

## Tidings From Timothy

**S**unday has a full range of activities scheduled. We will have morning worship, of course. An article related to the lesson is on page 3. Then those who wish to spread some Christmas cheer will meet at 1pm at Monroe County Health and Rehab for caroling, those caroling will then proceed to another nursing home near Red Boiling Springs. We will be mainly singing for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening worship, and then we will have our fellowship meal. We had a good problem at the last fellowship meal. So many people came we were real close to running out of food. What a good problem to have! Anyway, plan on spending some time with us then, and also hear some more caroling and participate in an ornament exchange after the meal.

Finally, I just wanted to encourage you all to pray for those less fortunate and those afflicted by many trials. They are especially sorrowful during the holiday season, and we all need to do our part to lift their spirits and give them a comforting word from God.

**Sick:** Kenneth Billingsley has been in and out of the hospital lately. Most people have been on the mend and it was good to see several back at church that have been unable to meet with us.

**Birthdays:** Steve Myatt 18<sup>th</sup>

John Robert Lankford 22<sup>nd</sup>



Happy Anniversary! to Michael and Rachel Bartley, December 21



**Library Additions:** Virginia Smith has donated **My Utmost for His Highest** by Oswald Chambers and **Youth Face Today's Issues** by Krutza & DiCicco. They are available for checkout.

**Questions:** Should we celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ? What should a Christian's attitude toward Christmas be?

**Answers:** We should always refrain from binding any religious observance which is not bound in the Scriptures. Certainly the birth of Christ, just as any other good event recorded in the Bible, is worthy of our study, is an appropriate subject for songs of praise, and is good for teaching. However, this is not the same as saying that a connection **ought** to be drawn between December 25 and the birth of Christ. It is easy to go to an extreme in either way, so let me list some things that should guide us in our study of this subject:

- 1) No one knows the day Christ was born, it's not a big deal, but it probably wasn't even near a cold December 25<sup>th</sup>. Just read the accounts in Matthew through John and see what you think.
- 2) We have authority to thank God for all good things (1 Thess. 5:18). This would certainly include the miraculous events surrounding the sending of Jesus to earth. Therefore, those beautiful songs about Jesus' birth are good for use as spiritual songs **throughout the year**. It is regrettable that it is only seen as appropriate to sing them at one time during the year.
- 3) It is undeniable that the Scripture spends far more time talking about the death and resurrection of Christ as opposed to His birth. I find it strange, then, that Christmas is seen as a bigger holiday than Easter. Especially since we know when Easter time is, but don't know when Christ was born! This just shows that Christmas is a cultural observance and not really religious in nature.

Let me summarize and give some guidelines from the Bible: We want everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. However, we cannot **bind** Christmas as a time to observe Christ's birth because God didn't bind it, we must stay within His authority (Col. 3:17). It is appropriate in general to praise God for sending Jesus to us; we can't say Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. We should have the spirit of giving at all times and seasons.

The special observance of one day as a special **religious** day (when God has not called it so) causes confusion. Proof? Consider Zech. 7:3ff. In this passage the people had made a day on their own in which they would mourn or fast for Jerusalem, which had fallen to the Babylonians 70 years before. But from a reading of the passage we see that God did not count this for their righteousness. It was just something they did. If you keep reading, you find what God really wanted from the people: justice, mercy, etc. Christmas is similar in that it is easier for people to set aside a day than live for Him each day. May we give thanks unto God for the greatest gift of all at this time and at all times.  
-Tim

What Must I do to be saved?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

### Study the Bible?

God speaks to us today through the Holy Word of God - The Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Scriptures instruct us in the way God requires His people to live (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Bible is powerful and able to save us (Romans 1:16; James 1:21-25), if we will hear, learn and obey it.

⇒ **Yes!** I want to learn more about the Holy Bible. Please enroll me in the eight lesson FREE Bible Correspondence Course (we even pay for the postage).

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## Mt. Gilead church of Christ

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**Zechariah 7:6-7 <sup>6</sup>And when ye eat, and when ye drink, do not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves? <sup>7</sup>Should ye not hear the words which Jehovah cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity...**

Elders:

Keith Dyer.....427-4105

Veachel Harlan.....487-5727

Deacons:

Steve Carter, Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Tony Harlan, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494

Schedule of Services:

**Sunday:**

Bible Study...	9:30am
Morning Worship...	10:05am
Evening Worship...	6pm

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study... 7pm

Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week!