



BIBLE TALK

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Question: Is December 25th Christ's Birthday?

Answer: The religious world observes the "Christmas holy day," yet, the Bible offers not a word to help us determine the day of the Savior's birth. History is likewise silent. "The day of Christ's birth cannot be ascertained from the New Testament, or any other source. The fathers of the first three centuries do not speak of any special observance of the nativity (McClintock and Strong Ency.). Chrysostom in 386 stated that it was not celebrated until A.D. 376. Dec. 25th was determined by the decree of Liberious, bishop of the church of Rome in A.D. 354. Other days were set forth, but Dec. 25th was selected because, "The Western church ordered the feast to be celebrated on the day of Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun" (Americana). The name "Christes Mass" reveals its Catholic origin.

If it is not of Biblical origin, should we observe this as a holy day unto God? Jesus taught us to "*observe all things whatsoever (He) commanded*" (Matt. 28:20). We should not observe it as a religious holiday if not commanded by our Lord. Paul warns the saints to "*not go beyond the things which are written*" in 1 Cor. 4:6. To celebrate as a religious holiday would be vain worship for it is but a precept of men (Matt. 15:9). God gave His church only one special day—the first day of the week. This is the day of Christ's resurrection and the beginning date of the church (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2). Sinful man is not in the position to help God in selecting the appropriate acts of worship. Had God wanted this day to be observed, He would have told us. The Galatian Christians took up the observance of "*days, and months, and seasons, and years.*" The reason for concern is seen in Gal. 1:6-8; they were "*removed from...the grace of Christ unto a different gospel.*" Be cautious to not allow tradition and make believe to be observed and enforced as dictates of God!

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