

BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD'S WORD FOR MEN #63

Theme: "Christmas" Not "Holiday"

Scripture: Matthew 1:23 (HCSB) *"See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel," which is translated "God Is with us."*

A Thought:

A very well known and established television news pundit was asked what he thought about the Christmas - Holiday (terms) controversy. His reply was curt followed by a gracious addendum..."What controversy? Isn't it the birth of the Prince of Peace? I'm Jewish and I don't see a problem." Every year during the Christmas season we read, hear and see television news stories with folks chattering and sometimes mindless blather on the said controversy. There are those in both camps who state...what is the big deal? To many it is a big deal. As Christians we must be mindful that especially in a western country we live in a pluralistic society. In my opinion that is a good thing. Nevertheless for the past two decades or so we have seen a trend with many of the Christian and Christmas traditions eking away and or at worst blurring their respective significance of our faith. Even though we live in a pluralistic society we should not be intimidated. Nothing but nothing in the world should break us away from our faith. It may sound arrogant but it is (our belief) a stated fact according to **John 14:15-17 (NIV)** *"If you love me, keep my commands. 16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, 17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."* **We know or should know why we celebrate Christmas (more later) and not be persuaded by pluralistic trends. Hence, the importance of knowing the truth....1 Corinthians 8:5-6 (HCSB)** *"For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth--as there are many "gods" and many "lords" -- 6) yet for us there is one God, the Father from whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through Him."*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What are your personal thoughts about the birth of Jesus?
- Are you familiar with the scriptures describing His birth and ministry?
- Do you have conversations related to the Christmas story?
- What are your thoughts about the controversy over the words....Christmas and Holiday?

Scriptures to read:

- Isaiah 7:14, 40:1-11; Matthew 1:11, 1:18-25, 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-38, 1:39-55, 1:39-45; Luke 2:1-79, 2:1-52; Romans 5:1; (Eternal Life) 1 John 5:11; John 3:16, 10:27-28; Romans 6:23; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Timothy 1:15-17;

Quote: Charles H. Spurgeon, Pastor and Author

"The greatest and most momentous fact which the history of the world records is the fact of the Christ's birth?"

Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father of the United States

"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few....his precepts!"

Both quotes: (www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com)

Bottom Line:

Even before our Lord's small head was cushioned with straw and hay and pampered by the loving hands of the Virgin Mary; Prophets and sages foretold the coming of a Messiah who would be God and be named Immanuel "God is with us" (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). In a short span of thirty-three years this baby who was visited by the potentates of the time changed the world and all the inhabitants who walk the earth. From the cradle to the hill know as Skull Place (Golgotha) His deity was a force to be reckoned with. As followers of The Way....today and every day we celebrate His existence in our lives. Our Lord's birth is a special day for the world to recognize that the King of Kings was born. To our Christians brothers and sisters we know Him as the Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God and Eternal Savior. Happy birthday dear Jesus. The world's Prince of Peace! Luke 2:14 (NKJ) *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, Good will toward men!"*

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray

