

Tidings From Timothy

Big Sunday: We have lots of stuff planned for today. Of course we begin with our morning sermon on How Jesus gives our lives meaning. After that, at 1pm we will meet at the nursing home at 1pm to Carol and **sing with the residents**. **Fruit baskets** will be distributed at this time as well. Tonight, our 6pm service will be mainly a **song service** to the Lord. This will be followed by our December **fellowship meal** and there will be an **ornament exchange** after the meal.

Donations: A donation has been made to the Mt. Gilead food pantry in memory of Opal Dyer by Charlotte Arnett. Food has also come in from the Brownsville Post Office for the pantry.

Youth Devotional: The youth devotional at the McHenry's has been moved up to Tuesday night at 6:30pm. If you would like, you can bring a light-hearted gift for exchange and a drink or something sweet. This is for those in grades 7-12.

Thank You: to those who worked with our first Parents Night Out here at the building.

Birthdays

In Need of Prayer

Continue to pray for Jimmy Kerr and JE Spears as they undergo treatment in Nashville. Eula Isenberg and Helen Bartley have been hospitalized recently, and Lloyd Bartley had knee surgery on the 14th.

Steve Myatt 18th

John Robert Lankford 22nd

Happy Anniversary! to Brad and Angie Harlan – 19th &

John and Christie Lyons – 20th.

Questions: Should we celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ? What should a Christian's attitude toward Christmas be?

Answers: We should always refrain from binding any religious observance which is not bound in the Scriptures. Certainly the birth of Christ, just as any other good event recorded in the Bible, is worthy of our study, is an appropriate subject for songs of praise, and is good for teaching. However, this is not the same as saying that a connection **ought** to be drawn between December 25 and the birth of Christ. It is easy to go to an extreme in either way, so let me list some things that should guide us in our study of this subject:

- 1) No one knows the day Christ was born, it's not a big deal, but it probably wasn't even near a cold December 25th. Just read the accounts in Matthew through John and see what you think.
- 2) We have authority to thank God for all good things (1 Thess. 5:18). This would certainly include the miraculous events surrounding the sending of Jesus to earth. Therefore, those beautiful songs about Jesus' birth are good for use as spiritual songs **throughout the year**. It is regrettable that it is only seen as appropriate to sing them at one time during the year.
- 3) It is undeniable that the Scripture spends far more time talking about the death and resurrection of Christ as opposed to His birth. I find it strange, then, that Christmas is seen as a bigger holiday than Easter. Especially since we know when Easter time is, but don't know when Christ was born! This just shows that Christmas is a cultural observance and not really religious in nature.

Let me summarize and give some guidelines from the Bible: We want everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. However, we cannot **bind** Christmas as a time to observe Christ's birth because God didn't bind it, we must stay within His authority (Col. 3:17). It is appropriate in general to praise God for sending Jesus to us; we can't say Jesus was born on December 25th. We should have the spirit of giving at all times and seasons.

The special observance of one day as a special **religious** day (when God has not called it so) causes confusion. Proof? Consider Zech. 7:3ff. In this passage the people had made a day on their own in which they would mourn or fast for Jerusalem, which had fallen to the Babylonians 70 years before. But from a reading of the passage we see that God did not count this for their righteousness. It was just something they did. If you keep reading, you find what God really wanted from the people: justice, mercy, etc. Christmas is similar in that it is easier for people to set aside a day than live for Him each day. May we give thanks unto God for the greatest gift of all at this time and at all times.

-Tim

What Must I do to be saved?

- **Hear the Gospel - Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel - Mark 16:15,16**
- **Repent of Sins - Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ - Rom. 10:9,10**
- **Be Baptized for the Forgiveness of Sins - Acts 2:38**

Then, as a Christian we must:

- **LIVE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH - REV. 2:10**

Study the Bible?

God speaks to us today through the Holy Word of God - The Bible (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Scriptures instruct us in the way God requires His people to live (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The Bible is powerful and able to save us (Romans 1:16; James 1:21-25), if we will hear, learn and obey it.

⇒**Yes!** I want to learn more about the Holy Bible. Please enroll me in the eight lesson FREE Bible Correspondence Course (we even pay for the postage).

Call 487-5342, or mail this form to us:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Mail to: PO Box 266, Tompkinsville, KY 42167

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Mt. Gilead church of Christ

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Matthew 13:45 - 46⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: ⁴⁶Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Elders:

Keith Dyer.....427-4105
Veachel Harlan.....487-5727

Deacons:

Steve Carter, Larry Copas, Ray C. Lyon, Cass Thomas Froedge, Bobby D. Gerald, Bobby Harlan, Tony Harlan, Jimmy High, Gary Rowland

Evangelist:

Tim McHenry, 931-258-3494
12955 Clay Co. HWY Moss, TN 38575

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

Bible Study...	9:30am
Morning Worship...	10:05am
Evening Worship...	6pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study...	7pm
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Listen to our Sunday Morning Radio Sermon on WTKY 1370 AM & 92.1, 102.7, 101.5 FM at 8:30am each week, and to our weekday 10min program after the Noonday news and reports.