

Today's Sermons:

AM "Peace, Be Still!" (Mark 4:34-41)

PM "Studies in Revelation" (Chapter 12)

Those Privileged To Serve:

Announcements: Willard Ellison
 AM Song Leader: Mark Miller
 AM Prayer: Tim Winters
 Lord's Supper: Mark Miller, Leroy Kennell,
 Matthew Winters
 PM Song Leader: Matthew Winters
 PM Prayer: Bill Powers
 Lord's Supper: Leroy Kennell
 Wed Song Leader: Tim Winters
 Wed Invitation: Bill Powers

Records For Last Week:

Contribution: \$1329
 Daily Bible Readers: 6
 Sunday Bible Study: 25
 AM Worship: 35
 PM Worship: NA
 Wednesday Bible Study: 17

Building Fund:

\$80,110

Prepare Communion For December 2009
Debbie Matkins



Bible Questions

(ANSWERS NEXT WEEK)

31. What was the first miracle of Jesus?
32. About how big is the Sea of Galilee?
33. What famous queen visited Solomon?
34. Name the twelve apostles.
35. Which of the apostles was an elder?
36. Who were with Jesus at the transfiguration?
37. Of what tribe did Jesus come?
38. What woman was "highly favored" by the Lord?
39. Who said: "When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee"?
40. Who said: "It is far more blessed to give than to receive"?

For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More

<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Back to the Bible

A Weekly Publication of the West Jefferson Church of Christ

Volume II

December 6, 2009

Issue #49

221 Barnett Street
 West Jefferson, NC 28694
 Phone: (336) 846-5615
www.wjchurchofchrist.org

Minister:

Tim Canup
 (336) 846-5616
info@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:.....10:00am
 AM Worship:.....11:00am
 PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....9:35am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKK

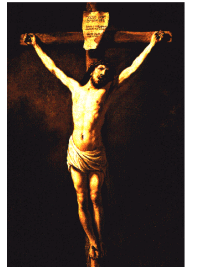
13th Annual Lectureship

*Thought Provoking Questions From
 the New Testament*
 September 24-26, 2010

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our Visitors!**

Preach the Cross, Not the Manger

By
Jeff Asher



Part 1

As important as the birth of Christ is to God's scheme of redemption, true Christians and churches of Christ do not celebrate "Christmas Day" in memory of the birth of Christ either religiously or non-religiously. Why is this?

The Scriptures do not reveal when Christ was born with respect to the day, week or month. The Scriptures are silent with respect to any festival or holy day of obligation in memory of, in celebration of, or in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ. Therefore, no man has divine authority to designate a day for His birth and assign a religious celebration to that day to be observed by Christians.

The religious observance of "Christes Masse" was not known until the fourth century A.D. There is historical evidence that Christians repudiated its observance upon any day as late as the mid-third century. The Catholic church attributes its papal origin to Liberius in 354 A.D. Beyond this year there is nothing but pagan ritual associated with December 25th.

Continued Inside

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 6 – MEN’S BUSINESS MEETING AND LADIES’ BIBLE CLASS – AFTER PM WORSHIP
- DECEMBER 14 – SINGING AT MARGATE HEALTH AND REHAB – 6:30 PM

Those Needing Our Prayers:

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).



Krissy & Susie Stanley (job)	Philip & Anthony Salmon (adoption)	Harlod Jones Family
Marsha Greer	Ray Poe	Sue Barker
Tosha Miller	Danielle Matkins	Mark Miller
Shannon Rash & Family	Sue Wiles Family	Burl & Pearl Price
Bradley & Marlene Cornett	Hazel Campbell	Anna McClure
Karen, Tulsa and Jolie Adams	Allen & Chastity Abbott	Tom & Della Jones
David & Sandy Boone	Becky Venable	Larry & Wanda Pless
Everett & Sandy Adams	Christy Grogan	Leroy Kennell
Steven Winters	Jim Winters	Amanda Winters
Clayton Winters	Eugene Kidder	Savannah Bedenbaugh

Our Shut- Ins

Mary Turner – Margate Health & Rehab; Room #415A, 540 Waugh St., Jefferson, NC 28640

Answers to Last Week's Bible Questions

21. **Solomon.** Ecclesiastes 2:13.
22. **David.** 2 Samuel 23:1.
23. **“Fear God and keep his commandments.”** Ecclesiastes 12:13.
24. **Amos 3:3.**
25. **Elijah.** 1 Kings 17:6.
26. **Elisha.** 2 Kings 6:6.
27. **Hezekiah.** 2 Kings 20:1.
28. **Joseph.** Genesis 37:19.
29. **Peter.** Luke 5:5.
30. **Christians.** 2 Corinthians 5:17.



How did you do? Did you get them all?

True Christians look upon the day as they do any other holiday designated by the government or custom. Therefore, we have no church "Christmas" parties and no special services on December 24th or 25th. Not only do we not have them, we oppose such being done in the name of the Lord. However, we accept it as a legal holiday and individually observe the non-religious customs that are associated with it which are legitimate and righteous.

Jesus' Birth Not Important?

The fact that we do not make a special observance for the birth of Christ does not mean that we regard it as unimportant or unnecessary. Quite the contrary. Without the birth of Christ exactly as it occurred prophecy would have been unfulfilled, there would have been no example for us in the flesh, the greatest doctrines man has known would have been untaught, all righteousness would not have been done, and man would still be in his sins. Yes, the birth of Christ is important.

But, His birth was not all that was necessary for our salvation from past sins and our new birth unto a living hope. His adult life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension unto the Father's right hand were all essential to effect God's eternal purpose ([Romans 4:25; 5:8-10; 1 Corinthians 15:16,17; Galatians 4:4,5; Hebrews 5:7-9; 10:5ff](#)).

The announcement of Christ's birth to Joseph was in terms comprehending the total mission of His life which culminated in His death: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" ([Matthew 1:21](#)). Even Jesus, when speaking of His birth, put it in the context of His death, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" ([Matthew 20:28](#)). The Scriptures focus upon the death of Christ as the climax of His coming, not His birth ([John 19:30](#)).

Furthermore, it is not Christ's birth that Christians or the church are commanded to memorialize by a feast. Rather, the Scriptures authorize the proclamation of the Lord's death until He comes every first day of the week by the observance of the Lord's Supper ([1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7; Matthew 26:28](#)). Ironically, some who will be upset that I would suggest that "[Christmas](#)" is not a holy day, will be the very ones to deny the importance of the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper.

Continued Next Week