# Does the Bible instruct us to celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus?

We sometimes hear Christians say "If it isn't in the Bible, it isn't for me". Perhaps this should be the test for all that we do in this life. If we use this saying as a rule:

- 1. We must either find Christmas in our Bibles, or we must not celebrate it.
- 2. We must find instructions in the Bible telling us to celebrate the birth of Christ, or we must not celebrate it.

The fact is that there isn't anything in the Bible that instructs us to celebrate either Christmas, or the birth of Christ. The Bible is perfect. Everything that God expects of us is in the Bible. If God had commanded us to celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, the date of celebration and the method of celebration would be in the Bible. God did want us to remember Christ Jesus, and he gave very clear instructions on how to do this in Luke 22:19 and again in 1st Corinthians 11:23-11:25. The Bible does not instruct us to celebrate **Christmas.** If the Bible is our only guide, we will not celebrate Christmas.

#### **Is Christmas True?**

The celebration of Christmas takes place on December 25th. We have already seen that Christmas is defined as either commemorating or honoring the birth of Christ. However, there is no Biblical evidence telling us that

Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. In fact every Christian source I checked, appeared to be in agreement that **Jesus was most likely not born on Christmas**.

There is Biblical evidence that suggests that Christ was not born in December. For example, Luke 2:8 tells us that there were shepherds abiding in the fields at night.

Luk 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. It is not the custom in Israel for Shepherds or sheep to be kept in the fields at night during the winter. They are kept in Sheepfolds. The Bible also tells us in Luke 2:3 through Luke 2:5 that Joseph and Mary were traveling to Bethlehem to be taxed. It was very unlikely that the government of the time would have required the people to pay taxes in the winter, because of the way the tax system worked. Those being taxed were required to travel to the town of their birth in order to be taxed. While this does not provide concrete proof that the events did not take place in December, it does serve to again cast doubt on the possibility

There are no specific verses that tell us exactly when Christ was born. There are only small clues throughout the scriptures; all of which, seem to point us away from December as a possible birth month for Christ. In truth, all of the evidence leads us to conclude that it

is highly unlikely that the day called Christmas, is the day our Savior was born on. Therefore, if we say that Christmas is the birth date of Christ, we are lying. In that single respect, Christmas is a lie. The Bible doesn't instruct us to celebrate the birth of Christ, but it does instruct us to worship in truth.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

### Is the Bible our only guide?

If the Bible is our only guide, then what have we learned?

- 1. The Bible does not tell us clearly when Christ was born.
- 2. The Bible does not tell us to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- 3. The Bible does not instruct us to celebrate a holiday called "Christmas".
- 4. The Bible does not give any indication of how such a celebration should take place, if it were to be observed.
- 5. We are not worshiping in truth if we celebrate this day as the birth of Christ.

For Biblically based Christians, the issue of whether or not to partake in the festivities of Christmas, should be permanently settled upon the basis of its exclusion from our Holy Bible.

### What is Christmas?

To find the answer to this basic question, I dusted off my copy of The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary Of The English Language, printed in 1990. Christmas, is defined there as "the annual festival observed by Christians on Dec. 25, commemorating the birth of Christ".

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary defines Christmas as "a Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ or the period of time that comes before and after this holiday".

Dictionary.com defines Christmas as "the annual festival of the Christian church commemorating the birth of Jesus: celebrated on December 25 and now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts".

All of those definitions tell us that this holiday or festival is celebrated by Christians, and commemorates the birth of Christ. The word of God is the foundation upon which Christianity is built. The Bible is the inspired word of God and is our school master when it comes to Christian principles and behavior. Does the Bible support the definitions for Christmas, that are given in these dictionaries?

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## Is Christmas True



This informational pamphlet gives the reader a basic understanding of Christmas from a Biblical viewpoint.

