



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:
www.parkheightscoc.com

Thus Saith the Lord

KNOWING JESUS' BIRTHDAY

By Jeff Sweeten

There exists a general principle concerning God's Revelation and how we know what we know: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29

A Bible student will readily confess that the birth date of the Christ is not revealed, even though speculation has abounded "since dirt." God - in His infinite wisdom - chose not to reveal the date and the proper response from godly people should be "Amen." When something is not revealed it is presumptuous to go beyond it (2 Peter 2:10) by adding to or taking away from it (Deuteronomy 12:32).

Now, from the fact that it is not revealed to the reason it is not revealed is a mighty leap in the "why" of things. We are moving from an unknown (the date) into oblivion (why the date is not revealed). However, here is some food for thought.

It seems to be our nature to make wrong out of God's right. For instance, during the Exodus, the children of Israel regurgitated rebellion like bad ham. At every turn, they frustrated Moses and disappointed God. On their journey "from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea," the people were whining about their latest perceived slight and God sent fiery serpents among the people, thinning the unwashed herd by a substantial percentage (Numbers 21:1-8). Now, fast forward a few hundred years and we find that the children of Israel had turned a simple "serpent on a stick" into a god! King Hezekiah, determined to destroy idolatry in Israel...

"...removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan." 2 Kings 18:4 So... we have Christmas, a holiday of Catholic origin and not based on any Bible directive whatsoever. However, remembering the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7) **IS** required (cf. Matthew 26:26-29).

The Bible encourages gift giving (Luke 11:13) and celebrating the joy of spiritual and family gatherings (Matthew 8:14-15; Luke 24:33). It is easy to greatly appreciate a "season" wherein people are kind, loving and giving (like they should be the whole year, Matthew 22:39), but a Christian will practice what is revealed, not invent traditions to celebrate what God has not revealed. I understand that Jesus' sacrifice for the world could not have occurred had He not been born, but God reveals nothing about celebrating that unrevealed date. Perhaps - and this is just a guess - that is why God did not reveal the exact date of Jesus' birth; He knows us! He did reveal, however, that we should keep His Memorial Feast (1 Corinthians 11:23-29). "Thus saith the Lord."