

The Real Meaning of Christmas

Exodus 12:21-28

Introduction:

- A. A great question in verse 26: “What do you mean by this service?”
 - 1. What did the Passover mean?
 - 2. What does the Lord’s Supper mean?
 - 3. What does Christmas mean?
- B. To explain the real meaning of Christmas we need to consider:
 - 1. Its Origin.
 - 2. Its Observance

Discussion:

I. The Origin of Christmas.

- A. Not in the Bible.
 - 1. No date given for the birth Christ, but December 25 unlikely.
 - 2. No day or service given to remember His birth — Unlike Lord’s Supper.
- B. A product the apostate Church (cf. Thess. 2:1-4).
 - 1. Catholic marks all over it.
 - a. “Christmas” is Christ + mass.
 - b. St. Nicholas was a pope that died in 867
 - 2. Catholic attempt to “Christianize” pagan observances.
 - a. December 25 the “Birthday of sun” declared by Aurelian (274 A.D.)
 - b. December 17-24 was Saturnalia with merry making and exchange of gifts.
 - c. German-Celtic customs of yule logs, fir trees, gifts, etc.
 - d. Kalends of January (Jan 1) homes decorated, lights, greenery, gifts to children.
 - e. Twelve days of Christmas combined December 25 with January 6.

II. The Observance of Christmas

- A. The religious observance.
 - 1. An unauthorized practice (cf. 2 John 9-11; Matt. 15:9).
 - 2. A presumptuous addition (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:8,9).
- B. The non-religious observance.
 - 1. Non-religious observance of associated customs (cf. Acts 21:20-26; 1 Cor. 9:20-22; 1 Cor. 8 and 10; Acts 16:3; Gal 2:3)
 - 2. One must be cautious about his influence (cf. 1 Cor. 8:9-13).

Conclusion:

- A. Christmas does not mean the birthday of Christ to me.
- B. Christmas is just a holiday season to enjoy family and friends.
- C. Christmas would be much like the Passover, Pentecost, etc. for Christian living in Jewish state.

----- Christmas

Christmas, in the Christian church, annual festival held on December 25 to celebrate the birth of [Jesus Christ](#). Scholars believe that the festival is derived in part from rites held by pre-Christian Germanic and Celtic peoples to celebrate the winter [solstice](#). Christmas festivals have been observed by Christians since the 4th century and incorporate many pagan customs, such as the use of holly and mistletoe. Dutch settlers brought to the Americas the custom of celebrating Saint Nicholas's Eve (December 5) with gift giving. British settlers took over the tradition as part of their Christmas celebration. The name for [Santa Claus](#) is derived from [Saint Nicholas](#) -- [Microsoft Book Shelf Encylop](#).