

# The Four Greatest Events

**Introduction.** Men arbitrarily pick great events of history, and great events in people's lives. The gospel has reigned for 2,000 years. If I were to ask you what you think the greatest event that ever was, what would you say? A lot of people would say the birth of Christ.

A large part of the world will celebrate the birth of Christ soon. If you go by any denominational church building this time of year, you will probably see slogans on their outdoor signs like, "Let's put Christ back into Christmas" or "Jesus is the reason for the season." Some will even ask, "What are you going to give Christ on His birthday?" Unfortunately, even churches of Christ will have messages like these emblazoned on their buildings, and will organize Christmas plays and programs.

How do we know what to do? Should we go along with the rest of the world and celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th? Everything we do we must do by the authority of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17). We have four great events in the Bible which surround Jesus. All of these occurred within the first 33 years of the gospel's history.

## I. ***The Birth Of Jesus -- The Basis Of Character (Matthew 1:18-25)***

- A. He came from God by birth of a woman (John 1:1, 14; Galatians 4:4).
- B. He was miraculously born of God through the womb of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- C. His life was characterized as a teacher and one from God (John 3:2; 9:30-32; 20:30-31).
- D. We must confess Him as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32; 16:16; 27:54; Luke 4:34, 41; John 11:27; Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10).

## II. ***The Death Of Jesus -- The Basis Of Salvation (Colossians 1:19-22)***

- A. His death equals the "blood" (Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9-10).
- B. Salvation equals forgiveness and reconciliation (Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 2:17).
- C. The seed of Adam equals death, but the seed of God equals life (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- D. He is the author of our salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9).

## III. ***The Resurrection Of Jesus -- The Basis Of Hope (1 Peter 1:3-4)***

- A. Our hope is heaven (Colossians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 15:17).
- B. If Jesus was raised, we can be too (1 Corinthians 15:20-21).
- C. Resurrection is a key element of the gospel (Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- D. Hope makes us strong (Romans 5:5).

#### IV. ***The Return Of Jesus -- The Basis Of Vigilance (Acts 1:9-11)***

- A. We look to Jesus Christ, who is on His throne (Hebrews 1:3 12:1-2).
- B. Jesus will indeed return one day (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- C. There were signs accompanying the destruction of Jerusalem, but there would be no signs to designate the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:36-39).
- D. Therefore, we are admonished to watch (Matthew 24:42-51; 1 Peter 4:7).

**Conclusion.** Only one of these events above is sanctified by a memorial (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). If we go beyond this, we are being presumptuous with God and saying, "Lord, here is my worship and you are going to accept it!" There is only one problem with a religious observance of Christmas. No Bible authority exists for it. The same problem exists with sprinkling for baptism, infant baptism, using mechanical instruments of music in worship, observing the Lord's supper on Thursday, etc. In the absence of divine authority for the practice, one cannot walk by faith and observe Christmas religiously (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Christians do not celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ because they do not think the birth of Christ is important. As a result of His birth, the whole plan of God was revealed. Furthermore, Christians do not celebrate Christmas because they refuse to honor or remember Christ. We wear His name and no other. We do not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday because it is of human origin, namely the Roman Catholic Church and paganism. Christ never authorized the worship of His day of birth. God does not want His Son remembered as a baby lying in a manger, but as the suffering Savior and resurrected Redeemer!

Christians do not have to be anti-Christmas. It is not wrong for families to get together and exchange gifts. Christians do not have to be anti-holiday. There is nothing wrong with national holidays, such as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving. We need to celebrate Christmas without adding "religion" to it.

Christmas is not religious until it is made so by the participant. We must be careful not to be part of events in observance of it -- candlelight services, religious plays, etc. We must be careful not to leave an impression of believing it to be Christ's birthday (i.e., sending religious greeting cards, singing the religious seasonal songs, and decorating with religious ornaments).

In a time when so many encourage us to think about His birth, I encourage you to think about His death and what it means to you. It can mean a freedom from a life of sin and of eternal damnation. Only one great event remains: the Lord's coming. Be ready! You will participate one way or another (John 5:28-29).