

Happy Holidays

By Carl McMurray

This week a large part of the world will celebrate the Christmas holiday. For many of us it will be a time for visiting with family, gift giving, and snacks. For others this day is actually considered a Holy Day, a celebration of Jesus' birth. Bible believers who look to God's word for their guidance need to keep the facts of this day in their mind so as not to be led into following the customs and traditions of men. Here might be considered the top 6 fallacies taken for granted about this day.

6. We have no proof a chorus of angels appeared and sang to the shepherds. Host of angels? Yes. Praising God? Yes. Singing those praises? The Bible doesn't say so.

5. We have no idea if three was the correct number of wise men who visited the child. Three types of gifts? Absolutely, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But two men could have brought these gifts as well as five. Gold would be a popular gift. Contrary to all the nativity scenes we see in front yards, we just have no idea how many wise men visited. The Bible doesn't say.

4. The wise men visited the young Jesus in a house, not at his manger of birth. Again, don't be fooled by all the nativity scenes in church plays and pictures.

3. When the wise men visited Jesus, He was closer to two years old rather than being an infant just born. Herod inquired of them when the star had appeared and based upon their calculations he ordered the children up to around two killed.

2. Jesus was not born on this day. He was more likely born in the spring or summer when the shepherds would have been in the fields with their sheep as the Scriptures record.

And the number one fallacy that people believe about this day... (drum roll.....)

1. That God is pleased when we make up holy days and worship Him in other ways that He has not asked for. In Matthew 15:8-9, Jesus called the action of teaching men's commandments as being "of God" vain worship.

Enjoy the day off from work that you spend with family. Have fun, eat much, and thank God for it all, as His children should constantly thank Him. But remember that He has given us the way He wants His Son to be remembered, by His loving death rather than His birth.

