

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 24 DECEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This is a busy time for traveling. Keep in mind and prayer all those who are going and coming this week and next!
- Because of the travel season, we will meet in the auditorium on Wednesday evening and **not have regular Bible classes.**
- **Bob Stark** had a procedure this week to address a drainage issue after his heart transplant two weeks ago. It went well and he and **Erma** are back in their apartment.
- **Sharon Alexander**, still in some pain from recent sciatica, is in Dallas with her daughter **Holly Ann**, who just had a major surgery. She is recovering well, thanks to God.
- **Johnny Martinez** continues to struggle with his health and is receiving regular dialysis treatments. Pray for him and **Dora!**
- **Deb Haley** will be having a permanent pain pump installed on January 19th. Pray for strength and relief!
- Remember those rebuilding from Harvey: **Banks, Benthalls, Guzmans, Haleys, Hurds, Starks, Stechs, and Washington.**
- Please continue to pray for **Bethany Moon** and (former member) **Lauren Underwood**, who are both expecting.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Mike Flinn, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Mickle, and Pat Butler.**
- **Sermon Title: One Thing**

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Haley
Mitchell Howell
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
John Moon
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - A. Morolez
Song Leader - L. Williams
Opening Prayer - S. Clanton
Lesson - D. Broadwell
Communion Talk - K. Kendrick
Announcements - M. Pharris
Closing Prayer - R. Black

BIBLE CLASSES

Isaiah (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell

Parables (Back Room)

- Alex Morolez
- Justin Seale

Classes for children

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Why Arguments About Christmas are Counterproductive

by: **Wes McAdams** (radicallychristian.com)

In my childhood, I argued about Christmas a lot. “You know,” I would say in a matter-of-fact tone, “Jesus wasn’t really born on December 25th.” I relished correcting people about the inaccuracies of their religious holiday and their little nativity scenes. Since then I’ve learned, you can be right and be wrong at the same time. I was right, Jesus most likely was *not* born on December 25th, but I was dead wrong for thinking that rudely arguing that point was somehow pleasing to God.

I still don’t celebrate Jesus’ “birthday” on December 25th, but I also don’t see any reason to vehemently argue about it either. In fact, it seems like Paul’s instructions to the church in Rome are very applicable to this issue, see Romans 10: 4-10.

Here are several other reasons our arguing about Christmas is counterproductive:

1. We become hypocritical. I’ve always found it interesting that some people avoid using the word, “Christmas” because it indicates a celebration of Christ’s birthday and the Catholic “Mass” from which the celebration originated. Alternatively, they insist on using the word “holiday.” But it shouldn’t be hard to see the irony in that. The etymology of the word “holiday” is “holy day,” meaning a day set apart by (or for) God.

Furthermore, some point out the pagan traditions that have been incorporated into the traditional Christmas celebration (i.e. trees, gifts, ornaments, etc.). They insist that these celebrations are wrong because they have pagan origins. However, these same folks are usually not consistent with all of the other things in our culture that have pagan origins. For example, “Thursday” means “Thor’s Day,” an obvious reference to the mythological god, Thor. But I don’t know anyone who claims it is wrong to use the word, “Thursday.”

Biblically, consider the meat that first-century Christians bought in the marketplace. It might have been sacrificed to an idol at one time, but it had lost that significance when it was put on the table of a Christian home. Paul taught that Christians were not honoring an idol by simply eating meat that had once been sacrificed to an idol (1 Corinthians 10:23-30). The meat had lost the pagan significance. I am no more worshipping a pagan idol by having a Christmas tree in my home than I am honoring Thor by calling the fifth day of the week, “Thursday.”

2. We stir up unnecessary strife. The New Testament has nothing positive to say about these kinds of arguments. Paul wrote to Timothy, “Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers” (2 Timothy 2:14). Over the years, I have heard many heated debates about this issue and I’ve never seen anything good come of it. That’s not to say we shouldn’t teach people the truth. We should. But unless we can teach people the truth with gentleness, patience, kindness, forbearance, and love, then we don’t have the Spirit of God in us (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:1-3) and it is us who needs to be taught.

3. We de-emphasize Jesus. Growing up, it was ok to talk about Jesus any day of the year. But for some reason, I felt very odd talking about Jesus on Christmas. That was a Jesus-free day. In my effort to show people I was not denominational, I dismissed my Lord. How very sad. While some groups are having extra worship services, others cancel their regular worship services and Bible studies. While some people are talking about Jesus more, others are talking about Jesus less. In an effort to avoid being seen as celebrating “Christmas,” we sometimes fail to celebrate Christ. Jesus *is* the reason for the season.

Jesus is the reason for *every* season. Jesus is the reason for *everything*. I regret that I ever de-emphasized Christ. I should have been rejoicing that many people were thinking about the King of kings. Instead, I was so preoccupied with being anti-denominational that I forgot to be Christian.

Truth in Love: There is nothing wrong with discussing the *true* story of Jesus’ birth, *but there is something wrong with fighting and arguing about it*. Let’s talk about Jesus more, not less. And let’s be more loving, more kind, and more patient.