

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

December

22

2024

IS THIS THE JESUS SEASON?

Jim Stauffer

This is the time of year when we hear this phrase so very often as people worship and honor the birth of Jesus. His birth is recounted in the books of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament. And without doubt, all the things Jesus has done for us, His creation could not have happened without His birth. **Matthew 1:21** tells us, *“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* In this text even before He is born in the flesh, we are told what His mission will be.

When we read, *For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*, we can clearly see the great love God and Christ have for us, the creation. It is such love we must emulate if indeed we wish to treat any time of the year as the season of Jesus.

We are not taught in the Scriptures, the revealed mind of God, to worship the birth of Jesus. We have every reason to revere everything about our Savior and therefore it is fine for anyone to meditate on the importance of His birth, His life which led to His teaching, death for the sins of mankind and His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven. But we must understand the Scriptures are an explicit revelation from God to guide us in our lives as individuals and to instruct the Church Jesus died to establish (**Matthew 16:18**). In that regard, the church is never instructed to observe the birth of Jesus. Even to the extent we have no idea whatsoever when He was born. December 25th as the date to worship His birth is of the same origin as the idea of worshiping His birth. It came from the mind of man, not God. Therefore, we have as much reason

by way of authority from God to offer animal sacrifices in the worship services as we do to worship the birth of Jesus.

What we are told to remember and worship is His death. The Bible tells us when Jesus instituted this memorial (**Matthew 26:26-30**) and when we are to participate in it (**Acts 20:7**) and how it is to be done (**Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34**). So, we learn that it is the season of Jesus all year long. Each and every day is to be devoted to the memory of His life and teaching. He is the example for us to follow. The term disciple “denotes one who follows one’s teaching” (Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).

Now that we understand we are to follow Jesus each and every day of the year, let us look at the heart of our Savior as expressed by the apostle Paul. *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* (**Philippians 2:5–8**) As we view the heart of Jesus and understand we are to be His disciples, we now know our role is to walk in His steps. *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the*

tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

(1 Peter 2:21–24)

This time of year can be an encouragement to each of us to remember the love Jesus had for us, a love we are to have for others and therefore should be expressed each and every day of the year. Consider what Paul says to us prior to speaking of Jesus' sacrificial love. *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.* **(Philippians 2:1–4)** It is noteworthy that when Peter spoke of what has been termed the "Christian graces", he specifically included, *brotherly love* **(2 Peter 1:7)**.

May we always remember the season of Jesus is every day of the year. And the special remembrance of His life is a memorial of His death. Let us enjoy the season of Jesus each and every day of our lives.

What if my brother sins?

There is no question that it is an awkward moment when a brother or sister knows when a fellow saint has engaged in some sort of sinful activity. Just what is the responsibility of the Christian who saw this? Should they even say anything? Is there a possibility that what they saw was exactly what they think they saw? These are good questions, so let's see what God says.

First and foremost, we must be reminded that Christians are to love everyone, especially their own brethren **(Gal. 6:10)**. There is a special bond between brothers and sisters in Christ, since they are in fellowship with each other and the Lord **(I Jn. 1:3-7)**. Knowing that there is a genuine love, this should always be remembered by Christians if they go to someone, or if they are the ones approached by another.

Children of God must remember that to love is not to ignore. To have a concern for the spiritual wellbeing of another should be received with a thankful heart, although that is often not the case. Jesus says that it is the duty of every Christian, when they see sinful

behavior, they need to confront it. Why? For the sake of their soul. You might ask, whose soul? The one who sinned or the one who saw the sin? Both!

To ignore our duty to help a fellow laborer come back is just wrong **(Jas. 5:19-20)**. It should cause us to mourn for the one who has fallen **(I Cor. 5:1-2)**. The goal is to have their soul saved, as the James text mentioned. To hide one's head in the sand, so to speak, doesn't help anyone involved. Perhaps that is the very point: some just don't want to get involved. Yes, it would be easier just to ignore them, but our God wants us to try and help. Mind you, if a person is unwilling to help themselves, no amount of help on our end will be of use to them.

Jesus said, go to the brother and the fewer that know, the better **(Matt. 18:15)**. If that brother won't repent, take another **(Matt. 18:16)**. If he still won't repent, tell the church **(Matt. 18:17)**. If he still won't repent, he needs to be marked **(Matt. 18:17; Rom.16:17)**. Of course, even in the marking there is a desire to get them back **(II Thess. 3:14-15; I Cor. 5:5)**. Let's remember to act like family and truly care for the spiritual wellbeing of one another.

Chuck Bartlett

Fathers Are Also Parents

Jefferson David Tant

(Note: The first part of this article is from an unknown author. My comments follow.)

THE BEST GIFT

A man came home from work, tired and irritated, to find his five-year-old son waiting for him at the door. "Daddy, may I ask you a question?" "Yeah, sure. What is it?"

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?" "What makes you ask such a thing?"

"I just wanted to know. Please tell me. How much money do you make an hour?" pleaded the little boy. "I make \$20 an hour."

Looking up the boy said, "Daddy, may I borrow \$9, please?"

The father was upset. "If that was the reason you wanted to know how much money I make, then march to your room and think about being selfish. I work long hours every day and do not have time for childish

games.”

The boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The father sat down and thought about his son’s question. After a while, he calmed down and thought he had been too hard on his son. Maybe he really needed to buy something with that \$9. He did not ask for money often.

The father when to his son’s room and opened the door. “Are you asleep, son?” he asked.

“No, Daddy, I’m awake,” replied the boy. “I’ve been thinking. Maybe I was too hard on you,” said the father. “It has been a long day, and I took my aggravations out on you. Here is the \$9 you asked for”

The boy sat up, beaming. “Thank you, Daddy!” he said. Reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some crumpled bills. He counted the money and then looked up at his father.

“Why did you want more money if you already had some?” the father asked.

“Because I did not have enough, but now I do,” the boy replied. “Daddy, I have \$20. Could I buy an hour of your time?”

Ralph Waldo Anderson wrote, “The only gift is a portion of thyself.”

Dear Readers, the forgoing poignant story should remind us that fathers are as vitally important to our children as mothers are. I am afraid that too many fathers leave the rearing of children mostly to mothers. And while mothers have a very important role, in God’s creation he gave **both** mothers and fathers. Both are important. And God gave some specific instruction to fathers for their role in child rearing.

There are several Bible passages that address fathers and their responsibilities. “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” (Ephesians 6:4) “*making the most of your time, because the days are evil.*” (Ephesians 5:16)

In speaking of Abraham, God said, “*For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his*

household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” (Genesis 18:19)

“*Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’*” (Deuteronomy 4:9-10)

“*For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children*” (Psalm 78:5-6)

Yes, we know that mothers also have an important role in teaching their children, as we see in the example of Timothy’s mother and grandmother, as mentioned in his letter to Timothy: “*For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*” (II Timothy 2:15)

In a nation and world that is rapidly moving away from respect for moral values and a belief in God, and with many schools indoctrinating our children with Satan’s values, it is vitally important for **both** fathers and mothers to be diligent in spending time with their children to instill within them a solid faith and the hope of eternal life in heaven.

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Cleanliness, Godliness

For a parent to require a child to wash his face and keep his body clean and not require him to learn and obey the Bible, is to teach him the body is worth more than a pure heart and clean spirit. For a parent to require a child to learn spelling and reading and not require him to study the Bible is to teach him that it is much more important to be qualified to live in this world than to be fitted to live in heaven.

by David Lipscomb

Psalm 1:1 ~ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: ² But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. ~ 9:00 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. ~ 10:00 Assembled Worship

Sunday A.M. ~ 10:50 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 ~ Bible Study & Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Troy Armstrong

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that are at Philippi,

with the bishops and deacons:"

Philippians 1:1

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN
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GOLDSTON, WINNIE RAWSON,
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RICHARDSON, STEVE WIMP. PAT
MCCLOUD, KEN KLING, ELI BOYD.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
RON PECK - 1 CORINTHIANS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS
JIM STAUFFER - ISAIAH

SERMON: ARE WE DOERS?



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- **Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17
- **Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6
- **Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30
- **Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10
- **Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- **Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10