

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

IS CHRISTMAS A HOLY DAY OF THE CHURCH?

Did you know that neither Peter nor Paul ever heard of Christmas Sunday or preached a Christmas sermon?

Is Christmas a holy day for the church? *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God* (1 Pet. 4:11). Only God can make something holy, so what has He said?

God said Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as Micah foretold (Micah 5:2). We can confidently affirm that!

God said Jesus' mother was a virgin, as Isaiah foretold (read Isa. 7:14). We can confidently affirm that!

God did not say *three* wise men came to Jesus' manger. Nor did He say Christmas is holy for Christians. After reading Luke 2:8, Adam Clarke (a famous Methodist writer) said that the date of Jesus' birth "has been

considered a subject of great importance among Christians. However, the matter has been considered of no moment by Him who inspired the evangelists..." Albert Barnes (Presbyterian writer) said, "the exact time of his birth is unknown... Nor is it of consequence to know the time; if it were, God would have preserved the record of it." What do you say?

Churches that are of Christ do not claim to know when Jesus was born or to have authority to create a holy day for all Christians. Does your church speak when God does not?

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THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION

Martin Luther, founder of the Lutheran Church and father of Protestant churches, believed the book of Romans best explained God's plan to save man from sin. The book of Acts explains that too so we are not surprised to learn that both books give the same teaching about God saving the lost.

1. We must hear God's word before God will save us (Rom. 10:17; Acts 2:41). Who can believe what they do not know?

2. We must accept that message (faith) before God will save us (Rom. 10:17; Acts 2:41). Without *gladly receiving* God's word, we are lost. No one is saved by hearing alone.

3. We must repent of (determine to leave) sin before God will save us (Rom. 2:4; Acts 2:38). Many people believe what Jesus said but refuse to change their lives (Jn. 12:42).

4. We must confess Jesus with our mouth before God will save us (Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37). God will not save us until we have used our tongue to confess our faith in His Son.

5. We must be baptized into Jesus before God will save us (Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:38). Many people today believe they are already in Christ before baptism. This baptism is not Jesus' baptism and therefore is spiritually empty (Eph. 4:5). Contact us for a free CD of a sermon on this subject.

THE MOURNER'S BENCH CAUSES GOD TO MOURN

Is God really pleased when men pray at the mourner's bench for salvation?

The mourner's bench is cherished by many people as the place where they believe they found Jesus and His salvation by mourning for sin and praying for salvation. Is this how God promised to save man from sin?

If your first desire is to come to (belong to, be in) Christ, then God has clearly spoken. *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?* (Romans 6:3) ... *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God,* (Colossians 2:12). No one today belongs to Christ before being baptized into Christ. That is the great deception of "the mourner's bench"—it is represented as the place to get into Jesus and His salvation while God says that by faith we are baptized into Jesus—that is when God puts us into Jesus, His salvation, and His death.

When men are at the mourner's bench being assured that they are being saved, **God is mourning**, for men leave there feeling and believing that they are in Christ while in the Bible, often laying nearby, God has said something different. (A more in-depth article is available at our website)

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(1 Peter 4:11)*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

SERMONS AVAILABLE ON CD (NO COST TO YOU)

We record all of our sermons and make them available free of charge to anyone. We will pay the shipping costs or deliver them to your door. Here is a list of some recent lessons. Call or write us if you would like a CD of any of these lessons. Or, request a lesson on a topic you are studying or wondering about.

- The Tragedy in Connecticut
- When The Holy Spirit Sent Them
- The Value of "Old"
- The Seekers
- Who Has Tasted God's Grace?
- The Roman Road to Salvation
- God's Antidote for Worry
- "I'm Not Familiar With the Church of Christ"
- Is the Church's Work Limited or Unlimited?
- Surprises at Judgment

- Beginning in 2013, we will be mailing "Words of Truth & Reason" every OTHER month. Your first issue will arrive in late February or early March.

Questions from this month's articles:

1. What has God told us about Jesus' birth? What has God NOT told us?
2. Does the book of Romans teach anything different than the book of Acts, regarding salvation?
3. Colossians 2:12 says we are buried in baptism and raised through what?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website.