

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Who Put Christ in Christmas?

During December we are reminded to, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” But who put Him there in the first place?

Did God? We know “the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world” (I John 4:14). Jesus said that He neither acted nor spoke of His own will, but that He said and did only those things authorized by His Father (John 6:38; 12:49). Is the celebration of Jesus’ birth a thing spoken by the Father to the Son?

We are not saying the birth of Jesus was not the Father’s will. It was. To God the Father, Jesus said, “A body hast thou prepared me” (Hebrews 10:5). “When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman” (Galatians 4:4). Jesus’ birth related by Matthew and Luke is not disputed. We are asking a separate question; “Did God put Christ in the tradition that we know of as ‘Christmas?’” What Scripture shows that God placed Christ in that so-called Christmas tradition? Does anyone know? If not, how can we say God put Christ in Christmas?

Did Jesus? Jesus was given all authority (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-23). Did He place Himself in Christmas? Since He is the founder and the foundation of our faith, if His Father did not put Him in Christmas, perhaps, as head of the church, He did so Himself (Ephesians 5:23-24). If He did, where might we find this information? Surely, in the New Testament, but do we find it there? Do we have a source which shows that Jesus taught His disciples to keep a tradition called Christmas, or an annual remembrance of His birth? If so, where is it? If it cannot be found, is it correct to say that Christ put Himself in Christmas and that He set Christmas in the church?

Did the Holy Spirit? Jesus promised the apostles the Spirit would guide them “into all truth,” revealing to them things He had not spoken to them directly (John 16:12-15). So, then, did the Spirit design the Christmas season as we know it, and did He put Christ in Christmas? If He did, we must accept His Word and “keep Christ in Christmas,” for to reject the Spirit is to reject God (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:13; 5:19; cf. Acts 5:3-49). Where has the Spirit revealed that He is the one who put Christ in Christmas and Christmas in the church?

Did The Apostles? To reject the Word of the apostles is to reject the Word of Christ and God (Luke 10:16; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 4:1,2,8). The “apostles’ doctrine” is “the doctrine of the Lord” (Acts 2:42; 13:12). Thus, if we can find the apostles putting and keeping Christ in Christmas, we may do likewise with the approval of Heaven. Do we read of disciples who, at the behest of the apostles, observed the Christmas tradition or who noted the birth of Jesus in any manner? Since keeping Christ in Christmas allegedly is an important duty, we should expect to find the first fervent and devout disciples of the Lord doing so. But, is that what we find?

December 25th is... observed as the birth of Christ.
In early times this day was not one of the feasts of the Christian Church. In fact, the church fathers frowned upon the celebration of birthdays and thought them a heathen custom. It is thought that Christmas was not celebrated until some 300 years after the birth of Christ.

No one is certain why December 25th was chosen. There is nothing in the New Testament to indicate that this is the date of the Nativity (The New Book of Knowledge, Vol. 3. P. 289).

Since neither God, nor Christ, nor the Holy Spirit, nor the Apostles put Christ in Christmas, why should we? We cannot Scripturally justify doing so!

—Southside's Salute
Southside Church of Christ
Lubbock, TX

Prayer Request

Trina Plyler (George & Jurlean's daughter) had a chemo treatment a couple of weeks ago and found out that she has Covid. The infusion treatment for the Covid was delayed because of the chemo treatment. Continue to keep Trina in your prayers that she will be able to win this battle.

LaDonna Chism was admitted into MCH on the 15th to be treated for cellulitis in her leg. She underwent surgery last Tuesday. Continue to keep LaDonna in your prayers.

Charles Wood is dealing with bronchitis at this time. Keep him in your prayers.

Curtis Parum (Betty Branson's brother) is dealing with pneumonia and also heart issues and not doing well. Please keep Curtis in your prayers that he will get well soon.

Maria Anaya has requested prayers for her two sons, **Rudy** and **David Alaniz**. They both have lung infections. Rudy, her oldest, seems to be doing better. Keep them both in your prayers.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Hugo Grijalva; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Alex Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Laura McKnight; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Julie Munoz; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Jackie Rex; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; John Wood, Natalynn Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna McCarty; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw
Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... (Finish the Beatitude)

"Blessed are the peacemakers... (?)"

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

"Blessed are the pure in heart... for they shall see God."

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Congratulations to Casey & Gabriella Cleveland upon the arrival of their baby girl, Analia Jayde who was born at 5:10 a.m. on December 14th. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. Mother and baby are doing fine. Again, Congrats.

Thoughts to Remember...

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.

A baby is God's opinion that the world must go on.

Time to Declutter

Worldly distractions can inhibit our abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9) tells of the seed that fell among thorns and was choked by the thorns. Verse 22 explains; “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and he becomes unfruitful.” If permitted, many things can consume us, detract from our service to God and render us unproductive. Careers, hobbies, sports, politics, entertainment, material possessions, wealth and the like are not inherently wrong, but they become wrong when placed ahead of God.

Some may attend church regularly, believing they are doing a good thing but ‘other stuff’ inhibits them being an active member of the body of Christ. James 1:22-25 states “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Jesus provided counsel to the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-22 when asked what good thing needed to be done to have eternal life. Jesus stated “keep the commandments”, to which the young man later replied “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus responded “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Are the cares of this world and ‘other stuff’ standing in your way of truly serving God? If so, it is time to declutter.

— Bulletin digest

December 26, 2021

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jacob Carson	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Anthony Flunder	Anthony Flunder
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Craig Wesson	Tommy Garcia
Second Prayer	Oliver Hernandez	Scot Straw
Closing Prayer	Charles Wood	Jon Roemisch
Lords Supper		Jr. Munoz
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	<u>Don Easlon</u>	Communion
	Cody Wesson	(In Library)
	Gary Loving	
	John Wood	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 —*Deacon:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 -*Pulpit:* Tom Sorenson 638-9447 —*Table:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* John Wood 413-7444— *Collections:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“TBA”

Our Records

Bible Class... 47

Morning Worship... 75

Evening Worship ...NC

Wednesday... 49

Contribution..... \$5,216.00

Tornado Relief ... \$2,528.00