

REASON FOR THE SEASON?**Acts 27:43**

INTRODUCTION

- A. “Purpose” – Strong’s G1013 βούλημα [*boulema* /boo·lay·mah/] “1 will, counsel, purpose.” Cf. Strong’s G1011 βουλευώ [*bouleuo* /bool·yoo·o/] “1 to deliberate with one’s self, consider. 2 to take counsel, resolve.” 2 CO 1:17 – “minded” and “purpose” (2).
- B. So, Jesus is the reason for the season – REALLY?
- C. There are those who think there would be no celebration without Christ.
- D. There are those who refuse to celebrate the season because the Bible does not mention his day of birth.

DISCUSSION

I. WHAT THE RELIGIOUS WORLD SAYS.

- A. “Christmas is a birthday.” Where is this in the Bible?
- B. “Put Christ back in Christmas.” Many are not having their services today – why? Where is Christ?
- C. “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Is this quaint little saying true, or is it simply a nice sounding holiday rhyme lacking Biblical truth? Is “the season” Jesus’ idea? Is it of men or God?
- D. The points I am not trying to make:
 1. I am not suggesting Christmas be cancelled.
 2. I am not being scrooge.
 3. I am not promoting Jesus is the reason for the season.
 4. I am not promoting Jesus is not the reason for the season.

II. JESUS IS THE REASON.

- A. 1 TH 5:2.
- B. I am interested in putting Christ back in the lives of Christians and introducing the Christ to those who may have never met Him.
- C. The points I want you to understand.
 1. The birth of Christ, no matter how incredible and amazing was not the most significant event in human history.
 2. As Christians, we cannot be scrooge – ever.
- D. The most significant event in human history occurred over a three day period and involved not the birth of Christ but his death and resurrection.
- E. If Jesus is the “reason for the season” then the season is never closed. JN 4:35.
 1. How long will the lines be to get into church TODAY?
 2. I mean whose going to be upset because they cannot sit on the front row?
 3. Who is going to fight because we ran out of song books?
 4. Is anyone anticipating just what the sermon and class topics will be?
 5. Is anyone singing you better watch out, you better not cry because Jesus is coming soon?
- F. Numbers from the National Retail Federation.
 1. What is NRF's prediction for holiday growth this year?
 2. NRF is projecting 2011 holiday sales to rise 2.8% from 2010. If NRF's 2.8% estimate is correct, holiday sales this year would be \$465.6 billion.
 3. What percentage of annual sales do the holidays represent?
 4. For some retailers, the holiday season can represent anywhere between 25-40% of annual sales. In 2010, holiday sales represented 19.4% of total retail industry sales.

- G. And we say Jesus is the Reason for the Season – no we have been duped. There are those who say put the Christ back in Christmas – given its pagan roots – well I am not nearly as interested as putting the Christ back in Christmas as I am putting Christ back into the lives of Christians and anyone who is willing to hear the word of God.

III. LESSONS I CAN LEARN.

- A. This is a season of give and as such our attitude should reflect Christ, for no one has given more. I hope the joy of giving is evident in my actions. MT 5:16.
- B. In this time where others are focused on His birth, let us honor his life and death by living for Him. GA 2:20.
- C. Jesus asked us to remember His death. LK 22:19; 1 CO 11:24. It is in His death, burial, and resurrection that the Christian can find true reason to celebrate in every season. JN 3:16; RO 5:6-8; 8:1-3.
- D. 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.
1. Children are more concerned about making Santa’s nice list.
 2. Parents are more concerned about holiday preparations and what to get Aunt Mary and Uncle Fred.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. How much time and effort has gone into the celebration of Christ’s birth when even the Gospels only record it twice while the resurrection is found in all four.
- E. The birth of Jesus was certainly a great event.
1. Miraculous in nature (Matt. 1:23).
 2. Theologically deep (John 1:1-3, 14).
 3. 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).
- F. This “season” 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 should not that be the case ALL YEAR long?

CONCLUSION

- A. 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!
- B. GA 6:9.
- C. 2 TI 4:2.