

Cons, Pros and Wise Men

December 23, 2011

1. Observations about Christmas. To celebrate or not to celebrate? Early, but relatively modern.
 - a. The Puritans did not observe Christmas. Why?

Matthew 15:7-9; Galatians 4:9-10; Colossians 2:16-23
 - b. Considerations in favor of celebrating Christmas.

Luke 2:8-14; Esther 9:18-28; John 10:22-23; Romans 14:5-6. Biblical pattern. Voluntary, not mandatory.
2. Read Matthew 2:1-2.
 - a. Who were the Wise Men? (Magi?) How many were there? What were their names?

Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:3?
 - b. What about the star? How did these men know that it had something to do with the birth of Christ?
3. Read Matthew 2:3-8.
 - a. A little background on Herod. A tool of Satan.
 - b. Herod's inquiry. Paraphrase of Micah 5:2. Note the reaction of the religious leaders and Herod's craftiness
 - c. Read Matthew 2:9-12.
 - d. The wise men and their reaction to seeing the star and arriving at the house.
 - e. The Bible versus our traditions
 - f. The nature of the gifts and their significance.
 - g. The divine warning through a dream.
4. What can we learn from this account and how can we apply it to our lives?