

# Moment of Truth

Ed Smithson, Editor

## CHRISTMAS

Let me talk a little about Christmas. Ever since I can remember, the subject of Christmas and what it means has been a topic of discussion in one way or another. Some claim it to be the birthday of Jesus and treat it that way. Others say “not so” and celebrate it as a national holiday. Some are so incensed by the holiday they reject it entirely.

What should Christians do? First, most of those who want to celebrate it as the birthday of Jesus aren't going to change their minds. Second, those who will not celebrate it all at all are going to change their minds either. So what about those in the middle?

First, tell the truth. If someone asks about the birthday of Jesus, just ask them to find that in scripture. Since it cannot be found, why would one celebrate it as such? When you think about it, there is more reason to celebrate his death than his birth. Why? Because it was in his death that he shed his blood which saves us from sin. *“But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him.”* (Romans 5:8-9) We celebrate this by taking the Lord's Supper each and every first day of the week. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

One can celebrate that Jesus was born without celebrating December 25 as his birthday. No knowledgeable person really believes this was the day Jesus was born.

So what do we do about the holiday? One young preacher objected to Christians celebrating Christmas because of the use of a fanciful figure, Santa Claus. However, children have always been exposed to other such figures without great harm, Mother Goose, Big Bird, and many others. So that is bogus!

I celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup> as a National Holiday, which it is. When my children were young we had the tree, the trimmings, the giving and receiving of gifts, and an occasional Santa Claus. I don't think they ever thought there was a real Santa Claus as some think. I see nothing contrary to Christian ethics as long as we know and understand what this day is, a holiday.

You may think differently, and that is your privilege as an American.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Amthor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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