

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS BIBLICALLY

INTRO: Every one of us in this building knows what Christmas is all about. **CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME WHEN CHRISTIANS ALL AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE INCARNATION OF GOD IN THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** Most Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25th although we really do NOT know the actual date of the birth of Christ. However, over the years I have known of Christians who avoided celebrating Christmas because in their minds doing so takes away from the reality of Who Christ is. **BUT CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE CELEBRATED...AS LONG AS THE PROPER PREPARATIONS, BIBLICAL PREPARATIONS, ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. So HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS BIBLICALLY?** Consider some suggestions.

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THE MAIN THING TO REMEMBER: CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST AND, THEREFORE, HE SHOULD BE THE VERY CENTER OF THE CELEBRATION! Colossians 1:18; 3:17,23,24. **ANY CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST IS A MOCKERY AND BLASPHEMOUS. CHRISTIANS – TAKE HEED!**

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CERTAIN THINGS TO DETERMINE WHEN PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS BIBLICALLY

- 1) Determine to Focus on the Real Meaning of Christmas
-Matthew 1:21,23; Luke 2:10,11, Galatians 4:4
- 2) Determine to Avoid Distractions from the Real Meaning of Christmas
-Certain parties, celebrations, and events that are void of Christ
- 3) Determine to Keep your Christian Testimony
-By refusing to get involved with anything that dishonors Christ
- 4) Determine to Actively Witness for Christ
-Christmas is the easiest time of the year to witness. Take the opportunity
- 5) Determine to be Cheerful
-The reality of Christmas brings good tidings and great joy. Reflect that through a Cheerful deportment
- 6) Determine to Give to God at least as much as you give to others
-Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Christ. It is fine to spend financially to give to others we know and love, but it may be robbery to give less to God than to others at Christmas.
- 7) Determine to Worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth
-All too often Christians DO NOT PREPARE to worship Christ effectively during the time when we are to celebrate His birth. This could be considered hypocrisy.
- 8) Determine to Avoid Secularism
-Secularism is the **absence of God**. Many businesses, institutions, retailers, etc. remove Christ from Christmas. Those who love the Lord will not get involved with those who take Christ out of the picture. **HOW CAN WE AND STILL LOVE AND HONOR THE LORD?**
- 9) Determine to Refuse to go into Debt
-Being in debt is not necessarily charging an item. Being in debt is running up charges that cannot be paid off in a reasonable amount of time that causes hardship and even keeps one from giving to the Lord's work.
- 10) Determine to Maintain a Thankful Spirit
-Christians should always be a thankful people, but particularly during the Christmas season we should have a thankful spirit considering all that Christ has done for us.
- 11) Determine to Portray a Godly Attitude all of the Time
-Christmas is the time to celebrate Christ. Any attitude bound in a Christian which does not reflect Christ such as bitterness, anger, non-forgiveness, bearing a grudge, hate, selfishness, revenge, greed, etc., is totally dishonoring to God at any time but at Christmas it is a shameful way for a believer to go about life.
- 12) Determine to be Generous and Give to the Needy
-At Christmas time we celebrate the time when Christ came from Heaven to Earth to give to the needy sinners of the world. Christians should reflect that in finding ways to give to those in need.

13) Determine to Spend Time in the Scriptures

-Even though we know the scriptures about the incarnation well, we will be blessed, strengthened and further equipped to serve the Lord by reading them over and over again...both prophetically and historically.

14) Determine to Show the Love of Christ to All People

-John 3:16 is an illustration of how God revealed His love to all... **"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD."** God loved everyone and gave His son for everyone. WHAT AN ACT OF LOVE! Let's express the LOVE OF GOD to all we come in contact with always, but PARTICULARLY the CHRITMAS SEASON.

CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION:

Just for practical purposes let's keep these 14 suggestions before us as we prepare for Christmas. Much effort goes into preparing for Christmas financially, party-wise, family-wise, etc. BUT LET'S PREPARE BIBLICALLY AND THEN WATCH HOW GOD WILL BE PORTRAYED, HONORED AND LIFTED UP, which will bring us a blessing on the side we don't even deserve.