

Beaconcfc.com (under construction)

Website

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Goodam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).

2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).

3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).

4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).

5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address

By the Numbers:

Week of 12/16/18

Contribution – \$2108

Attendance:


Sunday Bible Classes – 31

Sunday Worship * – 62

Wednesday Night – 33

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week's Answer: Yes. It is a sin to wound a brother's or sister's conscience (1 Cor. 8:12).

Q: Why did Paul choose not to use his power to obtain pay from Corinth for his preaching?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - Keeping Christ in the Manger

1) While we certainly want to be reverent and thankful towards Christ's birth, we must not pretend like He remained a babe.

2) He grew into an adult, and He taught, lived, and died for all of us.

PM - A Closer Look at Ezra & Nehemiah

1) This lesson will mainly recap what we have discussed in our Sunday adult Bible class.

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

December 23, 2018

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

The Birth of Christ — Religious Holiday?

Chase Green

I want to state right off the bat that this is a touchy subject for many, and understandably so. Because of the repeated efforts of those who are against Christianity to remove all references of Christ from the public sentiment, it is very difficult to watch them attack Christ in reference to Christmas, too. While I understand that frustration, we also need to understand that we have no command, example, or even implication of observing Christ's birth as a religious holiday anywhere in the New Testament.

According to my count, there are some thirteen or so references to Christ's birth in both the Old and New Testaments (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; 11:1; Zec. 9:9; Jer. 23:5; Mic. 5:2; Mat. 1:23; 2:1-12; Luke 1:39-55; 2:7, 15-20; John 1:9-14; Gal. 4:4). Examine these verses closely, and you will find that not once have we been commanded to remember Jesus' birth as a yearly observance. If God desired this, He would certainly have made it known to us, as He did concerning things like the Old Testament observances of the Passover (Exo. 12:14), the Sabbath (Exo. 20:8; observance of every Sabbath is implied), and the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27), or the New Testament observance of the Lord's Supper (instituted in Mat. 26:26-28; with Acts 20:7 showing us that this was commemorated on the first day of the week). But there is no indication anywhere that God desired a yearly observance of Christ's birth, and in fact, this was not done until a few centuries after the church was established.

Before I move on, let me state that when we discuss these matters, we need to be careful not to give the impression that we are anti-Christ. It can be very easily misinterpreted that we too are anti-Christ, just like the aforementioned secular foes of Christianity, because we do not observe Christmas as a religious observance. This of course is not our intent at all. We simply must realize that everything we do as a religious observance must be done by the authority given to us in the New Testament (Col. 3:17). We certainly do not want to dishonor Christ during this time of year, and we are thankful that people tend to be more receptive to talking about Christ this time of year, but there simply is no biblical precedent for proclaiming this time of year as any more significant than any other time of year, religiously speaking.

Now let us discuss the origins of Christmas. The origin of Christmas can easily be understood by breaking it down to its root words: "Christ" and "Mass." As one is most probably aware, the term "Mass" is indicative of the Catholicized version of communion. (cntd. on pg. 2)

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lacey & Ryan Smith, as the birth of their baby (Parker Ryan) is drawing near — Lindy Brown (has been undergoing physical therapy for her neck) — Kaitlyn Wilson

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- We are happy to announce that Virginia Wainwright has placed membership with the congregation here. Be sure to get to know her and welcome her to the congregation!
- Please note: We will be transitioning our *Know Your Bible* series to a Bible class format — If you want to continue to hear these lessons, be sure to be here Sundays at 9:45am — These lessons are helpful for understanding how the books of the Bible all come together as on marvelous work of inspiration that details to man what he must do to be saved — Starting in January!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Moved to Monday, December 31 at 5:00pm until. This will also be a game night.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

The Catholic “Mass” is the central religious observance of the Catholic church’s worship services. It is observed at various times, with “Christ’s Mass” occurring every year on December 25th, regardless of the day of week. According to Catholic doctrine, during mass, also called the Eucharist, the bread and wine are consecrated by the Catholic priest in such a way that the bread becomes the literal body of Jesus Christ, and the wine becomes the literal blood of Jesus Christ. This doctrine is usually referred to as the Doctrine of Transubstantiation. It is extremely problematic because it teaches that, among other things, Christ’s body and blood continues to be offered over and over again as a sacrificial offering to atone for man’s sin, which clearly contradicts Heb. 10:10, which says that Christ was sacrificed “once for all.” Thus, the entire premise of the “Mass” is based on blatant error. And to observe a “Christ’s Mass” would be to continue to propagate such error.

Let us now delve a little deeper into the origin of the “Christ Mass.” According to *World Book Encyclopedia*, “(Catholic) Bishop Liberious of Rome in **354 A.D.** ordered that December 25th be adopted as the birth date of Christ” (emphasis on the date mine, TCG). So, some 350 years AFTER the birth of Christ, a man by the name of Liberious decided to set a date for Christ’s birth. That ought to tell us something. (I believe wholeheartedly that there is a reason God did not give us a date in His Word. I believe God knew that man would worship the date rather than the Christ Himself, which is really what we see going today if you think about it).

Purportedly, Liberious gave this reasoning for creating the Christ Mass — “We have a Mass for every Saint, but there is no Mass for Christ” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*). Thus, inadvertently, this

“bishop” revealed that the purpose of creating the “Christ Mass” was because all of these other “Masses” had slighted our Lord, and in his mind we needed to make up for that by creating one for Christ. What would have been the correct way to amend for this would be to scrap all of these unauthorized “Masses” and instead worship the Lord as He had already authorized in His Word (Cf. John 4:24)! But, as usually is the case, Liberious responded to an error by producing further error.

Now, as to why the date of December 25th was chosen, it is important to note that with almost complete certainty, we can conclude that the Lord was NOT born in December, for the shepherds were in the fields (Luke 2:8), and the shepherds were only in the fields from about March to October. Most scholars believe that Jesus was actually born around September or October, but regardless, again, God did not give us a date of His birth, likely for good reason.

So why then was the date December 25 chosen? As described in *The New Chaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, “The pagan festival (Brumalia, Dec. 25) with its riot and merry-making (sounds like “revellings,” Gal. 5:21, TCG) was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit or in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the nearer East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ’s birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival. Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it” (the term “Christians,” of course, used accommodatively here, TCG).

Thus, the origins of the “Christ Mass” were of such that it coincided with the pagan holiday of the glorification of sin. While the pagan origins of the “Christ Mass” have long been forgotten by most, it cannot be ignored. It is of little wonder that those who were as little concerned with improper worship were also little concerned with morality, and this came out quite clearly in early celebrations of Christmas.

While this writer certainly sees nothing wrong with celebrating a happy time of year with family and friends, in which presents can be given, special meals can be consumed, and good deeds could be performed, we need to be aware of the faulty origins of Christmas as a religious holiday, and need not to celebrate it as such. I know that this is not a popular position, but since when are we as Christians called to be popular (Cf. Rom. 12:2; Titus 2:14)?

Again, we also need to be aware of the increasingly secular nature of our society, and the anti-Christian attacks that happen to be frequent this time of year. While I do not believe we need to “keep Christ in Christmas,” (for He was never affiliated with any “Christ Mass” to begin with), we still need to take great care when we discuss these matters with people, so that we too do not appear to be anti-Christ. It is a difficult balancing act for sure, as we have been put in this position as the result of the errors from both sides of the issue. But let us strive to remember, that whatever we “do in word or deed, do all in the name of (by the authority of, TCG) the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17).

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com