

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	15
Sunday AM Worship	23
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wed. Bible Study	10
Offering	\$1525

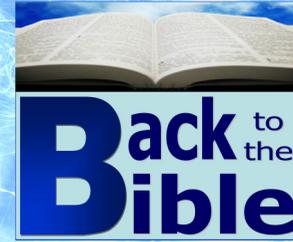
Organization of the Church

This organization pertains to each local congregation
of the Lord's Church



▶ CHRIST IS THE HEAD	→ Ephesians 5:23
▶ ELDERS	→ Acts 20:17, 28
▶ DEACONS	→ 1 Timothy 3:8-13
▶ EVANGELISTS	→ 2 Timothy 4:1-5
▶ TEACHERS	→ Hebrews 5:11-14
▶ MEMBERS	→ Ephesians 4:25

"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:22-23



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

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

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

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

SHALL WE "PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS?"
By Ivie Powell

Every year about this time we hear the slogan, "Put Christ back in Christmas." This same slogan will appear on various advertisements. Even some uninformed members of the church will echo the same sentiment. Well, the truth is, it is impossible to "Put Christ back in Christmas," since He has never been in Christmas! One will search the Scriptures in vain in an attempt to find December 25 as the birth date of Christ or any other date as far as that is concerned! Scriptures nowhere assigns the exact date of our Lord's birth. The Encyclopedia Britannica (Vol.5, p.641) states: "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church, and before the 5th century there was no general consensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar, whether on January 6, March 25, or December 25."

Observe also that the Bible gives no instructions as to HOW to celebrate Christ's birth, even if the date were known! Now, if someone says, "The three wise men conferred gifts on His birthday and this is our example to follow. First, it cannot be proved that there were three wise men. Yes, three gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh),

Continued Inside

but the number of men is not mentioned. As far as that goes, one man could have brought more than one gift. Second, one must prove that the wise men came the day of Christ's birth. It is purely fictional that the wise men came to the manger as most "Christmas scenes" are presented. Jesus was born in a stable (Luke 2:1-7), but Mary, Joseph and Jesus were in a house when the wise men visited them (Matt. 2:11).

It is often stated, even by some brethren, "Well, what you say is true, but what is wrong with setting aside December 25 as the birth date of Christ?" The wrong is in establishing a religious observance without divine approval! Take note of the following passage of Scripture: "And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). Question: Where is the biblical authority for setting aside any date to observe the birth date of Christ?

Furthermore, the Bible condemns the setting aside of special days in the following passage: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10-11). The only day Christians are to observe with God's approval is the first day of the week. At which time we remember the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7).

While we are discussing the subject of: "Putting Christ back in Christmas," it is really amazing the number of people (including brethren) who will make their "annual pilgrimage" to the meeting house on so-called "Christmas Sunday" and yes, "Easter Sunday," but any other time seldom assemble with the saints! Not only that, many will spend more on gifts during this season than they give to God all year! Could it be that many will allow "Santa" to rob God of their obligation to give as they have been prospered?! The Lord did not say to give as one has prospered (1 Cor.16:1-2) only on "Christmas" and/or "Easter!"

How then, if at all, should Christians celebrate December 25? The same as they do Labor Day or Memorial Day —as just another holiday without any religious attachment! To observe this time of the year as purely social is left to the discretion of the individual. Let us always remember it is through Christ's death, burial and resurrection that true blessings have come!

Shall we "Put Christ back in Christmas?" How can this be done, since Christ was never in Christmas!

HEARD > BELIEVED > REPENTED > CONFESSED > BAPTIZED & GODWARD

What is Baptism? A REENACTMENT OF DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION

			Sprinkling*	Pouring	Immersion
1.	Element - Water	Acts 8:36	No	No	Yes
2.	Much water	John 3:23	No	No	Yes
3.	Going to water	John 8:36	No	No	Yes
4.	Going into water	Acts 8:38	No	No	Yes
5.	Burial	Romans 6:4	No	No	Yes
6.	Resurrection	Colossians 2:12	No	No	Yes
7.	Washing of body	Hebrews 10:22	No	No	Yes
8.	Coming up out of the water	Mark 1:10	No	No	Yes

What Is Its Purpose?

- "To fulfill all righteousness" Matthew 3:15
- "Shall be saved" Mark 16:16
- "For the remission of sins" Acts 2:38
- "Wash away sins" Acts 22:16
- "Into the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit" .. Matthew 28:19
- "Into Christ" Galatians 3:27
- "Into his death" Romans 6:4
- "Does now also save" 1 Peter 3:21
- "Answer of a good conscience" 1 Peter 3:21
- "To walk a new life" Romans 6:4
- "To enter the kingdom of God" John 3:5
- "Into one body" 1 Corinthians 12:13

Who Can Be Baptized?

- THOSE WHO ARE TAUGHT MATTHEW 28:19
- THOSE WHO HEAR ACTS 18:1
- THOSE WHO BELIEVE MARK 16:16
- THOSE WHO REPENT ACTS 2:38
- THOSE WHO CONFESS CHRIST ACTS 8:37; ROMANS 10:10



"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"

You Can Be Baptized ...
Your Family Can Be Baptized ...
Your Friends Can Be Baptized ...
Your work Associates can Be Baptized ...
Everybody You Know Can Be Baptized ...
Everybody You Do Not Know Can Be Baptized ...
If only they will study the Bible and obey the Gospel!



"OBEY THE GOSPEL!"

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 26 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Jan 2 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Jan 9 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell