

CHRISTMAS & JESUS' BIRTH: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

What is the difference between Christmas and the Bible's record of Jesus' birth? Jesus' birth was planned by God (Galatians 4:4). Christmas was not. The events surrounding Jesus' birth were recorded by writers guided by God. God guided no one to write about Christmas. Paul briefly reminded the Roman Christians of Jesus' birth (Romans 1:3). He never taught them about Christmas. Christians and atheists alike can read about Jesus' birth in Scripture. Neither can read about Christmas in Scripture.

The "holy day" called Christmas is viewed as an annual festival of the church, but who put the church in charge of universal festivals or holy calendars—God or man? The Holy Spirit brought "all truth" to the apostles, but said nothing of annual holy days (Jn. 16:13). Scripture equips us for every good work but equips no church with annual holy days (2 Timothy 3:17).

Christmas' origin lies in man-made councils and decrees where the opinion of man was put on an equal plane with God's revelation. If you do not believe that is true, then ask any local Catholic or Protestant leader, "Which of these is more important to the church—the first day of the week or Christmas?" Then compare their answer with Scripture where the first day of the week is a day God identifies for its historical significance (as the time of Jesus' resurrection, Mt. 28:1) and for its significance to His people (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10). God did not make any annual day equally as important as the first day of the week, but most churches today have done just that. They have created and elevated their own "holy day" (Christmas and many others) and made it equal to the day God revealed and elevated (first day of the week).

Consider another way to illustrate this problem. If any church leader announced today that Christmas was to be moved to August 25, would you object? If so, on what basis would you object? What if he also announced that churches must assemble on Friday instead of Sunday? Would you object? On what basis? I'm not sure which change would upset people the most, but I know which one would conflict with Scripture. Do you?

The problem with Christmas is not that people remember Jesus' birth. The problems with Christmas are--

1. that man-made authority has made it a doctrine of the church, which God never revealed (Matthew 15:9; Acts 15:24).
2. that man-made authority created this holy day and bound it upon all churches, when only God has authority to give laws for all churches (Ephesians 1:22-23).
3. that it has been elevated alongside, or above, the day which God elevated (the first day of the week).

If you remove these three things from Christmas, then the holy day called Christmas would no longer exist. Then, we could read about, sing about, and thank God for the birth of Jesus' Christ on April 25, August 25, December 25 or any day of the year without erasing or blurring the lines between God's revelation and man's opinion. But as of 2011, the "holy day" of Christmas carries all the above baggage, which is much too heavy for men content with the yoke of Christ.

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