

Is Jesus the Reason for the Season?

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We hear it said now and again this time of year. “Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.” It sounds like a nice holiday reminder. However, is this quaint little saying true, or is it simply a nice sounding holiday rhyme lacking Biblical truth?

In one sense, to say, “Jesus is the reason for the season”, is to suggest that it is all His idea. Yet, from the standpoint of Scripture, none of it is His doing. Celebrating December 25th as the birthday of Jesus is strictly the idea of men. The Bible does not tell us the date of His birth.

Interestingly, Jesus does not ask us to remember or celebrate His birth. He asks us to remember His death (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24). It is in His death, burial, and resurrection that the Christian can find true reason to celebrate in every season (cf. John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8; 8:1-3).

To say, “Jesus is the reason for the season” would also suggest that He is the main focus of the season. While some may celebrate this time of year with Jesus in mind, for the majority of people, Jesus is clearly not the reason for the season.

Children are more concerned about making Santa’s nice list. Parents are more concerned about holiday preparations and what to get Aunt Mary and Uncle Fred. Holiday movies, and most of the songs this time of year, are more focused on secular themes of the season: Jingle Bells, A White Christmas, Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, Deck the Halls, and so on. Yes, I know there are also songs like “Silent Night” and “Little Town of Bethlehem.” However, the majority of the songs are absent of any Biblical references.

Have you ever wondered, if it is the birthday of Jesus that we are truly celebrating, why He gets no gifts? Certainly a word of thanks to Him would be in order. Here too, we find that the majority of thanks go to parents, uncles, aunts, and other family and friends. We thank them for the gifts *they* gave to us.

The birth of Jesus was certainly a great event. Miraculous in nature (Matt. 1:23). Theologically deep (John 1:1-3, 14). Yet, as wonderful as it was, it pales in comparison to the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for our sins. Jesus Himself said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. The decorations are beautiful. The time with family and friends is special, as always. The giving of gifts is generous and full of love. However, doctrinally, Jesus is not the reason for this season. He might be a great motivator in your giving, but shouldn't that be the case ALL YEAR long? In this way, I would like to suggest a new rhyme to guide us throughout our whole lives:

Jesus and His Giving
is the Reason for
Our Victorious Living!