

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

We have often heard the advice to just ask "What would Jesus do?" when faced with various temptations or situations where we might question what is the right thing to do. Certainly, it is a good practice. However, it would seem that most of the time, this approach is used for simple little things like whether to fib a little or maybe our response to some act done by someone else. Consider just for a few moments this same idea when applied to some major decisions. What would Jesus do:

Jesus would die in order to be obedient to God. How do we know this? We know because that is what He did. Paul wrote of Him, saying, "...he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). Are we then ready to follow our own advice, be obedient to God even if it will bring about our own death? Many are unwilling to obey God and give as prospered. How could that person think they would be willing to sacrifice their life when they will not even sacrifice a portion of their money?

Jesus would die in order to save souls. How do we know that? We know it because that is just exactly what He did. The Hebrew writer said, "...by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:12, 14). Jesus died to save souls, and so many Christians today will not even make an attempt to teach the soul saving gospel of Christ to those who are lost. What would Jesus do, indeed!

Jesus would die for the church. How do we know Jesus would die for the church? Because that is just exactly what He did. Paul said, Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). He also said that Christ purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). What would Jesus do? He would die for the church! What will we do? Many will not even attend the services of the church. Some will fail to financially support the church.

The shortcomings of many in the realm of obedience to God, efforts toward saving the lost and faithfulness to the church is a sure sign that far too many really are not concerned with what Jesus would do. Instead, they are concerned with what they want to do.

THE BIBLE AND CHRISTMAS

Were this article a treatise on everything found in the Bible about the holiday known as "Christmas", this page would simply remain blank. The reason being, Christmas is not found anywhere in the Bible, not even by some other name. A number of years ago, when making the above statement, someone said, "well of course Christmas is found in the Bible". My reply was, "show it to me". They then turned to the gospel accounts of the birth of Christ and said, "see, here it is right here". It took a bit of reasoning to ever get them to see that what they were looking at was an account of the birth of Christ, not a holiday for the purpose of celebrating the birth of Christ. The same holds true for the passages of scripture telling of the death of Christ and His resurrection. That is an account of what happened, it is not a day set aside each year to celebrate that death, burial and resurrection.

So how did so many "Christian" people get into the tradition of celebrating the birth of Christ? The answer to that is that Christmas was an innovation of the Catholic church, thus the last letters of the name "mas or mass". When the protestant reformation took place, the various denominations began and they held to many of the practices of the Catholic church. The so-called "Christian holidays" such as Christmas and Easter are simply a carry over from the Catholic church. The use of instrumental music in the worship of the church is just another example of such a carry over. No mechanical instrumentals of music are found in the worship of the church in the New Testament, but were another of those innovations of the Catholic church.

The fact is, if one is serious about being a true Christian, then they must embrace the true source of authority for Christianity, the New Testament. Paul said that if anyone taught anything else, let him be accursed (Gal. 1:8-9). God has always demanded that we take His word as given, without any additions or subtractions (Deut. 4:3; Proverbs 30:6; Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19). There is no New Testament authority for a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Yet, one must face the fact that Christmas is a holiday. For most who read this, don't bother going in to work that day, the doors will be locked and no one else will be there. It is a national holiday. Go ahead and enjoy whatever joy that can be derived from the holiday season, but keep in mind, it is not a Christian holiday.

Robert