

Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

December 8, 2013

✚✚✚ Welcome to our Worship Service! ✚✚✚

Devotional:----- Everett Yoder
Message:----- Henry Nissley
Offering:----- Alms
SS Lesson:----- Proverbs 6

Adult and Youth Verse: When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. Prov. 6:22

Intermediate Verse: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph. 4:11,12

Junior Verse: Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1Cor.15:33

Today's Host: Robert & Rachel Martin

Primary Verse: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:" Heb. 13:17

Preschool Verse: "Obey them that have the rule over you" Heb. 13:17

SS Lesson for next week: Proverbs 7

Adult and Youth Verse for next week:
Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:
That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. Prov. 7: 4,5

Next Sunday Host: Michael & Virginia Yoder

☐ ○ ☐ CHILDREN'S CORNER ○ ☐ ○ ☐

Is There Life in Space?

Is there intelligent life somewhere in outer space? Do aliens live on another planet, far away? Men have been searching for decades to see if someone in space will contact us. For instance, people once wondered if perhaps there was some form of life on the moon. Finally scientists determined that the moon is a lifeless place. More recently, the search has focused on Mars, where indications of water make scientists hopeful they might find some signs of life. However, despite the intense search, no signs of life have been found.

The unmanned Voyager spacecrafts have taken thousands of pictures of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. These pictures reveal harsh, unlivable worlds. Scientists have also sent radio signals into deep space, sending greetings to any inhabitants of planets circling distant stars. The radio telescopes "listen" for any space messages that might be coming toward us here on Earth. Have they found anything? No!

The results show that life as we know it is unique to Earth. This is upsetting to evolutionists, who believe that life began on Earth through natural processes millions of years ago. They would like to see signs that life has started in the same way somewhere else. Yet we know that God is the creator of life, and He created the abundant life we see around us. The Bible tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). When we look out into space, we should be looking not for aliens, but for the Creator.

-Kids Answers <http://goo.gl/8aQUgX>

Announcements:

- ✓ This Evening: Free Evening
- ✓ Youth are invited to Steve Nissley's for lunch and will be singing at Morningside afterwards.
- ✓ Prayer meeting canceled due to Bethel having a CAM Billboard presentation at their school Wed at 7PM.
- ✓ School devotions this week by: Chadwin Nissley

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

Dec. 10, Happy Birthday! Hannah Yutzy, 1977

Dec. 14, Happy Anniversary! Jay ♥ Luann, 2012

Taking Christ Out of Christmas

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday are behind us, which means we have entered the traditional Christmas Season.

Are you bothered by the fact that Corporate America is doing its best to take Christ out of Christmas? Retail stores put up banners proclaiming "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas." Many believe we should boycott those businesses for their sacrilegious failure to acknowledge Christianity's most sacred holiday.

At the risk of causing the natives to revolt... I am going to share my thoughts about "taking Christ out of Christmas." I think those who complain about the so-called "anti-Christian" holiday greetings should consider a few facts before blaming retailers for being anti-Christian.

In my not-so-humble opinion, I believe Christians should be grateful when stores remove Christ from their annual orgies of crass commercialism. A casual scan of the Gospels reveals that one of Jesus' main messages was one

of anti-materialism. The way Christmas is celebrated is more of a glorification of greed, gluttony and consumerism rather than of the lifestyle Jesus advocated.

Whether you want to believe it or not, Christmas was hijacked by non-Christians from the very beginning. When I think about the most popular symbols of the season, I have to wonder if Jesus would approve. The Christmas tree, mistletoe, holly, wreaths, gift exchanges and Yule logs, to name just a few, ALL had their origins in the ancient pagan rituals of pre-Christian Europe. Even Santa Claus, that beloved mythical character that we teach our children to love and believe in, can be traced to ancient Germanic pagan mythology.

What about the date of Christmas? No one knows the exact day or year Jesus was born. The only written accounts of his birth are found in just two books of the New Testament – the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke – and neither indicate the time of year, let alone the exact date or year of

his birth. So, why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25? Once again, we can thank the pagans for another of their many contributions to the Christmas celebration. The date corresponds to the ancient Roman winter solstice festival called Saturnalia, which featured wreaths, feasts, the lighting of candles and the exchanging of gifts.

You might be surprised to learn that the man-made tradition of celebrating Christmas did not start until the 4th century – during the reign of Constantine (no surprise there). There is absolutely nothing biblical about the celebration of the birth of Christ. You might also be surprised to know that the Puritans in England and America, during the 17th century, banned the observance of Christmas because they were opposed to the ritualism that had developed. I wonder what they would think today.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:8

Way too much... of what modern-day Christians practice and teach is based on man-made (human) traditions – and has absolutely nothing to do with Christ. To make matters worse... our traditions will eventually seem “biblical” if we practice them long enough. Folks, if it's not in the Bible, it is NOT biblical!

Has Corporate America taken Christ out of Christmas? The real question should be: What would Jesus do? Would Jesus tolerate and condone the primarily pagan holiday that we have named after him? I don't think so.

In my not-so-humble opinion... the popular greetings of the season should be the least of our concerns. Our time and energy would be much better spent seriously and prayerfully considering what Jesus would do, as well as what Jesus would have us do.

Don't just GO to church; BE the Church.

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