



The Christmas Question

**Part 1 – Problems with December 25 as Christ's Birthday
and its Celebration**

Introduction

- **I decided to preach this lesson because many believe...**
 - December 25th is Jesus' birthday
 - There are definite rules for observing Christ's birthday
 - Christmas must not be observed by Christians in any fashion
- **My purpose is to present the biblical, historical, and logical problems with each of these approaches.**



December 25

Problems with Dating Jesus' Birth

December 25:

Biblical Problems

- **The bible says nothing of the calendar day on which Jesus was born.**
- **December 25 (wintertime) doesn't fit with the Roman census taking place when Jesus was born – Lk. 2:1-5**
- **Winter was not the season when shepherds would stay, or live, in the fields with their sheep – Lk. 2:8-12**

December 25:

Historical Problems

- **Clement of Alexandria (200 A.D.) expressed the confusion of his day concerning the date of Christ's birth.**
 - There was no mention of December 25
 - December 25 would not gain acceptance for another 150 years
- **The earliest reference to December 25 as Christ's birthday is mid-4th Century in a Roman (Church) almanac.**

December 25:

Historical Problems

● How December 25 was chosen?

- Jewish Rabbinical thought said if God did a great thing in one's life on a certain day, in the future He would do another great thing on that same day.
- 3rd century tradition taught that Christ's **death** took place on March 25, leading to surmise that Jesus' was **conceived** on March 25.
- Since December 25 is exactly 9 months later, it became the day of Christ's birth!
- Tradition produced more tradition, which is very shaky ground!



December 25

Problems with Celebrating this Day as Christ's Birthday

Celebrating Christ's Birthday:

Biblical Problems

- There is no command or instruction for the local church or individual Christians to celebrate December 25 as Christ's birth.
- The only day commanded to be celebrated is Sunday, the resurrection day, where we assemble for worship – Matt. 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8-9
- Since there is no biblical command to observe this day...
 - The local church must not – 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19
 - Individual Christians must take care to avoid a *religious* observance of the day – Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Cor. 8:9-13; Rom. 14:23

Celebrating Christmas:

Historical Problems

- **There is no early historical evidence that N.T. Christians celebrated Christ's birth.**
- **The "official" day of December 25 was decided by the apostate church without any biblical or historical foundation.**
 - Christmas comes from the "Christ-Mass," or the Catholic observance of their version of the Lord's Supper.
 - The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states that the "Christ Mass" was not recorded until 1038 A.D. ("Christmas," Vol. 3).

Celebrating Christmas:

The Question of Santa Claus

- **Santa Claus is not in the bible.**
- **The American Santa Claus came from the Dutch figure Sinterklaas, which was based on stories of “Saint” Nicholas.**
- **Nicolas was a 4th century Bishop of Myra in Lycia who had the reputation of giving secret gifts and being a friend of children.**
- **Who Santa is and his role in Christmas has *evolved* as has Christmas itself.**