

Should we Celebrate Christmas?

As we enter into the Christmas season I wanted to take just a few moments to talk about Christmas. Now I know that many of you are thinking, “Well of course we should celebrate Christmas. It’s the birthday of Jesus.” I think, though, that because there are those who disagree we should at least have an understanding of their thoughts.

First of all there are those who claim that we shouldn’t celebrate Jesus’ birthday because the Bible doesn’t say to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. While I agree that the Bible doesn’t clearly mention celebrating Christ’s birth it also does not say not to celebrate. Furthermore, on the day of His birth there was clearly celebration.

Now this argument might have some validity based on the fact that people have put so much emphasis on the birth of Jesus that we sometimes forget that he came into the world to die. Clearly the more important holiday on a Christian calendar should be Easter, not Christmas.

Next there are those that say that we shouldn’t celebrate Jesus’ birthday on December 25 because we don’t know when his birthday was. Along with this they often claim that since December 25 was a pagan holiday we’re really not celebrating the birth of Jesus. Now I’ll admit that Jesus was most likely not born on December 25. The fact of the matter is we don’t know when Jesus was born. This, though, doesn’t mean that we can’t celebrate the fact that he was born. Often dates for holidays were chosen on the same date as pagan holidays for two reasons. There was some hope that the pagan holiday would be superceded by the Christian holiday (which has generally happened with Christmas, but not with All Hallows Eve). Sometimes it was also beneficial to blend in. Having a separate holiday would make you a target if your religion were illegal.

So, then, I see no reason why we can’t celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25. I do think, though, that we need to stop and think about how we celebrate sometimes. It seems like I more and more hear people talking about Christmas being about family. Don’t get me wrong, I think that it’s great to get together with family, but there are other holidays more closely related to family. We have also commercialized Christmas to the point that we hardly have time to stop and think about what we’re doing because we have to get our shopping done (mine’s not done, by the way).

I know this is a short lesson. I hope to put a Christmas lesson up next week that talks about the birth of Christ and hopefully helps us to reflect on it’s effect on our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich