

Celebrating the Birth of Christ

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Introduction: What do you think of when you read about the birth of Christ?

- A. Without question the arrival of the Son of God in a human form was a great event.
 - 1. There is no surprise that men would want to celebrate this event.
 - 2. But where does God Himself give emphasis? What should we celebrate?
- B. Every aspect of the life of Christ was foretold by the prophets. **(Lk 24:44)**
 - 1. We who wear the name of Christ need to know the one whom we serve.
 - 2. If we know Him then we will do only those things He directs. **(Col 3:17)**

I. The Uniqueness of the Birth of Christ

- A. The birth of Christ involved some of the greatest promises of the Old Testament.
 - 1. There was the future destruction of Satan through the “seed” of Eve. **(Gen 3:15)**
 - 2. The great promises to Abraham set the course for the rest of the Bible which includes the birth of Christ. **(Gen 12:1-3)**
 - 3. The promise of the future messiah to David depended upon the birth of Christ. **(Psa 132:11)**
- B. There were detailed prophecies of this birth.
 - 1. There was the specific place of His birth. **(Mic 5:2)**
 - 2. The virgin birth was in prophecy. **(Isa 7:14)**
 - 3. Even the time of His birth was shown to be in the times of the Roman kingdom. **(Dan 7:7, 16-17, 23, 27; 2:44)**
- C. There was the heavenly announcement of it to the shepherds. **(Lk 2:8-15)**
- D. There was the incredible fact that God Himself became man. **(Jn 1:14; 1-3)**

II. Three Questions for us to consider

- A. Why did God become man? **(Heb 2:9-15)**
 - 1. Jesus provided an escape from Satan than man could not provide himself.
 - 2. Jesus became a man to share with us in temptation and to lead the way.
 - 3. He became our high priest that we can boldly go to. **(Heb 2:16-17; 4:14-16)**
 - 4. Without a doubt we know the answer to the question: “Does Jesus Care?”
- B. When was Jesus born?
 - 1. We do not know the year or the day! Some suggest 3-4 BC.
 - 2. We know it was not in December. Bethlehem is the same latitude of Montgomery, AL or Jackson, MS. They would not be out at night with the sheep at this time of year.
 - 3. The Catholic church took the heathen day of observance of the winter solstice and declared December 25 as the day. (The solstice indicated the Sun was reviving after the shortest day, Dec. 21. There was much drunkenness and revelry during this time.)
- C. How are we to celebrate the birth of Christ?
 - 1. When a birthday is held to honor someone you see what their wishes are.
 - 2. Jesus gave no instructions whatsoever about celebrating His birth.
 - 3. There is not one word from the apostles or the early church about this

matter.

III. There is a celebration we are to keep.

- A. Christians were commanded to meet on every first day of the week. **(1 Cor 16:1-2; Acts 20:7)**
 - 1. In the writings of the early Christians it is clear of a universal practice of meeting on the first day of the week.
 - 2. What Paul commanded Corinth, he commanded all other churches. **(1 Cor 4:17)**
- B. Why did they meet on this day?
 - 1. They were remembering the birth of Christ!
 - 2. This was not the first birth but the second. **(Acts 13:30-34)**
 - 3. The literal meaning of begotten is: “(a) of men *beget, become the father of* (MT 1.2); pass. *be born of* (GA 4.23); (b) of women *bear, give birth to* (LU 1.13);” - Friberg Lexicon.
 - 4. Jesus is described as the “firstborn from the dead”. **(Col 1:18)**
- C. Consider the contrasts of the two births of Christ.
 - 1. In the identity of Christ.
 - a. He took on flesh and became the Son of Man. **(Mt 8:20)**
 - b. At the second birth He was proclaimed the Son of God. **(Rom 1:3-4)**
 - 2. In the position of Christ.
 - a. He became weak in His first birth. **(Lk 1:80)**
 - b. He was raised to power in the second. **(Heb 5:4-5)**
 - 3. In the power of Christ.
 - a. He was humbled and weak in the first. **(Phil 2:7-8)**
 - b. He was given all power in the second. **(Phil 2:9-11; Matt 28:18)**
 - 4. In the purpose of Christ’s birth.
 - a. He was born to die for our sins. **(Lk 19:10)**
 - b. He was raised to die no more as our high priest. **(Rom 6:10; 5:9-10)**
 - 5. In the nature of His work.
 - a. He came to bear our sins. **(Heb 9:26)**
 - b. After being raised He will never bear sins in this way again. **(Rom 6:10; Heb 9:28)**
- D. Can you not see that the second birth is of far greater importance than the first?
 - 1. God gave us details about the second birth. We know the day!
 - 2. The apostles began immediately to observe the first day of the week. The events on the day of Pentecost occurred on the first day of the week. **(Acts 2:42)**
 - 3. This should be observed weekly, not yearly, monthly or quarterly.
 - 4. Is it not sad that men will observe things He does not ask but will not observe the things He does command us to!

Conclusion: What is your birthday?

- A. Our conversion is a new birth. **(John 3:5)**
- B. We die to sin! **(Rom 6:1-5)**

C. The same power involved in the raising of Jesus raises us. (**Col 2:12-13**)

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Sermon Adapted From Sewell Hall