

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

The preacher Titus was instructed to speak the things that are fitting for sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). We are in the time of season that we need to be reminded what soundness is so we aren't carried away by every wind of doctrine and teaching of man (Eph. 4:14).

You will hear statements; "Jesus is the reason for the season" or "Let's keep Christ in Christmas." Nativity scenes will be present, depicting this time as the birth of Christ. First, let's get some facts down according to Scripture:

- (1) It is a **fact** that Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Matt. 2:1).
- (2) It is a **fact** that Jesus was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18-25).
- (3) It is a **fact** that Jesus was born in a manger (Luke 2:1-7).
- (4) It is a **fact** that angels announced His birth to shepherds in the fields (Luke 2:8-14).
- (5) It is a **fact** that wise men came from the east to worship Him (Matt. 2:1-12).

Now let's get the fiction:

- (1) It is **fiction** that there were three wise men. The Bible mentions no such number.
- (2) It is **fiction** that the wise men came to the manger. They found Mary and Jesus in a house (Matt. 2:11).
- (3) It is **fiction** that Jesus was born on Dec. 25. Scriptures don't tell us. Man made up the date.
- (4) It is **fiction** that His birth is called a "holy night."
- (5) It is **fiction** that Christ's birth was observed as a festival called "Christmas" in the New Testament church. Christ's birth is never celebrated as a memorial, only His resurrection, observed every first day of the week in the Lord's Supper.

Paul warned the Colossians to beware that they aren't taken captive by the traditions of men (Col. 2:8). It's easy to get caught up in the cuddly birth of Jesus. Notice how many religions around us worship and emphasize His birth. God's Holy Scriptures teaches

us to observe His death, burial, and resurrection, not His birth. Nowhere in Scripture was His birth observed as a gathering or worship time.

Where does that leave us as Christians? It's like any other holiday such as the fourth of July, Memorial Day, or any national holiday. We do have the freedom in Christ to enjoy days (Rom. 14). Let's not tie the season to Christ, but enjoy our families and the time we share together. Let's not worship His birth, but honor Him as He lives in us (Col. 1:27). Christ isn't seasonal! He is our life, our joy, our hope, and love, each and every day. Teach your children the difference, to follow God and His word and not follow the world and their thinking. Think about it!!!

Brent