

WHY CHRISTMAS IS NOT A MATTER OF FAITH

I do not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. Some may ask why, and some may even be offended that I do not. They may want to know why someone who loves the Lord and who is responsible for preaching the truth about Jesus and the gospel every week would not celebrate the birth of Jesus with the rest of the world on December 25th.

While we could spend some time in history examining how Jesus' birthday was not celebrated until the fourth century, A. D. 336 (first by the Catholic Church, hence "Christ-Mass"), or about how the pagan sun gods were already being worshiped on December 25th (hence the assigned date chosen by Pope Julius I), let's refrain from a lengthy discussion. Any scriptural investigation would argue against a December date for the birth of the Savior. Evidence from the timing of the birth of John (the immerser) and the service of Zaccharias in the temple (John's father), coupled with the 6 month difference in the births of John and Jesus argues for a September birth date. We could include facts about the census and the shepherds' outdoor care for their sheep and quickly understand Jesus was not born during winter. But the December 25th assignment for the birth of Jesus has nothing to do with why I do not celebrate it as a religious observance.

"Now faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" ([Rom. 10:17](#)). Since faith begins and ends with understanding God's word, believing it, and obeying it, faith is not subjective. It is not open to the whims and wishes of the individual. I do not celebrate Christmas as a holy day because God's word has not commanded me to observe it as such. It is not a matter of the Christian faith. Christmas, contrary to popular belief, is not a holy day in the mind of God. It is a day mankind has accepted to remember the birth of Jesus.

I am thankful that there is a time in our struggling society when the majority of the world has chosen to recognize the birth of Jesus. While there are constant attacks against Christianity, and efforts never end to remove God from the 21st Century world, it is great to know some things will not be taken from us. If a person chooses to think about the birth of Christ on December 25th, and thank God for sending Jesus to this sinful earth that desperately needed a Savior, what greater thing could one consider? But let us keep this in mind: God wants us to remember Jesus every day. Not just His birth, but also His life, His death, His burial, and His resurrection. He wants us to remember that Jesus is now sitting at His right hand to make intercession for us. He wants us to make Him Lord of our life. He wants us to understand He is coming a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. And when he comes on that Day, He will judge the world in righteousness.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Is. 9: 6-7

Jeremiah Tatum, Central Church of Christ, Paducah, KY



Trezevant church of Christ

114 Church St.

Trezevant, TN 38258

731-669-3448

Services:

Sunday Morning

Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

Elders:

Dale Aden

Cell: 731-415-1161

David Bryant

Cell: 731-418-1311

Home: 731-669-9648

david.bryant25@gmail.com

Steve Foster

Cell: 731-225-4395

Home: 731-669-9520

Deacons:

David Brasher

Cell: 731-415-0636

Greg McClain

Cell: 731-694-0766

Mark Wright

Cell: 731-571-5606

YOUTH COORDINATOR:

Nick Bryant: (731)694-2983

MISSION WORK: Dorian Flynn & Partners 4 Africa - West Tennessee Children's Home

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 6-Dale Ballentine,
7-Jana Blount, 10-Pam Bryant, 12-Mary Jo Hall,
23-Hunter Holmes, 23-Keith Peevyhouse,
26-Dianne Giles, 29- Britni Shepherd

ANNIVERSARIES: ? ANYBODY?

If your name is not on our Birthday/Anniversary list,
please let Rita Foster know so we can add you!

Last Week's Record

Bible Study 66

AM Worship 81

PM Worship 55

Wednesday 51

Offering \$3705.00

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

We must hear the word of God. Romans 10:17

We must believe the word of God. Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; Mark 16:15-16

We must repent of our sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

We must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

We must be immersed for the remission of our sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21

We must live faithfully until death. Revelation 2:10; Romans 12:1-2

DATES TO REMEMBER

2nd Sunday: Holiday Meal after Morning Service

3rd Sunday: Wesley Fountain Place

CYC Money due now to Nick

Pantry stocking continues. This time of year we have more need in our community.

THOSE TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Prepare Communion Trays: Dale Ballentine Power Point: Greg McClain

Greet: Sherrill and Wanda Smith

Announcements: Charlie Wachsmuth

Song Leader Sun. AM: David Bryant Song Leader Sun. PM: Keith Peevyhouse Wed.: Nick Bryant

Preside at Table: William Moore, John Long

Serve on Table: Jacob Keen, Peyton Lindsey, Zac Chrisman, Dylan Holt

Date DEC Sunday	AM Opening Prayer	AM Scripture Reading	AM Closing Prayer	PM Opening Prayer	PM Scripture Reading	PM Closing Prayer	Date Oct. Wed .	Wednesday Opening Prayer	Wednesday Devotional	Wednesday Closing Prayer
4	Dale Aden	Norris Depriest	Josh Brasher	David Brasher	Jack Lawrence	Daniel Rogers	5	Greg McClain	Steve Foster	Peyton Lindsey
11	Keith Peevyhouse	Dale Ballentine	Terry Hall	Nick Bryant	Logan Chrisman	Monte Morris	12	Mark Wright	Nck Bryant	Jacob Keen
18	Steve Foster	Daniel Roger	Monte Morris	Norris Depriest	Noah Brasher	David Brasher	19	David Bryant	Tim Rogers	Mark Wright
25	Dale Ballentine	Josh Brasher	Mark Wright	NO	SERVICE					

Haley (Chrisman) Wilson's address is: 1621 Willey St., Memphis, TN 38119 if you would be able to send a get well card to encourage her.

HEALTH WATCH & SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST: Jackie Foster, dislocated shoulder from fall; Wanda Smith, Richard Watkins, & wife, Dinah, son, Kyle; Jennifer Malm, Mary Deck (102 y/o hip surg); Sympathy to the families of Dylan Hopper, Hunter Savage; Ms. Josephine Melton passed away Wednesday; Prayers for the church family and others in Gatlinburg community and throughout TN affected by fires and storms.

SHUT-INS /NURSING HOME: Laverne Belew (Home), Helen Pinson (Harmony Hill), Betty De Priest (McKenzie Healthcare), Margaret Barlowe (Van Ayer Manor), Martha Nell Reed (Lakeside Retirement Community), Elvy Sauls Jr. (Life Care of Bruceton/Hollow Rock), Ruth Bennett

PRAYER LIST: Harris Jones, Tim Rogers, Don Foster, Penny Warren, Haley Wilson

CANCER: Morgan Fuller, Roy Crocker, Roger McCaig, John Reaves (Tim's & Wendy's friend), Christy Dickson (Mandy's cousin), Rhyann Loos – 6 year old (friend of Hayden McClain), Marilyn Crocker, Wanda Barnes, Hattie Berry, Christine Johnson. Shayla Blagaich (friend of David/Pam). **UPDATE:** Eric Champagne and John Reaves (friends of Tim & Wendy) are doing better at this time.

***IF YOU HAVE PLACED SOMEONE ON THE PRAYER OR CANCER LIST, PLEASE GIVE UPDATES SO WE CAN KEEP CURRENT. Names will rotate off monthly if no updates. You may ask for name to be added back at any time.**

VISITORS: We ask that you take and fill out one of the visitor's cards that are in the back of the pew in front of you and place in the collection plate.