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shanewms@sheltonbbs.com

There is, of course, no cost or obligation to you!

TIME IS...

Too slow for those who wait,
 Too swift for those who fear,
 Too long for those who grieve,
 Too short for those who rejoice,
 But eternity for those who love
 the Lord.

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive this bulletin each month? If so, write us at:

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Times of Assembly:

Sunday:

Bible Class	9:45am
Morning Worship	10:45am
Evening Worship	5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class	7:30pm
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www.geocities.com/heartland/cabin/8851/

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The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -Psalm 119:105



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Christmas Problems

Everyone enjoys the Holiday season. It's fun to decorate the house, get together with family & friends, go look at Christmas lights, and exchange presents. If you do this well, one is said to be truly *"in the spirit of Christmas."* Everyone should be a passage that talks about celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25th. **Should we keep "Christ in Christmas?" Is Jesus "The reason for the season?"** Remember, what we do in religion must be done by the authority (in the name) of Christ (Col. 3:17). *"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God..."* (I Peter 4:11).

Yet, most people do all of this while thinking about the birth of Jesus. You see different signs in yards this time of year:

"Let's keep Christ in Christmas"

"Happy Birthday Jesus"

"Jesus is the reason for the season"

This creates a problem because if the above is true, you would expect to find something about it in the scriptures. There

The Word of God gives us all the right answers for our questions (II Timothy 3:16-17). When we look to God's Word about this matter, we find problems with the traditional thinking about Christmas.

(Continued on page 2)

Wrong Emphasis

The emphasis of today is on baby Jesus; A sweet innocent baby in a manger. No one denies the text of the scriptures which tells the story of Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-2:40). But can we make the assumption that a religious observance should be made just because an event is recorded in scripture? If so, then should a special day be set aside for when Jesus was tempted by Satan in Matthew 4? This was a difficult time for Jesus and a great victory for Him. Why not celebrate Jesus' success with Satan? How about when Jesus went up on the mount of transfiguration in Matthew 17? What an amazing scene that must have been: His face shining like the sun, His garments becoming as white as light and Jesus talking with Moses & Elijah! Certainly such an event is worthy of a special day of remembrance, isn't it? We might think that is silly, yet there is just as much authority in the scriptures to make a special day or celebration of these matters, as there is the birth of Christ.

Jesus' birth is important only to the extent that He was born to fulfill a purpose. This purpose was accomplished in His death.

John 12:27, "*Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father,*

save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour."

1 Tim 1:15, "*It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*"

Great amounts of time, money, and energy are spent focusing on the birth of Jesus, yet the purpose of His life is clearly out of focus with them.

Matt 20:28, "*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

Wrong Date

You would think that with all the stress placed on December 25th today, the Bible would be filled with references specifying this definite time for Jesus' birth. The birth scene is very clear but the scriptures are painfully silent regarding the date of the event.

This begs the question: *Where did December 25th for Jesus' birth come from?* It obviously is not found in the scriptures. According to history and the records that I have seen, the Church of Rome began the observance of Jesus' birth on December 25th in the fourth century. This apostate church developed into what came to be known as the Roman Catholic Church.

This observance is close to 300 years too late to originate by the authority of God, Christ, or the apostles. This was

not according to divine authority but by the will of human wisdom & tradition.

Wrong Attitude

Many people view this time of year as "more holy" than other times (perhaps competing with Easter). Lots of folks make their annual sojourn to church services, when they never set a foot in one at any other time except for Easter. Yet, there was a specified time set aside to worship God. It was on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; John 20:19, 26). Some people even had a habit of missing these services and were told they were "*forsaking the assembling*" (Hebrews 10:25). Do we think that God places a premium on certain times of the year for worship when the Bible tells us "when" the first century Christians met?

Great amounts of time, money, and energy are spent focusing on the birth of Jesus, yet the purpose of His life is clearly out of focus with them. Jesus, during the last supper, told the apostles what the focus was.

Matt 26:26-28, "*And while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'*" 27 *And when He had taken a cup and given*

thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.'"

The Lord's Supper was given as a memorial to remember the death of Jesus. Paul said concerning it, "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes*" (I Corinthians 11:26). How often did the disciples do this? Christians did this on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).

Isn't it amazing that many today do not do what is clearly taught, yet are insistent upon remembering His birth which isn't even specified!?!

The Bible teaches no special religious observance for Jesus' birth. This is a fun time of year with extra time set aside for family & friends but there is no religious significance to it. When man makes a religious practice and claims it to be "of God" beware lest we place human tradition above God's Word (Matthew 15:6-9)!

— Shane Williams

Tune in on Sunday Morning for 'Bible Talk.'



1400AM KSIM
9:00 — 9:30AM every