

Church of Christ

515 West Park Street  
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**Worship Schedule**

**Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

*Preacher: Zac Hall*

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*Phone: 913.764.2325*

**Are You a Christian?**

**Do you know what you must  
do to be saved?**

Hear – Romans 10:17  
Believe – John 8:24  
Repent – Acts 17:30  
Confess – Romans 10:9-10  
Be Baptized – 1 Peter 3:21  
Live Faithfully –  
Revelation 2:10

**Got a Bible Question?**

Be sure to submit it in the blue box on the table in the foyer! You can also text, email, or message the Facebook page. Questions will be answered the last Sunday evening of each month.

*The Park Street Informer*

**ILL**

Those Fighting Cancer: Barbra Hook, Bill Wright, and Drew Shinn

**Prayer List**

Mike Katosh, James Jones, Tom Thrasher, Robert Hook, Sandra and George Rowell, Tina Thomas, Millie Robertson, and Margie Chastain.

**Shut-Ins**

Ted Thrasher, Debbie McGuire.

**Upcoming Events**

Singing – December 27<sup>th</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck – December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Questions and Answers – December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Ladies Bible Marking – January 7<sup>th</sup> following morning worship.  
Ladies Bible Study – January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.  
Men’s Meeting – January 14<sup>th</sup>

**Truth Seekers**

Starting Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Truth Seekers will be moving to Sunday Night following evening worship. Come join us on the front pew!

**Passage to Ponder: Colossians 3:17**

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

**Sunday Sermons**

A.M.....Can a Christian Celebrate Christmas  
P.M..... Lesson in Lyrics: Take Time to be Holy

# Those To Serve

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Morning Worship

### Announcements

George Thomas

### Song Leader

George Thomas

### Opening Prayer

Steve Phillips

### Preside

Ed Hanson

### Assist

George Thomas

### Closing Prayer

Zac Hall

## Evening Worship

### Opening Prayer

Zac Hall

### Closing Prayer

George Thomas

### Lord's Supper

Ed Hanson

Wed. Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Song Leader

Singing

### Invitation

Zac Hall

## CHRISTMAS: FROM HEAVEN OR MEN

Unknown

To many people Christmas is full of religious significance as a time to honor Christ and His birth. Yet, what is the origin of Christmas? This is an important question to those who desire to worship and serve God according to the Scriptures. Jesus asked those who were questioning Him concerning the baptism of John if it was "FROM HEAVEN OR MEN" (**Luke 20:4**). The chief priest and elders who opposed Jesus had only human authority for much of their doctrine and practices. The baptism of John was of divine authority, yet had been wrongfully rejected by them. All religious practices and observances today, including Christmas, must submit to the test Jesus required—is it from heaven or men?

When one searches the Scriptures he neither finds the term "Christmas" nor the birth of Christ being celebrated under any other name. In fact, to learn of the origin of Christmas one must go to the encyclopedia rather than the Bible. The encyclopedia tells of a Catholic pope by the name of Liberius who, in the middle 300's AD, ordered that December 25 be adopted as the official day to observe the birth of Christ. The pope said, "We have a Mass for every saint, but there is no Mass for Christ." Thus, he decreed the observance of "Christ Mass" (Christmas) day. For many years, in fact for many centuries, Christmas(s) was strictly a Catholic holiday (holy day). Eventually various Protestant churches began to borrow this holiday, making it a religious observance. It is plain to see that the religious observance of Christmas did not originate from the inspired teaching of Christ or His apostles and is thus not from heaven, but from men.

Reading the accounts of the birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke, one finds nothing about the observance of that day. Neither is there found the mentioning of a day, month or year it took place. Concerning the month and Christ's birth one will find that Luke mentions there were shepherds with their sheep in the field at the time of Christ's birth. Most Bible scholars agree that the mentioning of this fact probably means it was during the spring or summer, not winter, that Jesus was born. However, the exact date is unknown.

We must have divine authority for all that we do in our worship lest our worship be in vain. Jesus warned against vain worship declaring, "THIS PEOPLE DRAWETH NIGH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOURETH ME WITH THEIR LIPS; BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN" (**Matthew 15:8-9**). Whatever we do in word or deed we must do all in the name (i.e. by the authority) of the Lord (**Colossians 3:17**). To fail to do this is to break

fellowship with God (**2 John 9**).

Is the blessing of the birth of Christ worth remembering? Of course the answer is yes. But the Bible places the emphasis upon His atoning death rather than upon His birth. Only one day is exalted above other days in the New Testament Scriptures—the first day of the week. This is the day of Jesus' resurrection which declared Him to be the "SON OF GOD WITH POWER" (**Romans 1:4**). It is on this day that disciples are commanded to partake of the Lord's Supper to remember the death of Jesus until he comes again (**1 Corinthians 11:24-29; Acts 20:7**).

The observance of Christmas as a religious holiday restricts thoughts concerning the birth of Christ to just one time during the year. To the Christmas- observing person a sermon on the birth of Christ during June would seem completely out of place. The singing of "Silent Night" in August is unheard of—"That's a Christmas song!" Should we not contemplate and thank the Lord for the birth of Christ throughout the year?

Many times we hear pleas to put Christ back in Christmas. Such pleas come from sincere people who want to honor Christ, but realize most people's observance of Christmas fails to do this. It can be seen from the Scriptures and from secular history that Christ was not in Christmas from the beginning. Thus, the plea should not be to put Christ in Christmas, but to put Christ in our lives, worshipping and honoring Him as He has directed in the Scriptures. It is then that Christ will be truly honored, and love and benevolence will not be seasonal, but seen in our lives year round.