ's birth, He did set up a memorial for our Lord's death. It's the Lord's Supper. We should observe this upon the first day of every week (Acts 20:7) while the church is gathered together (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 20). And we do this to "*Proclaim the Lord's death till He come*" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

May we always live our lives in joy for all the Lord has done for us (Philippians 4:4). 

## WORK!

"Some people remind us of blisters; they show up after the work is done." Having some experience in the field of management, I'm familiar with the employee who simply wants to "Stand around." They constantly have to be prodded along! This shouldn't be so with Christians. Being a lazy employee hinders our influence for the Lord and endangers our job. "The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor." —Proverbs 21:25



## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

### The Urgency of Proper Preaching

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Tony Jenkins  
Reading: Matthew 23:13-17
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Chris Meade  
Serve.....Frank Anderson

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

#### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Ben Green

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**