



The Truth About the Benefits of Celebration (I Choose Christmas)

Date: December 25, 2022

Series Summary:

1. The Truth About the Importance of Celebration (I choose to celebrate)
2. The Truth About the Hindrance to Celebration (I choose not to be hindered)
3. The Truth About the Benefits of Celebration (I choose hope)
4. **The Truth About Choosing a Day to Celebrate (I choose Christmas)**

I. The Truth About Choosing a Day to Celebrate "I Choose Christmas"

Big Question: What Day did you choose? Romans 14:5)

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord

Statement: How did we come to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th.

II. How Did We Choose December 25th to Celebrate Christ's Birthday?

- It is not believed Jesus was born on the day Christmas is globally celebrated. Instead, Christmas was chosen as a convenient celebratory day on the same day of a pagan holiday that celebrated the winter solstice, according to The History Channel. The holiday was celebrated as the Roman pagan solstice, or "birthday of the unconquered sun," which began on December 17 and ended December 25th?
- One large plot point in the story of Jesus's birth is the presence of shepherds watching over their flocks. This is clearly outlined in the Bible at Luke 2:7-8, and is such a prominent part of the story, it has been featured in Christmas songs, according to the United Church of God. Multiple sources, including books "Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays" and "The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary" commented that the weather would not have permitted Shepherds to be tending to their flocks at the end of December. Instead, this implies Jesus was born during a warmer month.¹

¹ <https://www.newsweek.com/december-25-really-day-jesus-was-born-what-bible-says-1270667>



III. Four Thoughts Paul Shared About Days We Choose to Celebrate (Romans 14:1-7)

1. We Have Personal Boundary Lines

- **14:1** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, **whose faith is weak**, eats only vegetables.

2. We Have Personal Preferential Judgments

- 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with **contempt** the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not **judge** the one who does, for God has accepted them.

3. We Have Personal Privileges

- 4 Who are you to **judge** someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- 5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. **Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.** 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.

4. We Have Personal Worship Preference

- Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.

Question: Does this mean there are no absolutes we are compelled to live by?

Side Question: Does this mean that our personal preferences should dictate our choices?

Answer: No, God has always established absolute boundaries for our lives, sometimes, our personal preferences are unhealthy.

- **Proverbs 21:2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

Next Time: New Year's: The sermon will be called "When"

Big Question: When will you do what you promised God, yourself, and others?

Two Questions to Think About:

1. Are you sincerely and truthfully trying to do the **things you always promised** you would do?
2. Are you **swearing to God falsely** about your real intentions?

Text: Matthew 5:33

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. '