

Let's Put
Christ
Back...

This is the “Christmas season”.

It is no secret that this holiday has become highly commercialized.

For most, it has become more about getting than giving.

Many cry, “Let’s Put Christ back in Christmas.”

The call is a noble concern, considering the origin of this holiday was to remember the birth of Jesus.

They simply want people to pause and consider Jesus!

The problem is, Jesus was never in Christmas. It is a manmade, “religious tradition” without any Biblical authority.

The birth of Jesus is addressed in scripture –
Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2

We ought to study these texts, and there are many lessons to learn by studying about the birth of Jesus (See last year’s lesson, “Why Did My Savior Come to Earth” where we noted 3 reasons:

- 1) To save us;
- 2) To reveal the Father to us;
- 3) To give us an example how to live)

In scripture, we are called upon to remember His death, burial and resurrection.

When we obey the gospel – **Romans 6:3-4**

When we partake of the Lord's Supper each week
(**1 Corinthians 11:23-34, Acts 20:7**)

Each Sunday when we assemble – we remember
His resurrection (**Matthew 28:1-2,**
Mark 16:1-2, Luke 24:1 & John 20:1)

We have specific instructions related to remembering His death, burial and resurrection, BUT nowhere do we find instructions about a special, annual service devoted to His birth.

Furthermore, religious history reveals this celebration was not formally observed until ~336 AD

If God wanted us to commemorate His birth, would He have given us direction?

That is why our worship today is no different than any other Sunday.

So, the concern to “put Christ back into Christmas”, however noble, is futile because He was never there by God’s authority.

BUT the thought of putting Christ back where He belongs IS worthy of consideration.

There are many areas where Christ may have been lost or put on the back burner. He needs to be PUT BACK where He belongs.

Let us notice a few of these areas.

Let's Put Christ Back **Establishing Authority**

- Jesus has all authority

Matthew 28:18

Matthew 17:5 – given to Him by God the Father

Hebrews 1:1-3 – in “these last days” God has spoken to us through His Son.

Colossians 1:18 – in all things, He has preeminence

Let's Put Christ Back **Establishing Authority**

- Yet, by many, His authority has been removed
 - Of course, the world rejects Him
 - But some followers are semi-devoted and only follow when convenient
 - Others, follow Him EXCEPT in some area that conflicts with their wants and desires
 - Others render only lip-service while living, worldly & materialistic lives.
- **Titus 1:16** – they profess to know God, but in works they deny Him

Let's Put Christ Back **Establishing Authority**

- The Bible teaches that Jesus must be first!
Colossians 3:17
Galatians 2:20
- Philippians 3:7-10 – Paul forsook all for Him...
- In everything we do, we must appeal to His authority
- **If Christ's word is not governing your decisions, it is time to put Him back!**

Let's Put Christ Back in His Church

- The church belongs to Jesus
Matthew 16:18
Ephesians 1:22-23
- A purpose of His church is to bring glory to God and Christ
1 Peter 2:4-5
Ephesians 3:21
The church is about relationship - **Ephesians 4:16, etc.**

Let's Put Christ Back **in His Church**

- But, far too often, Christ has been lost in the church
- While admitting it belongs to Him, they create the church to be what they want
 - Convenience over sacrifice
 - Self-centered
 - Entertaining & socially aware
 - Materialistic
 - Tolerant of error & immorality
- “Attend the church of your choice”
Many are outspoken about their progressiveness

Let's Put Christ Back in His Church

- EVERYTHING about His church is established in the New Testament.
Ephesians 3:10-11 – it was in His eternal purpose and makes know His manifold wisdom.
- Many of Paul's letters were to churches

Let's Put Christ Back in His Church

- EVERYTHING about His church is established in the New Testament.
- Within the pages of the NT, we find
 - Churches were autonomous – **cf. Revelation 2 & 3**
 - Worshipped according to a pattern – **John 4:24**
 - Did spiritual work to build up the body – **cf. Ephesians 4:11-16**
 - Had a local government – **1 Peter 5:1-3, Acts 20:28**

Let's Put Christ Back in His Church

- IF a church is to be considered faithful to God, Christ and His will MUST be its focal point!

If we make the church into anything other than what scripture teaches, we need to put Christ back.

Let's Put Christ Back **in Our Homes**

- **Psalm 127:1**, “Unless the LORD builds the house...”
- Christ is NOT the center of many homes today.
 - Shattered by divorce, abuse and/or neglect.
 - Materialistic goals often the priority
 - God is not first place.
 - Some render lip-service to Jesus, but hypocrisy abounds in their decisions – entertainment, time usage, language, etc.

Let's Put Christ Back in Our Homes

- God gives clear instructions for our homes
- **Ephesians 5:23-24, 6:4** – the husband is to be the head of the house. LEAD them!
- **Ephesians 5:22, 24** – Wives are to submit
- **Ephesians 6:1-3** – Children are to obey and honor their parents
- Love governs every relationship – **Ephesians 5:25-28, Titus 2:4, Ephesians 6:2** - honor

Let's Put Christ Back **in Our Homes**

- This is important because the home is the foundational unit of society!

As the home goes, so goes society AND the church!

If Christ is not at the center of your home, you need to put him back!

Let's Put Christ Back in Our Personal Lives

- As noted, Jesus is at the foundation of everything we do. He will impact EVERY area of our lives and every decision we make.
- Sadly, like in churches and homes, Christ has been compartmentalized in our personal lives.
 - We may do some things for Him consistently
 - BUT, when we “leave the building” we live a different life. NOT fully devoted to Him!

Let's Put Christ Back in Our Personal Lives

- God demands our all
- **Romans 12:1-2** – we are to be living sacrifices & transformed
- **Colossians 1:10** – we walk “worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work...”
- **Luke 14:33** – “whoever does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”
- If Christ is missing in areas of your personal life, you need to put him back!

Let's Put Christ Back in Our Example

- Related to previous point, we are to be godly examples
- Whether we like it or not, we are an influence to others. We have greater influence on those closest to us.
- Some live double-lives. On Sunday, they attend services, but during the week they go places they ought not, use profanity, associate with the wrong crowds, etc.
- Others live with their faith a secret.

Let's Put Christ Back in Our Example

- A part of the Christian life is to let our lights shine

Philippians 2:14-15

Matthew 5:14-16

- OUR ability to win others to Christ, depends on this!

IT will also have an impact on the future of the church!

- Do others see His light in you? If not, you need to put Him back!

These are some areas where we need to pause and make an honest examination asking if we are where we ought to be
(2 Corinthians 13:5)!

If Jesus is not there; If He is not the reason for what we do, let us resolve to make the necessary changes.

Concluding thought: There is a sense in which I am glad some are advocating a return of Christ to “Christmas”.

During this time of year, virtually everyone is reminded that Jesus DID come to this earth (hence the radical movement to have His name removed from the season).

Maybe appeals will provoke someone to put Christ FIRST in EVERY area of their lives.

THAT is what I desire!

What about you?

Where is Christ in your life?

Let us pray!