



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 27, 2013

Heart to Heart...

This might be a good time to write this. We will soon be coming upon a time of the year when many will be talking and portraying the birth of Jesus in what is called "Christmas". Paul warned the church: ***"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*** (Colossians 2:8) We must be a people who do things *"according to Christ"* and not taken captive *"according to the traditions of the world."*

Christmas is a world tradition, not according to Christ. There may be those here today reading this and asking, *"This church doesn't believe in Christmas as the birth of Jesus?"* The church of the living God is *"the pillar and support of the truth."* (I Timothy 1:15) To support the truth we must make certain things are done *"according to Christ."*

We need to be students of God's word and not follow what others are saying. People might think this doesn't matter but it does greatly. The world is telling us what to believe and it's not accurate. Whether one agrees or disagrees, the world is having an impact on many in the Lord's church today. Just listen to how many in the Lord's body follow the world's idea of Christmas.

Jesus sent His apostles into the world with ONE message to hear and celebrate: His death, burial and resurrection. From the birth of Jesus (which is Biblical) to His ascension there was only one theme: Atonement for sin. Jesus entered our world and the angel declared: ***"A Savior is born."*** (Luke 2:11) A Savior! That means someone is in trouble and Jesus is the rescuer! There is nothing in Scripture to tell us the time He was born. (It can't be in December with shepherds in the field!) His birth is recorded to show the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies made hundreds of years before and how God kept His word. The birth of Jesus was never celebrated by the Lord's church. The message that rang out was Jesus died for our sins and He is coming back for the saved. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated each first day of the week in the Lord's Supper. That was the command of Jesus. That was the teaching of the apostles. That's the hope of the saved. **THAT'S OUR CELEBRATION!**

Christmas is an idea of man, not the Lord. (The word is Catholic in origin!) There is no such mention of this in God's word. Man has made it believed that we celebrate the birth of Jesus and it has taken captive so many. For the sincere Christian, you can use any day you wish to express love for someone and enjoy time off (such as Thanksgiving or July 4). Romans 14 addresses things like this. If you want to give gifts, have a tree or lights, Romans 14 says that's alright too, just like shooting fireworks on July 4 or birthday celebrations for family. There may be some who do not want anything to do with the Christmas holiday and that okay too! But to tie December 25 to the birth of Jesus, making it holy time tying it to God (Jesus is reason for the season??) and a special service to honor Christ, Jesus did not teach that nor did His apostles.

Be careful what you tie to the Lord Jesus and His doctrine. Let's teach the Scripture and hold to the Scripture as the Lord has revealed. All of this reveals why religion is messed up because there is so much inaccuracy and so many are taken captive because of it. People are not loving the truth looking into God's word to see if things are true or not. You will see its roots and it's not "*according to Christ.*" Think about it!!!

Brent