

Glad Tidings

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

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If Jesus Were Not Born...

(Jerry Fite)

The religious world has taken many historical facts from the Bible, and commemorated them as holidays. God never authorized these days as such in the Bible, but man instituted them as yearly celebrative occasions. “*Purim*”, as God saving His people from extinction at the hands of Haman; “*Christmas*”, as Jesus’ birthday; “*Easter*”, as the day of Jesus’ resurrection; and in more recent years “*Creation Day*”, celebrated on the first Sunday in March to remind us to be good stewards.

Are these “holidays” from God in Heaven, or from men? This is the question Jesus would have us ask ourselves (*Matthew 21:25*). We would have to respond, they are from men. In His Word, God never commands us to observe them as religious “holidays”.

This said, does this mean we should shy away from proclaiming the revealed Truth of God though it has been made a man-made holy day? Will we cease to talk much about Genesis 1-2 because of man declaring a

religious “*Creation Day*” celebration? Will we decline to talk about what actually occurred in the early hours of the first day of the week because of Easter? Will we ignore the heavenly celebration of Jesus’ birth because of Christmas?

Just as the perversion of “*Calvinism*” should not cause us to shy away from the truth of *Ephesians 2*, we should not let “*Christmas*” cause us to shy away from the truth of Luke 2. Jesus was born, and gloriously announced as Christ the Lord (*Luke 2:9-11, 13-14*).

What if Jesus were not born? How would we be affected? Of what would we be deprived?

We would not have a Saviour. Jesus, the eternal word, “*became flesh*” so He could pay the penalty for our sins through His blood (*Lk. 2:11, John 1:14, Hebrews 2:14-17, Rom. 3:23-26*). Without faith in Jesus’ blood, we could not be saved from our sins; and without the prepared body through the virgin birth, there

would be no sacrifice to save us from our sins (*Hebrews 10:5-10*).

We would not have peace with God. At Jesus’ birth, the multitude of angels said, “*Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.*” (*Luke 2:14*). Our sins caused us to be at enmity with God, and only through Christ could we be reconciled unto Him (*Romans 5:10, 2 Corinthians 5:19-21*). Jesus is our spiritual “*peace*” who dwelt among men showing the way to be well pleasing unto God (*Ephesians 2:13-18*).

We would have no perfect flesh and blood example to follow. John writes, “*he that saith he abideth in him ought himself to walk even as he walked*” (*1 Jn. 2:1*). How do you effectively follow that which you cannot see (*John 1:18*)? Jesus walked gloriously before man, manifesting God to all (*Jn. 14:9*), while laying down the sinless template for flesh and blood to follow (*1 Pet. 2:21*). We should thank God that Jesus was born. Without His flesh and blood, we would be lost!