

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Al Corkren

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Eddie Dickinson
Bradley Box
Josh Berryhill

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Mary Eddy

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:

Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ

930 Main Street

P.O. Box 222

Brilliant, AL 35548

How He Came...



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



THE BIRTH OF JESUS: FACT AND FALLACY

In order to live and die for sinners, “the Word became flesh” and dwelt among men (John 1:14). The Christ’s birth was a necessary part of the Godhead’s plan to save the lost. If you and I want to learn what God says about the birth of Jesus, then we need to read what the Bible says. When it comes to our Lord’s birth, we must separate fact from fallacy.

Fact: “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea” (Matthew 2:1), just as the prophet Micah had prophesied (Micah 5:2).

Fallacy: Jesus was born in Jerusalem. That’s what the Book of Mormon says (Alma 7:10).

Fact: Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus (Matthew 1:24-25), but not afterwards (Matt. 13:55-56; Mark 6:3).

Fallacy: Mary remained a virgin for her entire life. That’s what Catholicism and other similar religious groups teach.

Fact: On the night Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord informed some shepherds in the region of Bethlehem that the Christ had been born. Those shepherds went with haste and found “the Babe lying in a manger” (Luke 2:16).

Fallacy: The wise men who visited the infant Jesus came to the manger at the same time the shepherds did. Modern-day “manger scenes” portray Joseph, Mary, shepherds, and wise men all together around baby Jesus in a manger. In truth, when the wise men/magi arrived where Jesus was, they went “into the house” (Matthew 2:11). Again, when the shepherds visited Him, He was in a manger; by the time the wise men came, He was in a house.

Fact: Wise men came from the East to see Jesus, bringing Him gifts. They gave Him three types of gifts: “gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Don Lawrence: recovering from knee replacement, please be praying that he has a successful recovery

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Karen Chaffin: has had fainting spells, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

Pray for all those dealing with COVID especially those of the household of faith.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please pray that those working with her can help her

Bill Berryhill: scans revealed cancer top of his hip; please be praying that treatments will be successful in defeating this cancer

Patty Berryhill: recovering from recent intestinal blockages being removed, please pray that she has no further problems

Upcoming Events

- Tonight 3rd Sunday Night Singing & Prayer
- Tonight Holiday Fellowship Night (Following Worship)
- December 31st New Year’s Eve - Game Night (Beginning @ 5:00 pm)

Fallacy: The Bible says there were three wise men who visited Jesus after He was born. In truth, the Bible does not tell us how many wise men there were. “But, I have always been told there were three, and even in some of our songs, we sing that there were three.” The Bible does not say so. “But, every picture that you see or every movie about Jesus’ birth always shows three wise men.” That may be the case, yet the Bible does not tell us there were three. The Bible says that wise “men” came — “men” is plural, meaning there were at least two. It is possible that there were three, but it is also possible that there were two or ten or more. Since the Bible does not say how many wise men, no human has the right to declare there were three. People need to stop saying and teaching things they cannot prove. Someone says, “But there were three gifts.” Which proves what? It certainly does not prove how many gift-givers there were. A loving son might give his mother two different gifts on her birthday — that would be two gifts from only one giver, right? Here is a Bible example to compare: Jacob sent ten sons to carry six or seven different types of presents to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 43:11). So, the number of givers is not always the same as the number of gifts given.

Fact: Jesus was born “in the days of Herod the king” (Matthew 2:1) and when Augustus was emperor of the Roman Empire (Luke 2:1). Biblically speaking, it is also true that He was born “when the fullness of the time had come” (Galatians 4:4).

Fallacy: The Bible gives the specific month and day of Jesus’ birth. What a surprise it is for some people when they learn the truth that nowhere does the Bible record in which month our Lord was born. “Come on, everyone knows that Jesus was born on the 25th of December.” No, my friend, not everyone knows that. In fact, no one knows such a thing — it cannot be proven. There is not a single Bible verse which records either the month or the day of the month when Jesus was born. Thus, men ought to stop speculating and misleading people by declaring the 25th of December to be “Jesus’ birthday.” God’s word says no such thing.

Fact: The first-century Christians worshipped on the first day of every week, and in the process, took the Lord’s Supper as a memorial to the death of Jesus (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). There is no Bible record, however, of any early saints carrying out a celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Fallacy: The Bible teaches that believers in Jesus should celebrate Christmas. The word “Christmas” is not in the Bible. The idea of God’s children designating a special day to celebrate the birth of His Son is not in the Bible. It is a man-made idea, making worship and service to God in vain (Mark 7:7; Matthew 15:8-9). The New Testament does not authorize a religious feast called “Christmas,” so those who respect the authority of the Bible will refrain from engaging in such (Matthew 28:20; Colossians 3:17).

We must discern between fact and fallacy. Let us be content to stick with what the word of God says. Not just on this subject, but all subjects.

Obtained at: www.icotb.org

Easter, Christmas, and the Sabbath

By Terry Wheeler

Terry Wheeler Most of us love holidays and festivals – the glitter, the colors, the presents, the special schedules, and of course, the Peanuts TV specials! What is wrong with these things? In principle, absolutely nothing at all. Special days on the calendar give us opportunities to celebrate our lives in particular ways, and half the fun is in the anticipation and preparation.

A point to note is that “holiday” comes from the phrase “holy day.” Many of our fun days we celebrate started as religious observances. For many, that religious connection is real and still relevant.

There’s the rub [problem]. Special days are fine as long as we don’t confuse our calendar with God’s calendar. There are two concerns here. First, in the Old Testament, there were many special days of religious significance that God ordained, such as the Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, Atonement and others (Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16). While the Old Covenant was in force, God expected the Jews to follow such a calendar.

However, now, we are under the New Testament exclusively (Romans 10:4; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; Colossians 2:13-17). The New Testament has no such calendar, and we are forbidden to create one (1 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 4:8-11).

So, commands today for the Christian to keep the Sabbath are false. Also, to teach that manmade holidays are to be kept as holy to God, such as Christmas and Easter, is to teach falsely (Colossians 2:20-23). Personal devotion to a particular day is to be kept private and personal (Romans 14:5-6, 22).

What is the conclusion, then? Enjoy each day. Count each day that God gives you as holy to the Lord. Whatever special celebration you wish to practice on a particular day is up to you. Yet, be sure not to confuse your personal calendar with God’s schedule. Beware of any practice that advances false teaching.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

For Notes