



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 43, No. 49, December 13 , 2016** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

## **A 4000 Year Old Holiday and CELEBRATION at the Birth of Christ!**

**FYI:** I am a fellow pilgrim, seeking to follow and worship the true and living God, through His Son, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. During various holiday seasons, I mingle among many saints, who are at various stages and places in their own pilgrimage. God does not allow me, or you, to reject each other just because of things different. I am at peace in the midst of differing brothers in Christ. No one has any sound reason to be uncomfortable around me, for I am no man's judge. **Personally**, I love colors, and lights, and music, and pretty decorations, and family, and food, and etc.

When it comes to the teaching and preaching of the Word of God— I am not allowed to set forth my ideas, or to adapt the truth to please what is culturally correct, or to seek to be creative, or to please so as to avoid rejection. I must not add to, change, or to take away from what God's Word reveals. **Moreover, I do not**, (For I have NO Biblical authority to do so!) **seek to force others to practice that which** I present from the Word of God. Every genuine Christian is **a believer priest indwelt with the Holy Spirit!** The Holy Spirit will illuminate the Word of God and guide the redeemed into all truth. Therefore, O Believer Priest: Search the

Scriptures! Let EVERY CHRISTIAN be students and learners at the feet of Jesus.

**A few centuries ago, Baptist pastor, Charles Spurgeon preached from Luke 2:10-12.** He titled his sermon, *“Joy Born at Bethlehem.”* At the beginning of his sermon, Spurgeon said, “Certainly we do not believe in the present ecclesiastical [Church] arrangement called Christmas: First, because we do not believe in the [Roman Catholic] Mass, but abhor it... And secondly, because we find no Scriptural warrant whatever for observing any day as the birthday of the Saviour; and consequently, its observance is a superstition, because not of divine authority.”

**Spurgeon continued, however, by saying:** “Since it is lawful and even laudable to meditate upon the Incarnation of the LORD upon any day of the year, it cannot be in the power of men’s superstitions to render such a meditation improper for today.” Personally, I find that to be an excellent statement; **and I would add, that it is lawful, laudable, and NEEDFUL to spend much time in December of each year with a focus on historical and BIBLICAL truth—** so that, we may be wise in our decisions and priorities and empowered to worship and manifest Christ!

## **PART ONE: A Brief Outline of a 4000 Year Old Holiday**

**4000 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS** is the title of a **pro-Christmas** book by Dr. Earl W. Count, B.D., PH.D., written in 1948. **He dedicated his book, “To you who have loved Christmas and have made it beautiful.”** Dr. Count states, “Christmas is one of mankind’s greatest experiences. **For more than four thousand years,** spreading over the earth, it has drawn loyalties and longings of millions of people...”

**He further** states that ancient history tells us, “of an old, old Babylonian festival that moves westward, dividing its ways as it comes: through Greece into Rome ***as a festival that remodels itself at every step to fit the people among whom it settles...***”

Encyclopedias and other readily available sources chronicle these events and reveal that **although different names were used**— for 4000 years man has, indeed, had a great December celebration, usually on December 25. The Babylonians were among the first who are known to have

engaged in huge, merry-making, feasting, gift-exchanging December festivals.

**Moving west, when we get to Rome** we find that beginning in the middle of December, the Romans, (who worshipped the ancient god, Saturn), celebrated what was called *Saturnalia*.

**In the third century**, *something took place that would radically impact the whole world, even to this day!* **The Roman Emperor Constantine** claimed to become a Christian; he established Christianity as the state religion; and he **required all of his armies to be baptized**. Persecution of Christians ceased and Christendom rushed further and further away from Biblical practices. **Saturnalia had the hearts of the multitudes**. What could be done? How could the state church of ancient Roman Catholicism overcome the pagan practices?

**Pope Gregory had a solution.** *He believed that the best policy was to let the multitudes keep their practices, but to change the names of their temples and their traditions; and then to do these same practices to the glory of God.*

Therefore the Catholic Church **simply re-imaged** the great celebration day of the multitudes to be changed to the birth day of Christ. And, of course, they re-imaged many of the practices. But just how would Catholicism have the birth of Christ to be celebrated? They would do so **by observing the Catholic MASS**. December 25 would be the grandest of all their Masses. The name was shortened from 'Christ's Mass'... to 'Christmass'... to Christmas.

Thus, the ancient holiday was changed to Christmass around 300AD.

**What is the MASS? The Creed of Pope Pius IV, states:** "I profess that in the Mass is offered to God a true, proper, and propitiatory sacrifice [that is, a sacrifice which satisfies the justice of God and so offsets the penalty for sin] for the living and the dead; and that in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist there is truly, really and substantially, the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that there is a conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the body, and of the whole substance of the wine into the blood, which the Catholic Church calls Transubstantiation."

**NOTE: To embrace the MASS is seriously contrary to the New Testament.** It fully denies the once and for and totally sufficient atoning sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. (Heb. 7:24-28; 9:1-28; 10:7-18)

**Reality: Most or all Evangelical Believers who might read this article will say, “I reject the Catholic Mass; that is not the Christmas I celebrate!”** Yes, you are correct.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, all we are doing in this section of the article is discovering historical roots of the December 25 celebration— and DISCOVERING how something that was never practiced in the New Testament got entrenched worldwide as being of Christian origin.

Maymie R. Krythe, in her **pro-Christmas** book, *ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS*, writes in similar fashion: “A celebration at the time of the winter solstice, when all were looking forward to the coming of spring, **was not an original idea with Christians.**” She proceeds to speak about the Saturnalia; and then says:

“At first [the first 100+ years of the New Testament Church], Christ’s birthday was not observed by His followers... But in the third century Roman Catholicism became dominant under Constantine.”

**And so the Roman Catholic Church**, (being unable to abolish the heathen customs of the multitudes she had baptized by force), took over their ancient practices and Christianized them!

**WE ‘FAST-FORWARD’** and it is said that the earliest official celebration of Christmas in England was in 521AD, when King Arthur celebrated the re-capture of York. **During the middle-ages, Christmas** was the most popular holiday— there were tournaments, pageants, and plays. Some were religious.

**But then** (1500-1600 time period) **came the Protestant Reformation.** The Reformers were in revolt against Catholicism. They utterly rejected the Roman MASS. Therefore it was natural for them to reject the greatest Mass of all, Christmass.

The Reformers declared that celebrating Christ's birthday was of human invention. In 1642, under Oliver Cromwell, the Reformers gained political power. Puritan preachers openly preached against observing Christmass.

**In fact, they influenced the British Parliament to pass a law forbidding the celebration of both Christmass and Easter.**

Parliament decreed penalties of imprisonment for anyone caught celebrating the holiday. Charles Henderson writes, "Each year, by order of Parliament, town criers went through the streets a few days before Christmas, reminding people that "Christmas and all other superstitious festivals" should not be observed, businesses should remain open. There were to be no displays of Christmas decorations."

**"During the year 1647, popular riots broke out in various places demanding the legalization of Christmas.** But the Puritan government stood firm and proceeded to break up Christmas celebrations by force of arms. People were arrested and in many instances jailed. The Puritans seemed surprised by the strength of popular resistance to their anti-Christmas policies, but they would not alter their policies or compromise their principles.

They simply went down to defeat in the next elections. *The Puritans were thrown out of power and Christmas was back on the march!*"

**CRITICAL NOTE:** These Puritans were totally WRONG in their method. **There is NO PLACE in genuine New Testament Christianity** for trying to FORCE adherence to religious or Biblical practices or doctrines—regardless if the practices and doctrines are right or wrong.

**INSTEAD, the New Testament 'weapons' to wield** so as to effect godly change **are the Gospel, the teaching of the Word of God, prayer, love, and demonstrating Christlikeness.**

**PUSHING FORWARD to the 'new world' with our sketch of Christmas history,** we find that when the Puritans came to the shores of America, they celebrated Thanksgiving but not Christmas. In fact, there was a 5 shilling fine for any pilgrim found observing Christmas! (Again, this is NOT a New Testament response!)

**CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA** in the twentieth century and now in the twenty first century brings us into the Modern Day Commercialization of Christmas. **James H. Barnett, in The American Christmas: A Study in National Culture, writes:**

“At the close of the war in 1918, the American economy was geared to a high level of output and a host of new products were ready to be sold. **Both merchants and advertising agencies** recognized the commercial possibilities of the folk festivals, and began to exploit these occasions shortly after 1920. This was immediately successful and has continued unabated to the present.”

**Mr. Barnett, if you could only see us now!** Today our **national economy depends on a BIG CHRISTMAS!** Even church growth experts know the power of the holiday system; and so they guide churches in how to ‘use Christmas’ to grow their churches!

**Whether it is out in the homes of America or whether it is in the churches of America, this much is sure: TO HAVE A BIG CHRISTMAS takes a lot of money!** Indeed, every December, MANY people speak words from heavy and fearful hearts: *“We have no money for Christmas!”* And, every year, there are many big-hearted Americans, (Christians and others), doing what they can to help others ‘have Christmas.’

**In these few pages, we have outlined 4,000 years** of the ancient winter celebration which is now called Christmas. **BUT NOW, WE ARE DEALING WITH GROWING CULTURE WARS AS TO CHRISTMAS.**

We must see these culture wars in context: Certainly in recent centuries, Popes, priests, and Evangelical pastors have led the way in **DECREERING** that the Gospel of Luke, chapter two is ‘**THE CHRISTMAS STORY!**’ Even though they have no Biblical authority to do so; and in spite of **HISTORICAL FACTS** to the contrary, they **MARRIED CHRIST** to the ancient holiday. **THUS**, they cry out and **NOW** most believe: **“CHRISTMAS is** all about the birth of Christ. **PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS! HOW DARE** others commercialize Christmas! **How dare** non-Christian businesses and non-Christian government **REFUSE** to display Manger Scenes, say ‘**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**’ and have **CHRISTMAS** trees, etc.” **BUT** American culture is radically changing; and thus, the **CHRISTMAS CULTURE WARS.**

**NOW CERTAINLY, sincere Christian people,** (who have simply gone with the flow of what they have been taught), **have in the midst of it all sought to focus on making their Christmas a time to genuinely celebrate the birthday of Jesus...** while at the same time celebrating many of the traditions of the ancient, 4000 year holiday... **hopefully, in a lesser fashion.** (EVEN SO, MANY FIND THAT, it is hard to serve two masters!)

**To conclude this section of the article, we go back to the quote of Dr. Earl W. Count:** *“Christmas is one of mankind’s greatest experiences. For more than four thousand years, spreading over the earth, it has drawn loyalties and longings of millions of people... [It is] a festival **that remodels itself** at every step to fit the people among whom it settles...”*

This much is for sure: Without the Bible as absolute authority in our lives, we are at the mercies of the changing fancies of the people!

## **PART TWO: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT CHRISTMAS.**

**There is NO** mention of Christmas in the Bible. God hid the birthday of Jesus. No one in the New Testament era celebrated the birthday of Jesus. **Certainly there is NO** mention in the Bible of the MASS.

**There is no** Biblical connection between JESUS and the 4000 year holiday system that continues to ‘remodel’ so as to ‘fit the people’ among whom it settles.

**REALITY:** In the New Testament times, multitudes of ancient Rome’s citizens would have celebrated *Saturnalia*. **However, the Holy Spirit did not lead the New Testament Church to a strategy of seeking to win Roman citizens or anyone else to Christ by Christianizing Saturnalia.**

**Remember:** In the New Testament dispensation, every born again Christian is a BELIEVER PRIEST. We each have the Holy Spirit indwelling who is our master teacher. He will surely guide us into all truth.

*When we stand before God on judgment day, it will not be sufficient to say, “But that is what my Church, my Pope, my Priest, my Pastor, my*

*denomination, the multitudes taught..... !”* **GOD ONLY HAS ONE PLUMBLINE— HIS WORD!**

### **PART THREE: Biblical Revelation of the Birth of Christ and the Earliest Responses to His birth.**

God’s Holy Word is full of wonder and celebration when the topic is the birth of Christ. The first Christians just could not stop rejoicing!

#### **May we EMBRACE and profit from their examples!**

WOULD IT NOT BE GLORIOUS TO FOCUS ON CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST in the same manner as the following saints?

**1. LET US ASK** the Holy Spirit of God to teach US from Gabriel’s *announcement* to Mary! “Hail, thou that art highly favored, the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou **among** women....Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt **call his name JESUS**... the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called **the Son of God**... **For with God nothing shall be impossible.**” (Luke 1:28-36)

**Note:** There is no worship of Mary. The total focus is on the coming of Jesus, the Son of God; and the need for a response of FAITH! This announcement fills every enlightened, saved sinner with profound joy and celebration; and gives hope to those yet lost.

**2. LET US OBSERVE and WONDER!** The very first one on earth to CELEBRATE the Advent (Coming) of Jesus Christ was John Baptist, six months in Elisabeth’s womb! Elisabeth became the second one on earth to CELEBRATE as she loudly proclaimed,

“...Blessed art thou **among** women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb... For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, **the babe (John) leaped in my womb for joy**. And **blessed is she that believeth**: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the LORD.”(Luke 1:41-45)

**Note:** Christ was in the womb of a virgin! John was in his mother’s womb.



John leaps for joy! This is total, focused, undiluted celebration. Let us learn from six-month-still-in-the-womb John:

**JOY at Christ's coming is exclusive.** Jesus is not merely 'Center Stage'— No one else is on stage and He needs no props or creative scenery from us!

**3. LET US ENTER INTO THE SPIRIT OF Mary's magnificent Celebration!** "...My soul doth magnify the LORD, and my spirit hath **rejoiced in God my Saviour**... For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name..." (Luke 1:46-55)

**Note:** Like all of us, Mary was a sinner! She knew it and rejoiced in, "God my Saviour!" The birth of Christ is exclusively about REJOICING IN THE SAVIOUR! When JESUS ONLY is not enough, we have a problem! The birth of Christ is God coming down to rescue His enemies from the wrath we all so richly deserve. It is the ultimate rescue operation from the ultimate disaster.

**When eyes of faith see and receive the Saviour—** *no artificial stimulation, no dazzling sights and sounds are needed in order for the saint to be greatly motivated to go forth in glorious celebration, rejoicing in GOD MY SAVIOUR!*

**4. BEHOLD the wonder and JOY** in the angel's words, when speaking unto Joseph, "...that which is conceived in her (Mary) is of the Holy Ghost....**thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.**" (Matt. 1:20-21)

**Note:** The angel did not announce or set up the beginning of a big secular and/or religious holiday. In all of the Biblical 'snap shots' of joy and celebration at Christ's birth there is simplicity and singularity of focus. The joy is this: Jesus comes to save His people from their sins! That is reason enough for the joy and rejoicing!

**5. LET US Be Still! Stand in Awe!** The celebration began long before the Angelic announcements to Mary and Joseph! To a prophet, who had been the bearer of so much sad news and warnings of impending judgment and wrath, awesome prophecies give reason to CELEBRATE—

“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet, saying, **Behold a virgin** shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name, **EMMANUEL**, which being interpreted is, **GOD with us.**” (Matt. 1:22-23; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1-9)

**Note: EMMANUEL! GOD with us! SADLY, here is where many are:** “I have parties to plan, parties to go to, presents to wrap, company to prepare for, and miles to travel... the list is almost endless. No, I have never stopped and personally meditated upon ‘GOD WITH US’... It sounds too deep, too serious... not much fun...”

**“Sadly... For many folk. Christmas is very big and Christ is very small!”**

**6. LET US MEDITATE DEEPLY**— for as we go forward AWESOME CELEBRATION lights up the sky as the Angel of the LORD and a great multitude of HEAVENLY HOSTS burst forth in praise, giving **grace-filled revelation to lowly shepherds**, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, **a Saviour, which is Christ the LORD...** and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host **praising God**, and saying, **Glory to God** in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:10-14)

**Note: LET US BE INSTRUCTED**, as from heaven’s angels to earth’s lowly shepherds—they are all celebrating the coming of the Saviour, Christ the LORD! **And God is shouting to us** from the CELEBRATING Shepherds who quickly became evangelists, preachers— making known what they had heard and seen! *“And the shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”* (Luke 2:15-20)

**Note:** Will we continue to allow the *annual Holiday system to steal CHRIST and HOLY CELEBRATIONS OF CHRIST from our experience?*

**LET US DARE to focus on the utterly amazing: 1.** Jesus Christ came in the flesh to save undeserving rebels from the just and eternal wrath of God in hell! **2.** Jesus Christ came to set the rebels free from self, sin, and

satan; and to make them His own sons and daughters, servants, friends, saints, and co-laborers! **3.** The Birth of Christ is about salvation from ultimate and eternal destruction!

HAVE YOU NOTICED? — NO ONE IN SCRIPTURE MIXED THE BIRTH OF CHRIST WITH EARTHLY CELEBRATIONS OF ANY SORT!

**THERE IS NOTHING WRONG with having** times, places, and settings in which and during which we rejoice with family, friends, and so much more as we seek to live as Christians at all times.

However, rejoicing in the birth of THE SAVIOUR who came to deliver us from our sins— THE NEW TESTAMENT MODEL is that this deserves the singular, exclusive focus of our whole hearts, even as EVERY angel and human who first welcomed His birth model for us!

**7. LET US DRINK deeply** from the CELEBRATIONS of Simeon and Anna! “Then took he Him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:28-38)

**Note:** In the midst of the stark realities of life in a fallen world, God sends salvation and the result is peace and CELEBRATION! Not as the world gives; but peace and joy that surpasses all comprehension! Behold as blessed Anna joins the mighty chorus of those who GIVE THANKS for the Saviour who brings redemption!

**Note:** GOD ORDAINED celebrations, (in contrast to man’s religious and secular holiday systems), are NEVER an escape from reality; **and they never cater to the rich or the talented or those who feel themselves righteous!**

To escape sadness, the American Christmas requires lots of money and no broken down lives or families.

**In contrast, the Birth of Christ shouts— BRING NO MONEY!** Bring all your broken down lives! Bring a hungry, humble heart and enter into every day CELEBRATION and an eternity with JESUS!

**8. LET US BE UTTERLY AMAZED!** Jesus, almost two years old, was now residing in a *house*. Gentile Wisemen, (after much journeying), are found worshipping at the feet of Jesus! They had left the long entrenched but empty celebrations of Babylon in search of the King of the Jews. For by Divine revelation they had learned of *ONE WHO WAS WORTHY OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE!* "... they... fell down, and **worshipped Him:** and when they had opened their treasures, they presented **UNTO HIM** gifts..." (Matt. 2: 1-11)

**Note:** OF COURSE, there are many times and places to show love, kindness, and to give gifts to loved ones and friends... times for great family gatherings, clean fun, and games— all wonderful!

**HOWEVER,** WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIBLICAL CELEBRATION OF THE COMING OF CHRIST, THE NEW TESTAMENT MODEL IS CLEAR— EVERYTHING IS FOCUSED ON JESUS! The Wisemen had no gifts for Joseph and Mary and none for each other. **ALL WORSHIP WAS FOR THE KING OF KINGS!** The 'model' the Holy Spirit sets before us in the Word of God is totally consistent and beyond debate.

**9. The celebrations continue! And may we join in, crying out:** *"And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14) **"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift."** (2 Cor. 9:15) "...Jesus Christ: Who being in the form of God,...took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men...he humbled Himself ...unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:1-11) "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH....." (1 Tim. 3:16)

**Let us give preeminent focus to the absolutely astounding:** God came in the flesh to save undeserving rebels (That's us!) from the just and eternal wrath of God in hell! He came to set rebels free from self, sin, and satan. He gives us new hearts and makes us His own sons and daughters; and makes us His servants, His friends, His saints, and His co-laborers! JOY! WONDER! Giving Thanks! Praising and CELEBRATING Jesus Christ! TELLING THE GOOD NEWS into all the world,

till He comes back! And there is a great cloud of witnesses who are calling for us to follow in their steps— **“O Come, let US adore HIM!”**

**BY THE WAY:** Most folk in the first century found no reason to rejoice in the Advent, the Coming of Messiah. **But they did find reason to crucify Him! Why?**

Because He exposed their sin, which they loved! **THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY NEED TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS** WILL NEVER WELCOME or CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR. *However, for those who have been broken over their sin never GET OVER the Advent of Christ!*  
**“HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR!”**

LET US CELEBRATE JESUS! / James Bell / [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS: Jail Ministry**— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley at 615-804-3054.

**WEDNESDAYS:** ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! TAKING A BREAK... NEXT MEETING: January 3, 2017 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

**MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men’s Fellowship/Bible Study!** {*DECEMBER Study: Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2*}... **Come to**

**back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning...**  
walk forward... till you smell the coffee and biscuits!

## **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

### **\*\*\*Sunday, December 18:**

☐ **9:30am- CHURCH-WIDE FELLOWSHIP 'BRUNCH'** (During the Sunday School hour, the ENTIRE CHURCH FAMILY is ASKED to gather in the Fellowship Hall.

**Bring** 'breakfast/brunch' food stuffs

**between 9am and no later than 9:20am...**

We will start eating NO LATER than 9:30am)

☐ **10:45am- Worship Service**

### **Sunday, December 25:**

10:45am WORSHIP SERVICE & LORD'S SUPPER

**1. NOTE: We plan to observe the LORD'S SUPPER only on the 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**2. NOTE:** We realize that some families may not be in town on the 25<sup>th</sup>....

**BUT, SO AS TO HONOR CHRIST, PLAN NOW TO BE** assembled with a congregation of Bible-believing, Christ-focused saints, WHERE EVER you are on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

**AND IF YOU ARE IN GALLATIN...**

and even if you HAVE COMPANY COMING... Honor the LORD! Plan now to be present for the worship service. Inform your guests. Bring them with you!

### **3. DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE on the LORD'S DAY of December 25<sup>th</sup>...**

We will join together in SINGING unto the LORD, rejoicing in the ADVENT, the

Birth of Jesus Christ the LORD; SEVERAL OF OUR MEN AND the congregation will

also JOIN IN the sharing of some of the MANY REASONS why JESUS CAME!

**We will conclude in worship,**

**by observing the LORD'S SUPPER— even as our LORD has instructed:**

***“THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCES OF ME!”***