

“CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS – SHOULD WE? – IF SO, HOW?”

LUKE 2:1-20

INTRO: Should Christmas be celebrated by BIBLICALLY MINDED CHRISTIANS? Down through the years certain Christians have REJECTED the celebration of Christmas. Historically, the PURITANS of New England and the QUAKERS of Pennsylvania rejected the CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS on the basis that the EXACT DATE OF CHRIST’S BIRTH IS NOT REALLY KNOWN. In addition, many aspects of CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS these days ARE NOT BIBLICALLY BASED and should be avoided by those who know the Lord. **BUT CELEBRATING CHRIST’S BIRTH IN THE PROPER SENSE SHOULD BE DONE SO AS TO HONOR THE LORD AND WHAT HIS BIRTH MEANS TO THE WHOLE WORLD AS TAUGHT IN JOHN 3:16.**

NOTE: The Word “CHRISTMAS” means “CHRIST’S MASS” or properly interpreted, “CHRIST’S SERVICE OF WORSHIP.” By its very meaning, the word CHRISTMAS means that IT IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP CHRIST WHO IS THE KING OF KINGS, THE LORD OF LORDS AND THE GOD OF GODS!

OBSERVATION: From the Biblical Perspective “CHRISTMAS REALLY MEANS TO CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP CHRIST...THEREFORE TO MAKE IT A SECULAR HOLIDAY WITH WORLDLY ACTIVITIES IS A DISHONOR TO GOD. THUS, THE CENTER OF WHAT WE DO AT CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE THROUGH HIS REDEMPITIVE WORK.

MATTERS TO CONSIDER IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

I. A PATTERN TO FOLLOW

- A. The Biblical Account of the Angels – Luke 2:10-14
- B. The Biblical Account of the Shepherds – Luke 2:15-20
- C. The Biblical Account of the Magi – Matthew 2:1-12

II. A PROCESS TO CONDUCT

- A. Give God Praise and Glory – Luke 2:14,20
 - 1. In Praise, take every occasion to **PRAISE GOD** for what He did through Jesus Christ during the Christmas Season – Galatians 4:4,5
 - 2. In Glorifying God, take every occasion to **LIFT UP AND PROMOTE GOD’S NAME** during the Christmas Season.
- B. Give Jesus Christ Worship – Matthew 2:11a
 - Recognize **WHO CHRIST IS** and ascribe worth to Him at **EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION!**
- C. Give Jesus Christ Gifts – Matthew 2:11b
 - (GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, MYRRH)**

NOTE: The Early Church Fathers believed that:

- 1) Gold was symbolic of Christ’s Deity
- 2) Frankincense was symbolic of Christ’s Purity
- 3) Myrrh was symbolic of Christ’s Death

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO GIVE TO GOD PRAISE AND GLORY AND GIVE TO CHRIST WORSHIP AND GIFTS.

III. A PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE

- A. That Jesus Christ is God – John 1:1-3; Colossians 2:9
- B. That Jesus Christ is the Savior of the World – John 14:6; Acts 4:12

IV. A PRACTICE TO ADOPT

- A. Christians should Determine to REJECT Secular Performances
- B. Christians should Determine to RESPECT Spiritual Performances

LESSONS AND APPLICATIONS

CHRISTMAS IS NOT REALLY A HOLIDAY FOR THE WORLD TO CELEBRATE BECAUSE THE WORLD IS NOT OF CHRIST. BUT CHRISTMAS IS TRULY A HOLIDAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO CELEBRATE BECAUSE OF WHO CHRIST IS, WHAT CHRIST DID AND WHAT CHRIST HAS PROVIDED US THROUGH HIS REDEMPITIVE WORK. THEREFORE, AS BELIEVERS LET’S ORDER OUR LIVES TO WORSHIP, SERVE AND PROMOTE CHRIST IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES, SO AS TO PRESENT TO THOSE AROUND US THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.