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## 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 ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

(v6-9) "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites ... This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me. Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men ... "

(Mark 7:9) "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

(John 14:15) "If ye love me, keep my commandments"

(Col. 3:17) "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"

(1 Cor. 4:6) "... that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which 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. Heed the message."

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

(2 John v4) "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father"

(3 John v4) "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"

**APPLICATIONS**

**Questions:**

"Is it wrong to preach about Jesus' birth?" No; it is part of the gospel.

"Is it wrong to sing songs about His birth?" No. We sing about other aspects of His life: crucifixion, resurrection, coming again.

The question is: "When should we celebrate (rejoice in) Jesus' birth?" Throughout the year.