

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

Dewey Murray
Ransom Reaves

MINISTERS

Bradley Smith, Minister
Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of
The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program

The Truth in Love

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 87.7

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

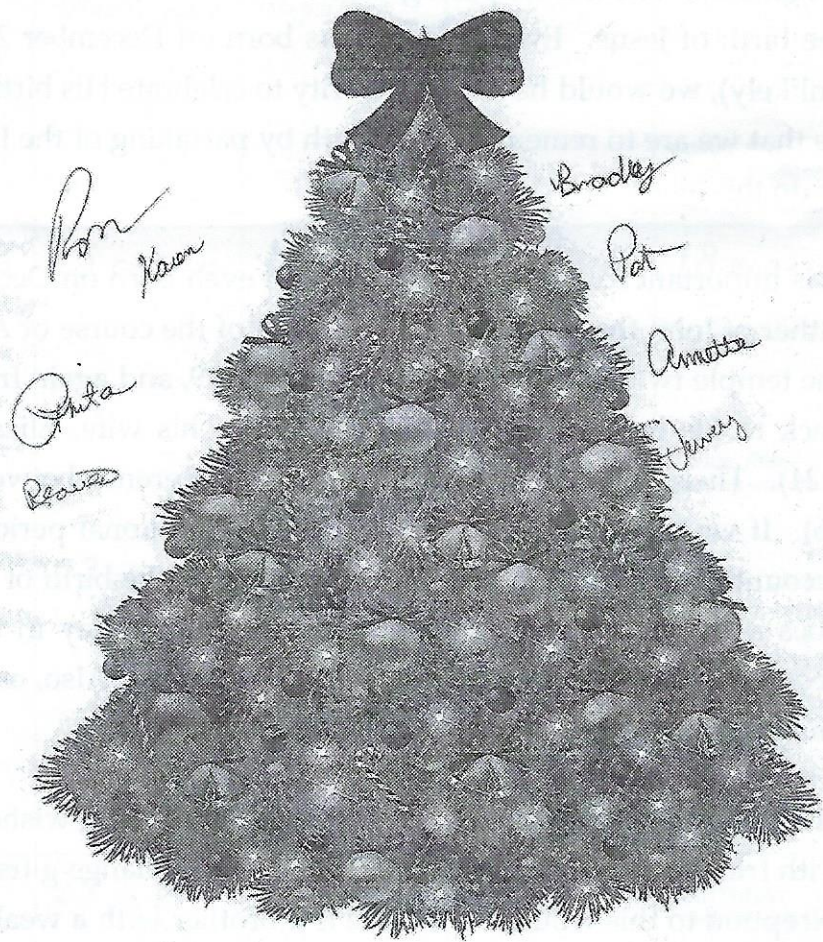
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LX

December 15, 2019

Number 43

ON THE HOME FRONT



Season's Greetings

Should We Celebrate Christmas?

Bradley Smith

As many of us remember our childhoods, some of our fondest memories are opening presents on Christmas morning. There is much confusion in the world about Christmas and the observance thereof. Some say that Christmas should be celebrated as the birth of Jesus Christ, some say that it is celebrated as a time to gather with family without said emphasis, and others still say that it should not be celebrated at all. Should we celebrate Christmas? Was Jesus born on December 25th? Let us look to the Bible to see these answers.


As far as the observance of Christmas as the birth of Jesus, this practice is completely unscriptural. Colossians 3:17 tells us that we must have authority for all things that we do religiously. There is no passage in the New Testament that commands us to celebrate December 25th as the birth of Jesus. Even if Jesus was born on December 25th (we will see in a moment that it is highly unlikely), we would have no authority to celebrate His birth religiously. Instead, 1st Corinthians 11 tells us that we are to remember His death by partaking of the Lord's Supper. Acts 20:6-7 tells us that we are to do this every first day of the week.

It is important for us to ask if Jesus was even born on December 25th. Luke 1:5 tells us that Zacharias, father of John the Immerser, was a priest of the course of Abia. The course of Abia would have been in the temple twice a year: once from June 13-19, and again from December 6-12. After this event, he went back to his house (Luke 1:23). After this, his wife, Elizabeth, conceived (John the Immerser) (Luke 1:24). There was a five or six month age difference between John the Immerser and Jesus (Luke 1:24-26). If we take into account the 9 month gestational period for John the Immerser, plus six months to account for the age difference, that would put the birth of Jesus in either our March or September. This does not mean, however, that we should pick a day in these months to celebrate the birth of Jesus, because there is no authority for which to do so. Also, as a side note, why would sheep be out in the pasture in the dead of winter (Luke 2:8ff)?

Then, as far as the observance of Christmas. If one wishes to celebrate Christmas as a time to gather with friends and family to share a meal and exchange gifts, there is nothing wrong with such. The only exception to this would be if there is a brother with a weak conscience who would be offended by such (Rom. 14). So, there is nothing wrong with observing Christmas in this way. We have seen that not only do we have **no authority** for celebrating Christmas as the birth of Jesus, it is incorrect to say that He was born on what we know as December 25th.

January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>JANUARY COMMUNION SERVICE Thaxter Hodum Ron Wallace Woodrow Porter Bobby Bouie Melvin Hammond Michael Taylor Jason Smith Larry Pike Alternate: Carl Allen</p>			1 Gen. 1-3 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Gen. 4-6	3 Gen. 7-9	4 Gen. 10-12 *Rachel Hodum Comm. Prep- Betty Taylor
			5 Gen. 13-15	6 Gen. 16-18	7 Gen. 19-21	8 Gen. 22-24 *Charles Shappley
12 Gen. 34-36	13 Gen. 37-39	14 Gen. 40-42	15 Gen. 43-45	16 Gen. 46-48	17 Gen. 49-Ex. 1	18 Ex. 2-4 Comm. Prep- Stanley Wallace
19 Ex. 5-7	20 Ex. 8-10	21 Ex. 11-13	22 Ex. 14-16	23 Ex. 17-19	24 Ex. 20-22	25 Ex. 23-25 Comm. Prep- Thaxter/Martha Hodum
26 Ex. 26-28 *Mattie Langston	27 Ex. 29-31	28 Ex. 32-34	29 Ex. 35-37	30 Ex. 38-40	31 Lev. 1-3	*BIRTHDAY **ANNIVERSARY Please be sure that we have your birth date and anniversary date on file in the church office.