

What Do I Do with Christmas?

-Jim Hyeest-

Early in my Christian journey I became acquainted with some brethren who would have nothing to do with Christmas. Their opposition was based mostly on the fact there was no biblical directive to recognize it. Being a novice in the Bible I attempted to do Christmas much as I did when growing up, but half-heartedly take Jesus Christ out of it. As I matured in the faith, I very soon began to think there is something wrong with the no Christmas or no Christ in Christmas notions. First, biblically we find, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17)." Therefore, if one is to do Christmas at all, Christ should be in it. Secondly, while the argument that much of the believing world attempts to expend its spiritual fervor at Christmas and Easter is true, it is also true it is a better world while it does. As I wandered spiritually in my early life, Christmas time was undoubtedly the most significant thing that kept Christ in my mind. The story was always thought-provoking, especially when accompanied by the inspirational music of the season; joy from giving, if forgotten, was rediscovered; and a great improvement in moods was experienced, even in generally irascible people. Christmas was a good time of year. Certainly Christmas has become horribly commercialized, but because the world misuses it, we don't have to. We have to be careful that simply because the Bible does not direct a special celebration of the season and we don't know the exact day, it does not mean that it didn't happen or that it is not important. The Incarnation of God is among the four great events of the created world, the others being the Creation, the Resurrection, and, one not yet realized, the Second Coming. To ignore that God became a human seems not only foolish, but even sacrilegious. Perhaps it should not be relegated to a single day, but neither should it be ignored. Besides, to the timeless and infinite God the Creation, the Incarnation, the Resurrection, and the Second Coming are all aspects of a single event. Everyone will have to decide for themselves what to do with Christmas. Just whatever you do, if you do it, don't take Christ out of it.