

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

How did December 25th come to be celebrated? Christmas originated as a pagan religious holiday. Ancient Roman pagans first introduced the holiday of Saturnalia which was a week long period of lawlessness celebrated December 17-25. The ancient Greek writer and historian, Lucian, describes the festival Saturnalia holiday observance as the time when pagans honored their god, Saturn. Each Roman community selected a victim whom they forced to indulge in food and other physical pleasures throughout the week. At the festival's conclusion on December 25th the innocent victim was brutally murdered. In addition to the human sacrifice there was widespread intoxication, gambling, and sexual indulgence, with people going from house to house naked while singing (a precursor of modern caroling).

In the fourth century AD, “so-called Christianity” imported the Saturnalia festival hoping to lure the pagan masses to accept Christianity and promising them they could continue to celebrate Saturnalia as Christians. So man takes this disgusting pagan holiday and makes it the supposed birthday of Christ. The problem is there is nothing Christian about Saturnalia. The earliest Christmas holidays were celebrated by drinking, sexual indulgence, and singing naked in the streets. Some holiday?

We do rejoice that Christ was born of a virgin just as God promised in Isaiah 7:14. But we rejoice even more “**that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures**” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The word “Christmas” is not in the Bible. The Bible has absolutely nothing to say about December 25th as the birthday of Christ.

December 25th is the least likely day of the year for Christ to have been born. We read in Luke 2:8 of the angel of the Lord appearing to the “shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night”. Shepherds would not be keeping watch over their flocks in the fields at night in Palestine in December and January because it is usually cold and rainy. With the shepherds tending their flocks at night in the field indicates Jesus was born during the warmer seasons. If God wanted us to know the date of Christ's birth, He would have told us in the Bible. God has not authorized us to celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. *(continued on page 3)*

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RECORDS 11/18/2007

SERMONS 11/25/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study:	33	AM: John Manning
Sun 11 AM Assembly:	85	
Sun 6 PM Assembly:	61	PM: Jerry Manning
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:	62	
CONTRIBUTION:	\$1913	

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” - James 1:22

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Jason Parks** has been sick with a bronchial problem and much coughing.
- **Kinya Harding**, a member of the church, who has recently moved to Columbia visited Sunday evening and requested the prayers of the church.
- **Haskell Yenny**, preacher at the Irmo Chapin church, and cousin to **Paul Dillard**, had a heart attack last Saturday, but after angioplasty was doing well enough to get out to the Tuesday preacher/elder meeting at St. Andrews Road.
- **Dianne Dillard** is still suffering.
- **Don Fields** requests prayers for his daughter, **Jennifer Falstidge** who is having complications after delivering a baby several weeks ago and also his friend **Sam Nelson** in Arkansas who is fighting cancer.
- Remember all these and brother **Manning** and his bible studies at LCDC in your prayers.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart,
and my portion for ever." - Psalm 73:26

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- **Suzanne** and **Brent Adkins** are the parents of a big bouncing baby boy, **Casey Brent**, whom they brought to the assembly last Sunday to everyone's joy.
- **John Rinehart** successfully completed Army Basic training at Fort Jackson and was with us this past Sunday before going to Ft. Gordon for more training.
- The **Manning** family were together again, briefly, for Thanksgiving with **John, Joshua, Ryan and Rebecca** able to come join them.
- **Chris and Julia Crabb** and **David Kelleher** and his fiancé **Hale Percinel** were home for the holiday also. Chris is to graduate from Lipscomb University December 15. He preached for the church in Williston this past Sunday.

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." - John 15:12

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Work Team B** will meet at the building at 5 PM this Sunday.
- We had over 50 show up Friday evening for singing, and fellowship. **Ryan Manning**, gave a brief bible study on Thanksgiving.
- **Sister Marilyn Brooks** phone number is 414-6717.
- Scrap booking at the building, Saturday 12/8 2-5 pm.
- **Bible Bowl 2008** books are **Esther** and **Amos**. We'll meet briefly after the Sunday morning assembly to discuss what needs to be done.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS? (continued from page 1)

For most of the religious world, Christmas has been set aside by man as a "holy day" to celebrate the birth of Christ. Theatrical and dramatic performances entertain large crowds of people attending Christmas church services, but they don't come back any other time of the year. People want to celebrate Christmas as Christ being a babe in a manger and when Christmas is over they want to put Him in a box until next year and live their lives the rest of the year as they please. Many people celebrate Christmas with drunken parties, just as the pagans celebrated Saturnalia. Christmas is about pleasing men and not God. What do you think God thinks of all of this? In Galatians 4:10-11 Paul is condemning the Christians at Galatia for observing religious days without God's authorization. **"You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have labored for you in vain."**

For man to set up and observe a religious holiday would be adding to the word of God. We are severely warned not to add to what God has said. **"If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues written in this book"** (Revelation 22:18). Man will lose his soul in Hell by adding to what God has said. We are commanded, **"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"** (Colossians 3:17). To do something in the name of the Lord Jesus is to do it by His authority. Where in the Bible has the Lord authorized us to celebrate Christmas, December 25th or any other day as His birthday?

Since we do not have the authority from the Lord, the Christian should not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. A Christian can celebrate Christmas as a secular holiday just as we celebrate Labor Day, Memorial Day, or July 4th, but without any religious significance. We can give gifts, send holiday greetings, decorate, etc., but we have not been authorized to celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday.

- **Ron Boatwright**, church of Christ, Conway, Arkansas

THE HEART

While walking down a street one day, I passed where a man was washing a large plate-glass show-window. There was one soiled spot, which defied efforts to remove it. After rubbing hard at it, using much soap and water, and failing to remove it, he found out the trouble. "It's on the inside," he called out to someone in the store.

Many are striving to cleanse the soul from its stains. They wash it with tears of sorrow; they scrub it with the soap of resolve; they rub it with the towel of morality, but still the consciousness of it is not removed. The trouble is, "It is on the inside." It is the heart that is bad. If the fountain is bitter, the stream will not be sweet.

That is why Solomon said, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"* (Pro. 4:23), and *"for as he thinketh within himself, so is he"* (Pro. 23:7). Thus, we need to heed the instruction of the Psalmist, *"Thy word have I laid up in my heart, That I might not sin against thee"* (Psa. 119:11).

- **Tom Moore**, Gospel Preacher, North Main Church of Christ Malvern, Arkansas