

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

December 20, 2015

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS---

- **Eyvonne Frankln, Doris Knowles, Terry Langley, Roger Key, Sue Whitehead, Tim Parker, Carl Franklin, John Ozley, Sara Ozley, Aladene Jacks, Kynethia Kelley, Amanda Kelley, Myra Garrison, Jimmy Parker, Stefani, Kate Miller, Johnny Richardson, Conner Rice, Tim Craven, Mickey Aldridge, Beverly Craven, Tuesday Pierce, Faye Wilkinson Goodwin, Sarabeth Upton, Rhonda Knowles.**
- **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley, Ana Reichelderfer & all of our servicemen and women** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships. **Ben Brownfield, Shannon Brown, and Terry Tatum** (Christians' at Donaldson) and **Robert Gibson and Walter Aldridge** (released Christians who are struggling).

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Donaldson Bible Classes** Suspended due to quarantine.

Area Gospel Meetings:

Shannon Church of Christ3rd Sunday Singing @ 2:00 PM



Those Needing our Prayers.....

Ronnie Lowe is having a hard time getting over the bug he has.

Roger Key is scheduled to come home on Christmas day.

John Ozley continues to do better.

Doris Knowles condition remains the same.

Sara Ozley continues to need prayers.

Black Creek Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ

1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama

436-4477

“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor:

Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord's Day

9:30 A.M. Bible Classes

10:30 A.M. Worship

4:00 P.M. Worship (3 PM on the second Sunday of every month)

Wednesday

7:00 P.M.

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055

Truman Wallace 483-7016

Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Jeff Swindle 475-3043

Matt Carter 491-0414

Roger Key 491-3723

Mike Wood 522-5703

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man's only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com))

Misconceptions about the Birth of Jesus

"Jesus was born on December 25th"

If you were to ask most people in the world (be they religious or non-religious) "When was Jesus born?" After receiving a rather puzzled look they would probably tell you - "Well, December 25th, of course!" In fact the Bible does not tell us a date upon which Jesus was born, and a little bit of calculation can show that it could not have been near that date at all. The gospel of Luke begins with the account of Zacharias being visited by an angel while he was serving in the temple. This angel announced to him that he would have a son (who would grow to be John the Baptist). Luke 1:5 tell us that Zacharias was of the priestly division of Abijah. During the time of king David the priests had been separated into twenty-four divisions in order to determine who would serve in the temple at different times. The eighth division was that of Abijah (I Chronicles 24:10). Each division appears to have served one week each which would give each division two times a year that they would serve (II Kings 11:7, II Chronicles 23:8). Unlike our year the Hebrew year began in the spring with the month of Abib or Nisan (Exodus 12:2, Deuteronomy 16:1). Based upon this it can be determined that the times of service for the division of Abijah would be in approximately June and November. The visit of the angel to Zacharias was during his time of service in the temple (Luke 1:8,9) and his wife conceived after his time of

service (Luke 1:23-25). The gospel of Luke tells us in chapter one verses 26 & 36 that when the angel came to Mary (Jesus' mother) that it was during the sixth month of the pregnancy of Elizabeth (the wife of Zacharias). That would place the time of Mary's conception at either May or December. Nine months from May would place the date of Jesus' birth sometime in February. Or nine months from December would place it in September. Thus there is no indication in Scripture that December 25th is even close to the date of Jesus' birth.

"There were three wise men"

Regarding the wise men who came from the east to visit Jesus it is often suggested that there were three. Some have even expanded upon what the Bible records to such a degree that they have given names to the three. This notion probably comes from the fact that the Bible tells us that three gifts were brought to Jesus, yet nowhere are we told the number of Wise Men. It could have been three, two or thirty-three the text says simply - "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem" (Matthew 2:1).

"The Wise Men visited Jesus while He was in the manger"

Millions upon millions of "nativity" scenes have been produced which portray the wise men standing over the baby Jesus as he lies in the manger. In fact the indication from Scripture seems to be that the visit of the Wise

Men came some time after Jesus' birth and swaddling in the manger. To begin with the text says - "And when they had come into the HOUSE, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him..." (Matthew 2:11 emphasis mine). Notice the scene of their adoration of Christ was not in a place where one would find a manger but rather in a "house". Further, Matthew 2:7 tells us that Herod asked the Wise Men when the star appeared in order that he might determine when the child was born. Apparently based upon this answer he determined to have all male children under the age of two put to death (Matthew 2:16). Thus it may be that Jesus was as much as two years old by this time.

"The Shepherds brought gifts"

In addition to confusion about the Wise Men it is also suggested that the Shepherds who were in the fields brought gifts to Jesus. Of the shepherds the text tells us - "So it was when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen Him they made widely known the saying times, which was told them concerning this Child." (Luke 2: 15-17). Unlike the Wise Men the shepherds had not been seeking Jesus. Thus when they were told about Him they went to investigate, rather than worship.

"The Bible teaches Christians to celebrate 'Christmas'"

Many in the religious world that would count themselves very religious people do so based upon two things: they attend a church service somewhere on Christmas and Easter! Most likely they would tell you that they are doing so "because the Bible says to!" In fact the Bible says nothing about observing any type of memorial of the birth of Jesus. That is not to say that Christians should not appreciate and remember Christ's entrance into the world as well as all aspects of His life. Yet we should do so at all times, remembering not only His birth but His life, death, teachings and resurrection. What is ironic is that while the religious world has added a religious day of memorial where none was commanded, they have almost wholeheartedly neglected that which is commanded and authorized, ie. worship every first day of the week. For a church to attribute to December 25th a special sanctity is to act without Scriptural authority.

Now, some Christians individually may choose to have a time of gift giving, pretty lights, and family togetherness, while others may choose to reject any association at all with what the world calls "Christmas." This is all in the realm of personal liberty, but definitely the Bible gives no authorization for the church to celebrate a special day in memory of Christ's birth.

By Whit Sasser-- edited from an article by Kyle Pope