

## **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS?**

It is that time of year again, the holiday season. For many who proclaim to be Christians, it is the time for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Indeed there are many beautiful songs and beloved traditions associated with December 25<sup>th</sup>. One of the statements that is often heard is, "Keep Christ in Christmas". Let's look at if Christ ever in Christmas.

First, Christmas is never mentioned in the Bible. We have good descriptions of Christ's birth but it is not tied to any specific day. In fact, it of often cold in that part of the world in December and shepherds would not have been in the field with their flocks. There was an ancient pagan festival called Saturnalia celebrated about that time that many observed including Christians. It had traditions of gift giving, ornaments, having greenery in their homes, and the yule log among others. Sound familiar? Popes Julius I and Liberius in the 4<sup>th</sup> century made December 25<sup>th</sup> the day to worship Christ (possibly to make these pagan celebrations Christian celebrations).

There is no record of early Christians celebrating Christ's birth on this day or at all. Acts 2:42 tell us, "And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer." Acts 20: 7 tells us that Paul spoke to Christians at Troas on the first day of the week when they were assembled to break bread (observe the Lord's Supper). These things we are commanded to do. By taking the Lord's Supper we remember His death until He comes again. In honoring His death we acknowledge His birth as you can't have a death if there has not first been a birth. The bible has many warnings about adding to the things God saw fit to bind on His children.

As we go through this holiday season, I urge you to be careful in your celebrations while still enjoying this family time. Many people outside the Church are more receptive during the holidays and if you get an opportunity to more accurately teach someone the scriptures, take advantage of it. Keep Christ in Christmas? It is impossible to keep something in that was never there to begin with!

**Larry Benson**

## ***The Image Consultant***

***“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27***

I am convinced anyone who says they do not care about their self-image or outer beauty is a liar. We all do things to ensure we are at the top of our physical game. We exercise, spend thousands on clothing and accessories, and use certain products to whiten our teeth and make our hair look less grey.

I have always struggled with confidence and self-image. I would look in the mirror and see someone unattractive, lacking confidence, and all in all worthless. So, I did what any logical person would do...I went to YouTube.

I began watching channels about men's style and how to buy proper fitting clothes and better ways to care for your body. I researched how to match colors and patterns. I even found a channel that taught self-confidence. Believe it or not, it helped.

When we look in the mirror, who do we see? Most of us see a scared, unprepared soul wondering if we will go to Heaven or Hell. Perhaps we see the sin we have stained on our souls and the filth it brings to our lives. Perhaps when we look in the mirror, we see the love and grace of Jesus Christ, the one who gave us a spiritual makeover.

When I began to watch these YouTube tutorials, I wanted to look just like the person in the video. I thought, “If I can look like that, I'll have it all.” I quickly found that was not the case. If we read the Bible, we will find ourselves thinking, “I want to be like Jesus,” and we can do that!

Per the verse above, when we are baptized into Christ, we put on Christ. We are added to the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12) and are thus in him. Therefore, if we have been buried with him in baptism and raised to walk in a new life (Romans 6; John 3), then we can look in the mirror and see Jesus because that is who God sees when he looks at us.

Sure, we need to care for our bodies, but beauty is not all there is in this life. What you adorn your soul with is of vital importance. The Devil might wear Prada, but Christians wear Jesus Christ.

**Joshua Houston**

### PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Edna Vance, Lester & Ann Clark, Wayne Mobbs, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Sue Reeves, Kevin Watson, Melba Young, Jeanie Young

### SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

### NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

#### **\*MEMBERS**

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton\*, Sue Reeves\*,

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Ernestine Taylor\*, Laura Wiser\*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

### MILITARY:

Tony Berry

There will be a bridal basket shower for  
**Charley Smotherman and Mara Bloomfield**

who will be married on December 17<sup>th</sup>.  
They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond,  
Target and Williams Sonoma.

Charley is the son of Kelly Smotherman  
and the grandson of  
Charles and Ruthe Burton

### NEWS & NOTES

- **WELCOME! Thomas & Connie Davis** as they recently placed membership with Salem Creek.
- We have received a thank you note from **Richard & Pat Stanaland**.
- **New class** beginning Sunday mornings in classroom 101. (Large Classroom)  
**Subject:** God's Patterns in the Bible  
**Discussion Leader:** John Pickard
- The Christmas card exchange has begun. Boxes will be available for card drop off until December 14<sup>th</sup> and the cards will be ready for pick up on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Cards for the shut ins and members at Stones River Manor will need to be mailed.

**\*check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

Salem Creek church of Christ  
 2525 Salem Creek Drive  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Phone: (615) 893-7532

P. O. Box 332067  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133

Email:  
[office@salemcreekcoc.org](mailto:office@salemcreekcoc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://www.salemcreekcoc.org)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday  
 Morning Worship 9:00 am  
 Bible Classes 10:15 am  
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday  
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am  
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

### ELDERS

B.K. Ham  
 Jim Hatfield  
 Jon Holland  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Randall Phifer  
 Keith Short

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum  
 Larry Benson Andy Melton  
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton  
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper  
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*December 4, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>205</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>136</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>129</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$6,840.00</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>13</b>

\*When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled\*

### *To Our Honored Guests...*

*We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 30 minutes prior to service*



### December 11

Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

### December 18

Drew & Amanda Mitchell