

## **A Call to Preserve the True Meaning of Christmas.**

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Beginning with prayer in public schools, the past 40 years has seen a systematic purging of the very knowledge of Jesus Christ from our culture. Today, the words of John 3:16 ring with no familiarity in the ears of many children. Believe it or not, many teens today do not know Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth, nor do they know Easter celebrates His resurrection.

For years there has been a concerted if passive effort to disassociate the holiday from any reference to Jesus. Currently, there is a movement to completely remake the holiday we call Christmas into something bearing no hint of God. These attacks represent one of many stepping stones to a complete removal of God from our culture. How will we respond?

Many Christians today complain about the commercialization of Christmas while continuing to participate in it. Remember, our heart for Christmas is not expressed solely in a few Christian gestures when the family gathers. It is demonstrated in how we approach the whole so-called Christmas season. As Christians, the birth and life of Jesus is on our minds continuously. Christmas is the time we pay special honor just like we observe our own birthdays. If we Christians don't preserve this annual honoring of Christ's birth, how can we expect our culture at large to do so?

How can Christians preserve the true meaning of Christmas? First, we can take an honest look at how we think of Christmas. Do we earnestly seek to honor and glorify the birth and life of Jesus? Are there any areas in which we have been drawn into the world's view of Christmas?

Whether or not you choose to take a fresh look at how you observe Christmas, remember, the culture will not change unless individuals have the courage to change. If we do nothing, these current attacks on Christmas will likely yield the same results as the attacks of the last four decades. Before long, the special remembrance of Jesus' resurrection, which has been a long time under similar attacks, will suffer the same fate.

As Christians I urge you not to approach a reevaluation of Christmas as threatening to your family or traditions, but to realize that any part of our lives that we bring into sharper focus on Jesus can only result in much greater joy and intimacy with Him, and peace in our lives. What better place to sharpen our focus than on the remembrance of Jesus coming to pay the penalty for our sins? Is there anything you can do to make Christmas more Christ centered in your home?