

P.M. OUTLINE
12/12/2021

1.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE "CHRISTMAS" AS A HOLY-DAY?

INTRODUCTION

The Roman Catholic Church added holy-days, including Christmas and Easter, to the "Christian calendar" long after the completion of the New Testament.

Over the years, these were adopted by mainstream Protestantism.

Most members of the churches of Christ, during Christmas, celebrate the customs of the land, but not the part of making Jesus' "birthday" a "holy-day."

"Holy-day" - dedicated to religious use; sacred; deserving deep respect, awe, reverence, and adoration; a day set apart as holy or is dedicated to some exalted purpose.

We ask, "Does the Bible single out the so-called "birthday" of Jesus to be an annual "holy-day?"

(Romans 14:5) "One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all day alike. Let every one be fully persuaded (convinced) in his own mind."

Is what we see today in the "holy day" observance of Christmas what Paul had in mind?

Paul was writing to a mixed congregation in Rome: some Christians had a Jewish heritage and others had a Gentile heritage.

Customs, traditions, opinions vs. "it is written." (authorized)

BIBLE PRINCIPLES:

(Gal. 4:9-11) "... how turn ye back again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days ... I am afraid of you ... "

Today, it is odd that people who stress the observance of days not authorized are ones who least regard what God has ordained: the first day of the week.

(Col. 2:16-18) "Let no man judge you ... in respect of an holyday ... which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ"

People who want to keep the Old Testament days will judge you for not keeping them; however, don't let them call you "anti-religious" for lack of participating.

They are unlearned; the O.T. "holy-day" was a "shadow" (temporary) and looked forward to something better: "the body is of Christ."

Observing days ("an holyday") takes you back to Mt. Sinai and not Jerusalem.

(Matthew 15:3) "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

(v6-9) " ... Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophecy about you, saying, These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men."

(Mark 7:9) "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition"

(John 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments"

(Colossians 3:17) "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"

In the New Testament, there is no command, example, or instruction for Christians to observe the birthday of Jesus Christ as a "holy day"

In the letters to the churches, it is never said, "Remember to celebrate Jesus' birthday."

(1 Corinthians 4:6) " ... that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written ... "

We hold teachers in high regard; however, the teachers among the Corinthians were promoting a party-spirit, factions.

Paul says, "Apollos and I did not promote that among you, and you are not to favor one of us above the other"

The meaning is: Be sure what you are taught is God's word; it is above the messenger.

CLOSE:

Questions: "Is it wrong to preach on the birth of Jesus Christ?" No! It is part of the gospel.

"Is it wrong to sing songs about His birth? No! We sing about every other part of Jesus' life: ministry, death, burial, resurrection, coming again.

"So, when should I celebrate (rejoice in) Jesus' birth?"

The answer: "You may celebrate it all year. Celebrate it each Lord's day in the worship assembly and especially when we focus on the Communion and Jesus' instruction to "do this in remembrance of Me."

The fact that God did not give us the date of His birth means that we do not need to know it.

Enjoy the season, just as we enjoy other holidays during the year.