

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preachers: Wes Garland

Mike Glenn



“The churches of Christ salute you” Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

DECEMBER 25, 2022

The Truth About The Birth of Christ

Today, a lot of people in the world are celebrating the day called “Christmas”. The real question that I have is are these people correct in celebrating such a religious holiday? Is this something that a Christian can take part in and be pleasing in the sight of God? Is everything in the “Christmas story” correct? In this article, I will address these questions that need our attention.

Let’s begin with the questions about people being correct in observing this also can a Christian take part in the observance of this Christmas “RELIGIOUS” holiday? The first thing that I want to look at is the concept that if the majority of the world is observing it, does it make it right or wrong? The answer is simply NO. The Bible is very clear to the point that the majority of individuals are going down the road that is the broad and wide road that is leading to destruction (Mat. 7:13-14). So with that being said, the majority does not determine right and wrong. But what about a Christian observing this day as a RELIGIOUS holiday? As Christians, we are told that we are to have authority for everything we do in religion (Col. 3:17). It is looking to Jesus, our Head, King, and Master for guidance in what we should and should not be involved in. When you look into the scriptures, we see that there is no command, nor mentioning of “Christmas” or observing a day celebrating the birth of Christ. For this very reason, we CANNOT SAY that we have scriptural authority to celebrate this day regarding the birth of Christ. If God wanted us to observe such a day, He would have stated it, which He did not.

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Now, let's take a look at that question, "is everything in the "Christmas story" correct". Usually, you read about the "nativity" and you will hear that Jesus was born on December 25 and that there were 3 wise men that came bringing gifts to the manger of Christ. What if I told you that none of this is true? Did you know that we can have a general idea of when Jesus was born and it all revolves around Zacharias, John the Baptist's father? We know that John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, was 6 months older than Jesus (Lk. 1:26). We also know that Zacharias was a priest who served during the division of Abijah (Lk. 1:5-8). Now the priests served on a circuit or rotation according to their division and his was according to the division of Abijah. With this knowledge, we also know that they served twice a year and so if you take the circuit and see when Abijah was in place, and then add 6 months after that, you will notice that this would place the birth of Christ either in early spring or early fall. But we know from other things, like the shepherds living out in the field with their sheep (Lk. 2:8), that this was not in the dead of winter. So it is very clear that we are NOT talking about December 25th.

Another thing that we need to look at is the wise men at the birth of Christ. What if I was to tell you that the wise men were never at the manger of Christ? And exactly how many wise men were there? We see in Matthew 2, the account of the wise men and see when they came to Jesus **THEY CAME INTO THE HOUSE** (Mat. 2:11). When you are talking about the timing of their coming, Herod killed all the baby boys from the **AGE OF 2 and under ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD DETERMINED FROM THE WISE MEN** (Mat. 2:16). It is seen that Jesus was **PROBABLY ABOUT 2 YEARS OLD** when the wise men came and offered their gifts. And the Bible **NEVER MENTIONS** that there were 3 wise men. It only states that 3 gifts were brought, but the world wants to say that there were 3 wise men. We don't know exactly how many there were.

So what is a Christian's response needing to be concerning celebrating Christmas as a religious holiday? We have no authority! But **WE CAN** observe this day as a secular holiday to be with family and to exchange gifts, just like any other secular "non-religious" holiday. We just have to be careful that we don't do things that are against the will of Christ and do those things that we have no authority for.

—Wes Garland

READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2022

December 25 - Rev. 16
December 26 - Rev. 17
December 27 - Rev. 18
December 28 - Rev. 19



December 29 - Rev. 20
December 30 - Rev. 21
December 31 - Rev. 22

OUR SICK ***Please Remember***

Susan Huey, Chris Smith, Ed O'Shields, Edith Allen, Elizabeth Warner, Tish Clarke, Holly Tatum, D.J. Harrison, Cleave Binkley, ack Piper, Sandy Smith, Elwood Flinchum, Kathy and Wayne Hutchins.

Roger Allen has been released from the hospital this past Sunday and is now at home recovering. Please continue keeping him in your prayers.

D.J. Harrison has checked positive for COVID. She also has a sinus infection. Jim is quarantined and they would appreciate prayers.

Please pray for my daughter, **Katherine**, who is going through a difficult time now. —David Moore

Thanks for your prayers! Baby Madisyn's oxygen has been reduced to a level of 1.75 and was released from the hospital this passed Sunday. No update on Rashad yet. Please continue to pray for him. He has two blood clots on his brain and one in his lung. They have given him shots to dissolve the blood clots. —Mattie Pharr.

Tim Allen has not been feeling well with his eye infection and his back. Please pray for him.

Liam Allen has come down with the flu, Hope he will recover very soon. Please pray for Liam.

Please pray for **Mary Seal** who is having some health issues at this time.

Rhonda Hardister's friend, **Linda Collins**, fell and broke Her wrist. Please pray for Linda to have a quick recovery.

Eddie Drew, Karen Clemmons' father, has been in the hospital recently with an abdominal pain and underwent surgery. He is home and doing well.

Bobby Childress - is waiting to receive treatment for his COPD in January. Please keep him in your prayers.

Keep **Will** in your prayers as he travels to MS for the holidays. He will be leaving December 22 and returning January 7th.

Polly Tatum has had some surgery which did not go well. She will go back to Duke on the 29th to get a port put in, the first chemo treatment will be on December 30th. Please keep her in your prayers.

Rick Maiers, Teresa Glenn's brother-in-law, has begun treatments for cancer on November 20th. Rick is not a Christian. Please pray for him for recovery of the cancer and will become a Christian following his recovery from the cancer.

Ingrid Mock's daughter, **Sharon York**, had her follow-up surgery, it went well and she is now at home. Thank you for the prayers—please continue to pray for me.

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

December 25th — The Elders have decided to cancel the Sunday evening service on December 25th. Sunday Classes and worship service will be held at the regular time.

January 9th - The third quarter of NCSBS will begin on the 9th of January, 2023.

AREA EVENTS:

January 21-22 - Oak Forest Church of Christ at Goldsboro, NC on January 21-22, 2023 Theme: **Hope When Hurting - A Grief Seminar, with Jeff Jenkins. Sat. 9:30 a.m., and Sunday 10:30a.m. - 6:00 p.,** please register at [www. Oakforestcoc.church](http://www.Oakforestcoc.church).



Merry Christmas

And a

Happy New Year

SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

December, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY: BRAD HOOTS

COMMUNION FOR DECEMBER: DAVID MOORE

DEVOTIONS FOR: DECEMBER

SCRIPTURE

December 4 - Rodney Brown
December 11 - Randy Warner
December 18 - Gene Ruark
December 25 - Al Lawson

SONG LEADER

Wayne Allen
David Shoaf
Gene Southern
Justin Little

PRAYER

Todd Hinson
Mark Minor
Mike Glenn
Jim Harrison

OPENING PRAYERS FOR: DECEMBER

SUNDAY A.M.

December 4 - Allen Knight
December 11 - D. C. Mock
December 18 - Carl Cooper
December 25 - Johnny Spillman

SUNDAY P.M.

Bob Tesh
Wes Garland
Mike Lundgren
David Shoaf

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 7 - Adam Warner
Dec. 14 - Gene Southern
Dec. 21 - Bill Carothers
Dec. 28 - Tim Allen

SECURITY AND GREETING: JIM HARRISON AND GENE RUARK

PLEASE OPEN BUILDING BY 10:30 A.M., 5:40 P.M., AND WEDNESDAY BY 6:40 P.M.

SONG LEADERS FOR : NOVEMBER

SUNDAY A.M.

December 4 - Clayton Workman
December 11 - David Shoaf
December 18 - Roger Allen
December 25 - Steve Tesh

SUNDAY P.M.

David Shoaf
Gene Southern
Wayne Allen
Youth Led Svc
(Coordinator: Gene S.)

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 7 - Clayton Workman
Dec. 14 - Clayton Workman
Dec. 21 - Wayne Allen
Dec. 28 - Roger Allen

PLEASE, IF YOU SHOULD BE UNABLE TO BE HERE, ARRANGE COVERAGE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8

SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST

8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

Tim Allen
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh
Andy Santiago

DEACONS

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Mark Minor
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason
Mark Roy
Adam Warner