

But Whom Say Ye That I Am

Text: Matthew 16:13-17

Introduction:

1. In our text Jesus challenges his disciples with a question which it would do well for each of us as well as all upon this earth to consider.
2. I suppose all of us have heard the ongoing controversies regarding the use of the phrase "Merry Christmas" as well as numerous other controversies which arise.
3. All of this brings to the forefront the need for us to examine God's Word regarding His Son and then examine our answer to the question of our text. Hopefully this lesson will help each of us to do just that.
4. We need to understand first of all that the world has changed the Biblical view of Christ's birth and thus of Christ Himself. No record exists of observance for nearly 3 centuries after His death and then the event was "borrowed" from the pagan celebration of Saturnalia.

Discussion:

I. What The Bible Says About Jesus' Birth

1. Matthew 1:18-25
2. Luke 2:1-11
3. Clearly several concepts of today are not found in Biblical truth. (Day of His birth, observance of that day, 3 wise men, etc)

II. What Would God Have Us Learn from His Birth?

1. Mankind needs a Saviour (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11)
2. The need can only be fulfilled by God (Matthew 1:23)
3. The One who came is Lord and will provide guidance (Luke 2:11)

III. What Then Should Be Our Reaction To The Christmas Holiday?

1. Not to observe a religious observance without Biblical authority (Colossians 3:17; Matthew 15:9; Galatians 4:10-11; Luke 6:46)
2. All people observe the day in some fashion – day off, family time, overtime pay...
3. We ought to treat it as any other civil/national holiday!
 - (1) "Isn't it wrong to be associated with things of false religious origin?"
 - (2) "Won't others think I am observing a Catholic holiday?"
4. Use it as an opportunity of evangelism! (Matthew 28:18-20; cf. Acts 26:1ff)

IV. What Then Should Be Our Answer to the Question of our Title?

1. Why not the same, in word and deed, as Peter gave – "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
2. If such is the case, we will not leave Jesus in the manger, but will look to Him as we ought and live as He desires!

Conclusion:

The question asked by Jesus needs an answer from each of us. Also, God expects us to deliver the proper answer to the world in which we live. What will my answer be?