

Christmas - Past For Another Year

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Christmas has come and gone for another year. People ask, "Did you have a good Christmas?" What qualifies as a "Good Christmas?" For some, and maybe for most, it is the family getting together with food and presents. Some find it a stressful time with increased debts and the pressure to get gifts for family. There are those who have forgotten much of it in a few days. At least until it is time to pay for it all.

Christmas means "Mass for Christ." It was observed by the church centuries ago to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I don't know just how they celebrated this, or just when it began, but I don't think it was like we observe it today. Christmas has become a time for the merchants to make a lot of money. People have been led to think that the way to have a "Good Christmas" is to get a lot of presents. How does getting and giving gifts to each other celebrate the birth of Jesus?

While there is nothing wrong with the exchange of gifts, it does nothing to glorify, or thank God for all he has given us. If we let ourselves

become blinded to the gift of God and focus on the material things of life, we miss the meaning of Christmas. When this happens we celebrate not the Lord, but the gifts, given and received.

I have heard older people tell of Christmas when they were young. Most say that they were happy to receive an orange, or some candy. They thought that they were blessed to have such a gift that to them was a rare treat. How many of us today would be sad, angry, disappointed, and think that it would be the worst Christmas ever? It is a shame that so many of us have come to think that happiness depends on material things. We are blessed if we have Jesus in our life; love of family and friends. If we have food, a home, and the things that we need, then we are truly blessed.

Think back to the birth of Jesus. We are told in the gospels that Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem, which was a hard trip. Then they couldn't find a room in the inn so when Jesus was born he was placed in a manger. Aside from the gifts of the wise men there was much trouble concerning the birth of Jesus. Herod wanted to kill him and tried to do it. He had all male children, two years old and under killed. (Matthew 2:16). He wanted no one to be called king but himself. Herod tried to stop God's plan of salvation, but like all who oppose God, he failed.

Consider the gift giving for a moment. In Matthew 2:11 we see the giving of gifts. They were gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. We don't know how much gold, or the quantity of the other gifts. Because three different things were mentioned, folks figure that there were three wise men. There could have been more, some giving the same gifts. What we do know for sure is that the gifts were given to Jesus. He is God's gift to mankind. Now we have gotten to the point where we give gifts to each other and little is said of Christ.

Some churches even cancel services on Christmas day if it falls on a Sunday. To me that is inexcusable. Isn't it like saying, "Jesus, we're going to celebrate your birthday by staying home, and you're not invited." They that do this shows just how much they think of the Lord and how important he is in their lives.

How did you celebrate this year? Did you remember what Christmas means and the one that we say that we believe in? I hope you had a good Christmas and that you remembered to thank God for the greatest gift, Jesus. **John 3: 16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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Gum Springs Church of God
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Pastor Glenn Case • Call 723-4180
Church Services
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Harg First Church of God
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416 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

CAIN and ABEL

WHEN CAIN AND ABEL MAKE OFFERINGS TO GOD, THE LORD REJECTS CAIN'S OFFERING AND CAIN IS FILLED WITH JEALOUSY AND ANGER AT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S ACCEPTANCE...



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