

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

I. The _____ of Christ's _____

A. It is the _____ of _____

1. _____ throughout the Old Testament (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6)

2. _____ the New Testament (Matt. 2:1-11; Lk. 2:1-18)

B. It is the _____ of _____

1. To _____ the _____ (Matt. 5:17-18)

2. To _____ the _____ (John 14:6-7)

3. To _____ the _____ (Heb. 9:27-28)

4. To conquer _____, _____, and _____ (Rom. 8:1-2; Heb. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:55-57; 2 Tim. 1:10)

II. The _____ over the _____

A. It is impossible to establish _____

1. Confusing _____

1. _____ calendar used _____ year

2. _____ calendar, adopted in 45 BC, adjusted _____ by Gregory in _____, still imprecise

2. Birth records _____ by Roman invasion in AD _____

B. It is sometimes expedient to _____ a date

1. Fourth Century church in the _____ settled on _____

2. Fourth Century church in the _____ settled on _____
- C. Since the mid-19th century there have been _____ to the date
1. Claims coincidence with _____
 2. Claims “shepherds would not keep flocks in _____ on a _____ and _____ December night”
- D. There are _____ to the challenges
1. Coincidence with pagan holidays is _____
 - a. Passover consistent with pagan “Rite of _____”
 - b. Church day of _____ is named for a _____
 - c. Coincidence was often _____ to signify Christianity’s _____ of the pagan symbol
 - d. There is no modern correlation between _____ and _____ pagan holiday
 2. The matter of the _____ is conjectural and inconclusive

III. Conclusions

- A. There is no Biblical _____ either for or against commemoration of Christ’s _____
- B. There is historical precedent for Jews and Christians _____ to commemorate significant _____
- C. There are centuries of Christian _____ for celebrating Christ’s birth
- D. There is no valid reason for _____ Dec 25 in favor of any _____
- E. Therefore, it cannot be said to be _____ to celebrate Christmas (cf. Rom. 14:5-6)
- F. We must be certain we celebrate unto the _____ (Zech. 7:4-10)