

WHY I DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:8-17 Vs. 15

INTRO:

A. We should always have a BIBLICAL answer for what we do (I Pet 3:15).

1. Our answer should be in MEEKNESS.
 - a. We should considering our selves -Where we have been and could be - With out the grace of God.
2. Our answer should be in FEAR.
 - a. We MUST ultimately answer to the Lord (v.13).

B. One question that often comes up this time of year is "why don't you celebrate Christmas?"

1. It is not because I don't believe in the Virgin Birth! **Nor because I want to be mean!** Nor because I want to offend people! **Nor because I want to make my family mad at me!** Nor because I want to deprive my children of a "harmless" good time! **Nor because I enjoy being different just to be different!** Nor because I want to have a small church! **Nor because I want to run people off!** Nor because .because ..because ...!
 2. There are MANY definite, biblical reasons why I do not celebrate Christmas.
 3. By not celebrating Christmas I mean that I do not have ANYTHING to do with it.
 - a. No tree, no gift giving, no parties, no cards - no Christmas!

I. I DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE OF THE ERROR IT PROMOTES.

A. We should take care to preach and practice the truth (Eph. 4:15; III Jn. 1:3)

1. If the multitude is doing it, it is probably wrong (Exodus 23:2).

B. It promotes an error concerning the interpretation of God's Holy Word.

1. Often those who celebrate it "twist" Colossians 2:16 to justify themselves.
 - a. Colossians 2:16 teaches that we are not to let men judge us for NOT observing holidays.
 - b. There were those who taught that believers must revert back to the holy days of the "ceremonial" law - Paul said you do not have to revert back to those days and do not let any one judge you if you will not celebrate those "holy days"
 - c. It has nothing do with a license to "observe" days.
2. Paul rebuked the Galatians for reverting back their "gods" in celebration of pagan feasts (Gal. 4:8-11).
 - a. Paul was afraid of the Galatians because of their "holiday worship".

C. It promotes an error concerning of the date of Christ's birth.

1. Jesus was not born in winter because the sheep where in the fields with there shepherds - this did not happen in winter (Luke 2:8).
2. It was about six mounts AFTER the birth of John the Baptist (who was born in March).
 - a. John was concieved around the middle of the Heb. mo. Sivan (25th ?) (our June) (Luke 1:5, 23-27, 34-38, I Chron 24:10) - Add 40 weeks from conception to birth and you have the middle of the Heb. Mo. Nisan (15th ?)(our March).
 - b. Add 6 months to that and you come to the Middle of the Heb. mo. Tishri (15th ?) (Sep).
 - 1.) Jesus was born sometime around in September (Maybe the time of the Feast of Tabernacles).
 - c. Back up 9 months and you have the middle of the Heb. mo. Kisley (25th) (our Dec).
 - 1.) Jesus was conceived some time in the first of December (Hanukkah - feast of lights - feast of dedications Jn 10:22).

D. It promotes an error concerning the wise men.

1. Jesus was born in a manger (Lk. 2:6-7).
2. The wise men went to a house where Jesus was, NOT a stable.
 - a. Jesus was some where between 2 months and 18 months old by this time (Matt. 2:1, 11-16).
3. The error of the number of wise men - three gifts - who knows the number of the wise men!

E. It promotes the error of Santa Clause - All seeing, all knowing, all present, giver of gifts ...

1. Santa takes the place of God!

- F. It promotes the error of evil pleasure in the name of Christ - drunken parties!**
- G. It promotes the error of its "Christmas Spirit" - The EVIL spirits of usury (debit), guilt, bribery, covetousness, anger, and lying ...**

II. I DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE OF ITS PAGAN TRIDITIONS.

A. Its roots go deep into the Babylonian religion (Jer.7:18; 44:17-25 Eze. 8:16-17).

1. The worship of Nimrod and the tower of Babel - it spread throughout the world - Sun Worship!

B. It is Catholicism attempt to "Christianizing" Paganism.

1. It is rooted in the celebration of the "SUN" god - The birth of "Sol" (A Roman feast on Dec.25).
2. It is a MASS (Christ-mass) - Catholicism "Christianizing" the birth of "Sol".
3. We are not Catholics - We are to separate from her (Rev. 17:5, 18; 18:4).
4. We are not to "Christianize" the EVIL - we are to preach CHANGE.

C. It's customs are too closely related to that which is forbidden in God's Word.

1. It custom of "tree trimming" is condemned as foolish (Jer. 10:1-5).
2. There is warning about committing "idolatry" under every "green" tree (Deut. 12:2; I Kgs 14:23-24; II Kgs 16:3-4; Jer. 3:6).

III. I DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO DO IT SCRIPTURALLY.

A. We are commanded to take care HOW we worship God (Jn. 4:24; 8:31-32; 14:15; Lk. 6:46-49; I Sam. 7:3-4).

1. He ALONE tells us how, when, and where to worship Him.

B. He has told us HOW to worship him "generally".

1. Praying, Preaching (hearing preaching), singing, giving, reading his word ...

C. He has told us "specifically" HOW and WHEN to worship Him in relation to His death and resurrection.

1. Honoring his resurrection EVERY Lord's Day.
 - a. Our attendance in His house (Heb. 10:25)
 - b. Honoring him as our living priest with our substance - tithing to Melchisedec (Heb. 7:8).
2. Honoring his resurrection through Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Rom. 6:3-8; I Cor. 11:26-28).
 - a. In honor of His death, resurrection, and second-coming.

D. No where are we ever commanded, by line or precept on WHEN to worship His birth.

1. We may generally "worship" him in relation to his birth.
 - a. We may preach about it, sing about it, talk about it, tell others about it, and praise God for it (Lk. 2:8-17).
 - b. But we MAY not "set" feast days or holy days to honor it.
2. We must be careful not to add to nor take away from the word of God in the worship of God.
 - a. Remember Uzza! Remember the brazen serpent! Remember the Ark!
3. If Christmas is "religious" then it must involve "service" or "worship".
 - a. We must seek "God's way" of celebrating it.
4. If it is "secular" then it must be examined in light of - "be in the world, but not of it" (I Jn 2:15-16).
 - a. How much of the "lies" can you participate in?
5. If it is a mixture of "pagan" religion with a Christian "twist" then we must forsake it (Deut. 12:28-32; II Cor. 6:14-16; Matt. 15:3; 7-8).

CON:

A. What should you do? What should you do? (Jer. 7:1-3, 8-10, 18-24)

B. I will strive to be like Joshua of old (Joshua 24:15):

1. " And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.** "
2. We will seek to serve HIM and HIM ALONE - His way!