

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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“TIS THE SEASON TO REMEMBER...”

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 In a recent morning jaunt, I noticed the sign in front of the building of a local church of Christ. It reads: “*Tis the season to remember... the birth of Jesus.*” Many passers by will have their thoughts reinforced by the local church of Christ that it is good to remember the birth of Jesus this time of year, especially Christmas day, December 25. I am saddened to see people, who claim to follow the word of God in faith and practice, compromise with the surrounding religious world, and encourage practices that are unauthorized in God’s word.

However, the sign did evoke early morning thought concerning what this season of the year should cause us to remember as we try to uphold the teachings of God’s word.

Tis the season to remember... the inaccuracy many Nativity scenes convey. Our children see the three wise men bringing their gifts to the manger, where the little baby Jesus lay. The Bible states the wise men “...came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and

they fell down and worshipped Him; and opening their treasures they offered unto Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11). The wise men came to “the house”, not the manger. They saw the “young child”, not “a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes”.

Tis the season to remember...that many go beyond that which is written. Nowhere in the Bible do we read of God authorizing a season to remember the birth of Jesus. Is this important? The Spirit of God gave John these sobering words to write: “*Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).* If Jesus did not authorize us to celebrate his birth in a yearly or seasonal way, then men have gone onward and are not abiding in the Lord’s teaching.

Tis the season to remember...that many pervert Romans 14. I have heard people say if you want to set aside a day to remember Jesus’ birth, that’s fine for, “*He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord” (Romans*

14:6). People fail to first uncover the context for such a statement and see that Paul is referring to practices that were revealed and authorized under the Old Law which are now indifferent to Him under the New. How can one “*be fully assured in his own mind” (Romans 14:5)* that this is what the Lord wants, if the Lord never authorized the practice, season, or day to remember his birth?

Tis the season to remember...how inconsistent we can be in applying God’s word. The local church who is reminding all passers by that this is the season to remember the birth of Jesus, is a group that believes it is unscriptural to divide up in various Bible classes, when we assemble for worship. Many of this mind set press for the scripture that authorizes such a practice, and are willing to divide and separate themselves from their brethren over this issue. Yet, without any scriptural authority, the local group promotes, “Tis the season to remember...the birth of Jesus”.

In all seasons, may we be faithful to God’s Word!