

5<sup>th</sup> Dec am - What do you believe about Christmas? Which story.

What we believe about Christmas can get us into trouble.

Christmas Day –

25<sup>th</sup> Dec probably not the date.

3 kings – probably not, it doesn't specify

Christmas trees-not mentioned

Christmas dinner- not biblical unfortunately

Santa – more historical than biblical

Biblical basis of Christmas. Here is the thing:

The credibility of the Christian Christmas depends on the credibility of the biblical Christmas.

Did it happen?

Virgin birth? a lot of people question that

Angels and shepherds, ok some question the angel guys

Born in a stable, we can come to grips with that a bit easier although it's the Manger mentioned.

Presents from visiting dignitaries, mm here we get into tough stuff again with stars guiding people etc.

Ok, but the Bible has a great track record. It's accuracy is without peer in ancient documents. If the Bible is accurate then the chances are so is its recounting of Christmas.

Christmas brings it all together, all the tough stuff to believe. After all it's the message of Jesus birth that was first celebrated with a mass or communion service. Christmas always links the two, but our society always wants to separate them. Probably because it's hard enough getting to grips with virgin births or resurrections on at a time let alone putting it all together. But us Christians, we know there ain't one without the other. 1 Corinthians 15.,

Where The Christ – mass came from.

Pagan festival – town closed Down. The Christians were uncomfortable about participating and the local priest (reported to be Nicholas of Bari yep the original St Nic) said let's have a eucharist or thanksgiving meal and worship Jesus. **The Christ-mass.** The next year the same thing but other towns and cities caught on the idea.

In A.D. 320 one theologian answered this criticism by noting, "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."

So what we do is celebrate Jesus. What the world does around our celebration is not our problem.

**1corinthians 15:1-8**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Here we see it is the end game that is the focus. Paul doesn't focus on the miraculous birth, just the purpose of it. To save people. Christmas is a reminder of God's desire to save people.

Interesting, a different perspective here to what Christmas has become even in church life.,

Is being biblical a requirement of a Christian Christmas?

Another question:

Should we be having communion on Christmas Day?

After all that was the original intent!