

Tidings From Timothy

As our last Sunday of the year, I thought it appropriate to preach on “Resolutions.” People often make them at about this time and then backtrack on them the rest of the year ☺. Anyway, the aim of a Christian is to perform our vows before God, and not to make a vow hastily. The main text for our study this morning will be from Deut. 6: 1-6.

Church Web Page is now up! Visit it at www.mtgileadchurch.net I'll have more to say about it soon. A big “Thank You!” to Jackie Cloyd for putting this website together.

In Need of Prayer: George Bryant passed away just before Christmas and his funeral will be today at 1pm at Yokely-Trible. We need singers for this funeral from Mt. Gilead. Also keep in your prayers the family of Willy Long. I understand he preached at Mt. Gilead in the past.

Nursing Home Service: Today at 2pm is Mt. Gilead's turn at the Nursing Home. They really love your visits.

Pantry Items: Pretty low on a bunch of items still, but you are making progress. It will probably slow down some after the holidays.

Appreciation: My family and I would like to express our deep gratitude for all the many gifts you all have given us this holiday season. You always do this each year and we always feel overwhelmed with thanksgiving for Mt. Gilead.

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

Answer: 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 when 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 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, but when and if you do so, make sure that your praise for Jesus is throughout the year. Finally, consider that 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.

Mt. Gilead church of Christ

PO Box 266, 1189 Mt. Gilead Rd., Tompkinsville, KY 42167 • 270-487-5342

- 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: _____

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Mail to: PO Box 266, Tompkinsville, KY 42167

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1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

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, Kevin Deckard, 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

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.