

12-24-2021

## THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

### DO NOT FORGET HIS DEATH

The birth of Jesus is important. The events recorded in the New Testament surrounding His birth prove the deity of Jesus. His miraculous conception in the womb of a virgin, the obvious fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and the appearance of an angel announcing His birth and His mission all testify to who Jesus Christ is and what He came to accomplish. The Bible does not command or authorize the church of Christ to celebrate the birth of Jesus as a special religious holy day. The Bible does not even reveal the date of His birth. It was **not God** but man who chose to make December 25<sup>th</sup> a religious celebration of the birth of Jesus.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus upon which the scripture is focused. Jesus' purpose in leaving heaven, taking upon Himself the form of a man and living in this world was to "seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). In His death on the cross, He provided the means by which the lost can be saved. His precious blood provides cleansing for the sins that separate the sinner from God. Consider 1 Peter 1:18-21, "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who **raised Him from the dead** and gave Him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God.**" Jesus shed His blood "for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28b). Romans 5:8-9 reads, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**. Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to remind us of His death (Matthew 26:26-28). This memorial feast was observed by the first century church as it assembled for worship upon the first day of each week (Acts 20:7). Its purpose is to remember the body and blood of Jesus and to show the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). It is a serious matter to fail to observe it at the proper time or in the proper manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

The Bible is silent regarding the religious celebration of the birth of Jesus called Christmas. However, it speaks clearly to the observance of the death of Jesus each first day of the week.  
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