

The Christian and Christmas

Galatians 4:8-11

Introduction:

- A. We, like Paul, concerned when brethren observe days, months, seasons and years".
 - 1. Not talking about all "special observances": Birthdays, Anniversaries, all holidays, etc.
 - 2. Talking about unauthorized "religious observances": Religious holidays (holy days).
- B. Christians have a real problem with holidays like Christmas.
 - 1. To what extent, if any, may we keep this holiday season?
 - 2. To what extent, if any, must we abstain from customs rooted in false religion?
 - a. Calendar names.
 - b. Sign of physicians.
 - c. Vulcan
- C. Christians should keep three Bible principles in mind in considering Christmas:

Discussion:

I. We Must Not Engage In Any Unauthorized Religious Practice (Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9-11)

- A. "Christmas" is no part of Biblical religion.
 - 1. Bible does not mention:
 - a. "Christmas"
 - b. The date of Christ's birth
 - c. Any special observances of the anniversary of His birth.
 - 2. Bible does warn against presumption in religion. (2 Pet. 2:10; Rev. 22:18,19)
- B. "Christmas" is rooted in false religion. (cf. Baker's Dict. Of Theo. p. 117)
 - 1. "Christmas" (Christ-Mass) and "Santa Claus" (Saint Ni-chlos) obviously Catholic.
 - 2. Probably introduced by Constantine to correspond to pagan sun feast.
 - 3. Many of practices tied to paganism: Tree, lights, holly, etc.
- C. "Christmas" observances distort Biblical truth. cf. Three wise men at manger.

II. We May Non-Religiously Do Some Things Others Do Religiously.

- A. The washing of hands before eating. (Matt. 15:9).
 - 1. The Pharisees were wrong because they did it religiously.
 - 2. But, Christians were not forbidden to wash at all because other did it religiously.
- B. Paul evidently observed customs of Jewish Nation but not religiously.
 - 1. He shaved his head with taking a vow. (Acts 21:20-26). O.T. was Jewish Civil law too. Gentiles not subject to Jewish National laws.
 - 2. He had Timothy (a Jew) circumcised but not Titus (a Gentile). Acts 16:3; Gal. 2:3).
- C. Meat offered to idols could be eaten socially, but not "as meat offered to idols" (1 Cor. 8:7; 10:27,28).
 - 1. We may observed "Christmas" customs socially rather than as religious holiday.
 - 2. We do many things connected with Christmas at any time including December 25 -- Give gifts, express good will, sing seasonal songs, send cards -- not religiously.

III. We Must Be Careful Not To Abuse Any Liberty That We Might Have. (1 Cor. 8:9)

- A. No liberty should be done in way that puts stumbling block in brother's way. (1 Cor. 8:9-10).
- B. No liberty should be used for licence for excess - easy to do at Christmas.
 - 1. Intemperance in eating, giving, etc. - lose self-control.
 - 2. Robbing Lord of contribution to pay "Santa Claus"

Conclusion: Let be careful not to:

- A. Engage in Christmas' religious practices: Religious Xmas plays, Religious Christmas songs.
- B. Get caught up in spirit of Christmas and cause others to stumble