



Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preachers: **Paul Kirkpatrick**
Frank Shepard

"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

December 23, 2012

"WHAT DOES GOD SEE IN YOU?"

*On February 12th, 1809, the name of Napoleon was known around the world. On that same day in the obscure town of Hodgenville, Kentucky, a boy was born with little fanfare or notice. Yet before **his** life was over, history would well know the name of Abraham Lincoln.*

In 1040 B.C. Saul had been king of Israel for about ten years. His name was heard frequently on the lips of the singers of Israel. Little did they know that a baby, the youngest of eight brothers, born in the small town of Bethlehem, would one day supplant Saul as king and be spoken of more in Biblical history than any other Old Testament character.

*David's name is found in the Scriptures one thousand and eighty six times. Neither of these men was perfect, but Saul was rejected and David is praised. Samuel told Saul that God looks deep into a man's heart. Saul's heart was filled with bitterness and treachery, **1 Samuel 18:9-22**. David, on the other hand is described as a man after God's own heart, **1 Samuel 13:14**.*

*What's in **your** heart? What des God see in you?*

Frank

Christmas: Holy Day or Holiday?

By Mel Futrell

Some of the most popular motto's of the latter part of December are, "Let's keep Christ in Christmas" or "Jesus: the reason for the season." As a Christian do those statements disturb you? Frankly, they do me. Now before anyone goes jumping to the wrong conclusion, let me say this. I grew up in a home where Christmas was celebrated, a tree was erected [sometimes real and sometimes artificial], family gathered, gifts were exchanged, and great quantities of food were consumed. Yet through it all, none of us believed we were celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It was to us, and for that matter still is, a **non-religious holiday**.

But the question still lingers in the minds of many, "Can Christians observe Christmas?" My first response when confronted with that question is, "Observe it as what?" Now I recognize that there are those who reject Christmas entirely, even as a non-religious holiday. They don't erect a tree, exchange gifts, or anything else connected with December 25 as a holiday. Be that as it may, my understanding is that:

"This word (Christmas) was not coined until the eleventh century – a thousand years after our Lord came to Earth" and that "the word no longer conveys its exclusive earlier meaning, signifying to many of us no more than a holiday."¹

With this I agree and in addition I offer the following from Webster:

December 25, now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts, greetings"²

So the answer to the question posed earlier is yes, Christians may observe Christmas as a non-religious holiday without violating any Biblical principle.

It is true that as early as the fourth century A.D. December 25 was being observed as the birth of Christ. However, the fact that a thing has long been practiced does not justify it or make it right.

Our rejection of Christmas as a **holy day** is argued along these lines.

First, the exact date and season of the birth of Jesus Christ is unknown. What we do know is that the birth of Jesus took place at a time when shepherds were "abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). Is it not then reasonable to conclude that this describes a season more nearly comparable to Spring? Some think so. One reference volume offers this valuable thought:

"But why set the date in the winter? The shepherds would have been least likely to tend their flocks on the hillsides at that time. More likely, Jesus was born in the fall or spring."³

But the final word must remain that our Lord's specific birthdate [His incarnation] is unknown.

Second, Scripture seems to lay less stress on the birth of Jesus, than on what was accomplished by His death, burial, and resurrection. Please don't take that as an attempt to diminish the gift of love that brought Jesus into this world (John 1:14; 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 8:9), it is not! We readily recognize that the virgin birth of Jesus, and the place of that birth, is a matter of prophecy (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2). But the fact remains that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the very heart and soul of the gospel message (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

What we are to "celebrate" [if we may use that term], is our Lord's **death** on the cross for the sins of the world (2 Corinthians 5:21), in our partaking of the Lord's supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:24-26). In regard to His **burial**, we recognize that it was participated in by us when we were buried with Him in baptism (Romans 6:4). And we continue to focus on that event as we reflect on our obedience to Christ and the demands of the Christian life (Colossians 3:1-3). Likewise, His **resurrection** which was on the first day of the week (Luke 24:1-5) is remembered by us as we assemble up-on that day from week to week.

Never do the Lord's people want to take away from any Scriptural truth. But neither do we desire to elevate a Biblical fact beyond its intended purpose. The way in which our world celebrates Christmas as a holy day does not coincide with Scripture and we are not obliged to follow. The Christians motto is not, "keep Christ in Christmas" but rather "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

ENDNOTES

1 Woods, Guy N., *Questions and Answers: Open Forum*, 1976, pp. 203-204.

2 Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1992, p. 263.

3 Packer, Tenney, and White, editors, *The Bible Almanac*, 1980, p.62

OUR SICK Please Remember In Your Prayers

Ronnie Knost is still have a problem with her back and has been having difficulty walking due to pain.

Laura Cravy, Jason Cravy's mother, underwent gallbladder surgery this past Thursday in Atlanta.

Please pray for the Singh family. Marsha and Joshua have come down with the flu, Emily has strep throat, and Surendra has stomach problems which may prove to be caused by his gallbladder. Surgery may be required pending results of tests.

Mindy Santiago was at home this past week with a stomach illness.

Don Jackson will undergo surgery on January 10 to replace his pacemaker.

Randy Warner's eye surgery has been postponed until December 28th.

Paul Kirkpatrick is undergoing surgery as this bulletin is being printed. Surgery began at about 12:45 on Friday and was expected to last from 6 to 8 hours at the Duke Hospital (Cancer Institute). He will be in the hospital for about six days, convalesce 2-3 weeks and will be back as soon as possible.

Tom Slaughter (Agape) is now under the care of Hospice for his needs. If you would like to send a card to him and his wife, Joan, the address is 302 College Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Please continue prayers for Marsha Singh, Dwight Barringer, Elmer Laudenslager, and Wayne & Cathy Hutchins.

Prayers were requested on Wednesday evening for:

Sara Tesh's boss who lost his father-in-law and stepfather this past Wednesday.

Rose Whitt, sister of Andy Santiago. She was scheduled for some tests this past Friday.

Linda Swaim, co-worker of Nancy Minor. Cancer has been found in her thyroid. She will undergo surgery in January.

WEDDING SHOWER GIFTS

A basket will be in the foyer for **Micah Kirkpatrick Beller and her husband** this Sunday for Wedding Shower gifts.

READ THE NEW TESTEMENT IN 2012

<i>December 24 - Rev. 15</i>	<i>December 28 - Rev. 19</i>
<i>December 25 - Rev. 16</i>	<i>December 29 - Rev. 20</i>
<i>December 26 - Rev. 17</i>	<i>December 30 - Rev. 21</i>
<i>December 27 - Rev. 18</i>	<i>December 31 - Rev. 22</i>

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:

Dec. 23 - 5th Sunday contribution will be used for benevolence including a portion to go the Singh Family to assist with their medical expenses for Marsha's surgery.

Dec. 23 & 30 - ZONE MEALS CANCELLED

Dec. 23 - Pew Packers will meet at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 28 - "50 and Older Class" will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Annex.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Fellowship in the Annex beginning at 6 p.m. Please finger foods, games, etc.

PRISON MINISTRY

Mary Tesh has been working with a women's prison ministry with the Finger church of Christ in Henderson, TN. Two of the women who she has been studying with obeyed the Gospel. Stephanie McCarley obeyed the Gospel a year ago. Kelly Priddy obeyed the Gospel about three weeks ago. It would be great if you all could send cards to these two women, and pray for them that they can continue to grow spiritually and stay faithful to God. Please include that you know Mary Tesh and that you are from Warners Chapel church of Christ in the cards that you send.

Addresses:

Kelly Priddy	Stephanie McCarley #503610
333 Eric Bell Drive	3881 Stewarts Lane
Henderson, TN 38340	Nashville, TN 27218



**WISHING ALL A
JOYOUS AND PEACEFUL
SEASON**

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - <i>December 16, 2012</i>	144
Sunday Morning Worship Service:	174
Contribution for <i>December 16, 2012</i>	\$6,819
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	32
Chapters Read:	664
Daily Children Bible Readers:	
Chapters Read:	
Sunday Evening:	126
Wednesday Evening: <i>December 19, 2012</i>	125

Lord's Day Appointments - December 30, 2012

DEVOTIONS:		OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture	- Trent Thomas	Morning - Jody Everett	A.M. - Tim Allen	A.M. - Trent Thomas
Song Leader	- Don Minor	Evening - Tommy Ridings	P.M. - Gene Southern	P.M. - Mark Minor
Prayer	- Neal Harper		Wed. - Gene S. & Wayne A.	

NURSERY (0-2 1/2):		NURSERY (2 1/2-4):	Greeters: <u>December:</u>	FELLOWSHIP MEAL:
Morning	- Robin Hauser	Morning - Mary Anne Allen	Gene & Gaye Ruark	
Evening	- Debbie Southern	Evening - Jessica Lay		

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday:	- December 23	Frank Shepard
Wednesday:	- December 26	Frank Shepard

**Sewing this Week: December 23, 2012*

Devotions:	Opening Prayer	a.m. - Jody Everett	Scripture Reader	a.m. - Trent Thomas
Scripture: Trent Thomas		p.m. - Tommy Ridings		p.m. - Mark Minor
Song: Don Minor	Song Leaders:	a.m. - Tim Allen	Nursery #1:	a.m. - Robin Hauser
Prayer: Neal Harper		p.m. - Gene Southern		p.m. - Debbie Southern
		Wed. - Gene S. and Wayne A.	Nursery #2:	a.m. - Mary Anne Allen
				p.m. - Jessica Lay

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - *Nursery open for small children during all services.*

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:50 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service	7:00 PM
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“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

ELDERS

David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh

DEACONS

Randy Warner
Tommy Rose
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor
Jason Allen
Mike Cooper
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason