

Merry Christmas!!

The truth about this season is that it isn't a more holy time than last Wednesday or next Friday. It does not ensure peace on the earth and it is not truly a Christian holiday. We have no proof from scripture that this is the birthday of Christ as a matter of fact we have evidence of the contrary. Even it was proven to be the birth date of the Messiah it was never told or even inferred that we are to esteem this day above another day. It is amazing that we feel that because humanity is celebrating something that we have to rename the celebration so that we can join in. OK, so this is not a Christian holiday, after all, there is the small detail of the Santa Claus mythology and the adult ministered faith in talking reindeer that we encourage our children to believe very successfully. We know that if we start them out in the Santa Claus faith then they will not only believe it but will one day teach it to their children and so on for generations. We want our little ones to believe that there is a man that can circumnavigate the globe and bring toys to every good child based on his omnipotent judgment alone. That doesn't sound like a Christian thing right? The season is characterized by frosty the snowman cartoons and The Grinch that stole Christmas not to mention Charlie Brown and the gang that teach very positive messages but less people are going to church on Christmas than ever and Jesus is signified as a helpless little baby in a manger with no power other than his beauty.

Friends, I am not one of those believers that want to bash you about celebrating Christmas because Romans 14:5-6 says **"One man esteemeth one day ABOVE ANOTHER: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks."** My hope is that we will begin to understand that we are in the world but not of the world and do not have to make everything ours to make it acceptable. It is fine to select gifts and presents for another person or to have a season that signifies hope and generosity with peace toward all men. We do have to add the word "Christ" or "hallelujah" to a night or an event to try to make a natural day spiritual. Our faith is not in feast days, t-shirts or banners. We do not need the manger scene or even the symbols of the cross or the picture of the crucifixion or Lord's supper to keep the commandment of Jesus. **John 13:34 says "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye LOVE ONE ANOTHER; as I have loved you, that ye also LOVE ONE ANOTHER."** While everybody is celebrating the season we should remember that the world is trying to get our attention. They want love and peace and have to have wild parties and devise children's' fables to create a world of joy, tranquility and abundance that is our inheritance (**Matthew 5:5 says blessed are the MEEK: for they shall inherit the earth**).

As the world is crying out for hope and good cheer let's be ready to give them what the annual Christmas bonus or the new Wii could never do. Let's tell them the greatest love story ever told about how an innocent was born into a world of guilty men and gave them the ultimate gift wrapped in his own blood and innocence. **Santa Claus can't top that.**