

Should Christians Celebrate Christmas

All Scripture is KJV: Romans 14:1-23

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

This part of the early chapter deals with doubtful disputations?

But the whole chapter of Romans 14 is specifically teaching that one person need not to be a stumbling block for another person, and one person should not force his views upon another person just because he feels that he is right even though it does not say so in the bible, and that his view is not found in the bible or mentioned or even speaks of those events.

Because even though there are a lot of things taught in the bible, there are things that it does not teach on or mention, and therefore we need to be careful not to impose our own personal thoughts or beliefs on another person purely because it is on our own conscience.

- So what the bible is saying here in Romans 14, is that even though you may think that something is wrong, and because you cannot prove it from the bible or the bible does not speak about it; it is therefore wrong for you to impose it on others.
- ✓ However, the bible does say that if you have a very strong conscience about something and you want to keep to it, provided that the bible does not teach against that what you may think. Then it is better for you to observe those things, because if you believe by faith that it is right for you and you ignore them, then it is you who are sinning against your own conscience, **but not against God**.

So what I want to preach about this morning is on a subject that is often met these days with uncertainty and confusion for some at this time of the year.

- ✓ I don't think that many preachers would want to tackle this subject especially from the pulpit because it can stir up a lot of emotions in people.

But I feel that in light of how often I am hearing these opinions I feel led of the Lord to see "what does **The Bible** have to say on this matter".

- ✓ So today, even after we have looked at both sides of the arguments of this matter, every person must decide for themselves, and be fully persuaded in his own mind what is right and what is wrong.

So let us begin now to examine the topic and prepare us for the topic in question.

Reading the bible in Romans 14, tells us of doubtful disputations which are things that people argue about, but that those things are not clearly laid out in scripture, as we will see in Romans 14:1.

- Where the bible does not clearly say what is right or what is wrong in that situation we are not to judge.

Romans 14 ¹ Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

² For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

³ Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: **for God hath received him.**

⁴ Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

1. So what it is saying here for example is that some people were saying that it was wrong to eat meat for example as we see in the latter verses 15 and following.
2. Some people were trying to impose their views of not eating meat upon others.

So what the bible is saying is that even so we should still receive them, and not judge them or despise them just because they have that belief, but rather that we should receive them in the faith. But not to doubtful disputations.

- We don't want to cause arguments or break fellowship with someone just because they have another view than what you have, and that **over matters which are not important.**
 - So in other words if a person is a vegetarian or vegan, that does not qualify us to break fellowship with that person.
 - But rather we should receive them but not to doubtful disputations as the scriptures says here in Romans 14:1.
 - ❖ Therefore I don't think that it is scriptural for someone to tell you that you can't eat meat, because even in the OT when you kept the Passover you had to eat meat.
 - ❖ But to pass that judgment upon someone else, not to eat meat or to eat meat is not scriptural.
 - It is not sinful for a person not to eat meat, or to become a vegetarian, **but when it becomes sinful is when that person tries to impose their beliefs upon another.**
 - So anyone trying to teach others not to eat meat and to become vegan or vegetarian for example is not teaching the word of God, but is trying to impose the doctrines of men.
1. So what the bible is teaching here in Romans 14, is that it is ok to be a vegan, or if people have different rules for themselves.
 2. But they are not to impose or force their rules upon others which are not biblical, because it says right there in....Romans..

Romans 14:3 ³ Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth:

1. Therefore we should not get upset or fight with them because they don't want to eat meat. It's their loss at that point if they don't want to eat meat in that example.
2. But it also says, "**and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth**".
3. We don't want to be judged by that person then as we eat that meat.
4. So it works both ways.

Now the specific subject that I want to speak about this morning is found here in Romans 14 verse 5-6.

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike.
Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

❖ **Therefore what I want to preach about this morning is on the subject of Christmas.**

People have been attacking Christmas and those celebrating Christmas on an escalating basis in recent times. And "saying that Christians should not celebrate Christmas".

- ❖ So the question I want to propose to each one of us this morning is "Should Christians celebrate Christmas.

Several years ago this was not even an issue, and was not even raised amongst many churches, however..... but in recent times it has been escalating to an alarming extent and has caused many Christians to start asking this very question that we are going to look at this morning.

1. Pretty much the only people that did not and do not celebrate Christmas in the ecumenical circles are the Jehovah's false Witnesses.
2. But these days it seems as though even before Christmas is coming around people are already attacking Christmas.
3. And people will attack you for wanting to celebrate Christmas or the fact that you are celebrating Christmas.

Therefore I have felt the need to see what does the bible have to say about this subject, because after all it is the bible which teaches all our faith and practices is it not so.

- ❖ It is the bible which is to have the sole authority and not mans opinion on whether something is right or wrong.

- ✓ Therefore if Christmas is ungodly or if Christmas is a sin then the bible should teach us that.
- ✓ So if the bible does not teach that Christmas is wrong then you are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.
- ✓ If the bible does preach against Christmas then yes, let's throw it out and move onto something else
- ✓ But if it does not condemn it, then let us not then condemn it, and let people have their own opinions about it.

1. Therefore what I am saying is that if anyone here believes that Christmas is wrong, then that is ok, and you should abstain from it,
2. But if there are people who are here and they believe that Christmas is ok, then let them celebrate Christmas and not be in judgment of them because then you are in violation of Romans 14.
3. That's what the bible teaches here in Romans 14.

Also in Romans 14: ²⁰ For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

4. What the bible is teaching here in Romans 14:20 is that if a man has a conscience against those things which he says are wrong then he should abstain from them.
5. **There are two things that it is teaching here.** Firstly if the scripture says that they are wrong then they are wrong. And the other group is that if your conscience says it is wrong then it is wrong for you, and then you should not do it.
6. **But what it is not teaching is that** if it is wrong for you then it is wrong for others.

- ✓ So if you think that Christmas is pagan and wrong then you should not celebrate it, and that's ok.

- The purpose of this message this morning is not to try and get you to celebrate Christmas,that is not the purpose of this message.

- **The purpose of this message is to try and debunk the lies about why you should not celebrate Christmas.**

1. It does not matter to me whether you do or don't celebrate Christmas, but the purpose is to show the lies against why people are not celebrating Christmas.

2. **And to show what is used to support the attack on Christmas.**

3. **And the purpose of this message is to also defend those who do celebrate Christmas in a Godly and wholesome way.**

- ✚ Therefore lets us do what the bible says and that is to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. **1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**

Now to begin with there are several questions that we should ask ourselves.

Q1. Is Christmas a good holiday? Is it something that we should hold onto, and should we celebrate it?

Well, let's first of all look at the good things about Christmas and then we will look at the bad things about Christmas and we can form some kind of conclusion.

Philippians 1: ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

¹⁶ The one preach Christ of **contention**, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

¹⁷ But the other of **love**, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

¹⁸ **What then?** notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

- ✓ What Paul is saying here is that even though there are lot of people preaching about Christ for the wrong reasons,..... but.....because they are at least hearing the word of God being preached and Christ being preached to them, he is satisfied and rejoices, even though they are preaching for the wrong reasons.
- ✓ So because they are hearing about the Gospel of Christ that is a good thing.

1. **What the good thing about Christmas is:** is that it is a time when people will hear about Christ and that they do hear about the word of God.
2. And it is a time when the whole world hears about the Son of God and the Savior of the whole world.
3. And I think that it is a good thing because even when our schools have taken out God it is a time when every man saved and unsaved will hear the gospel message.
4. **Therefore another good thing about Christmas is:** that it brings Jesus Christ to their minds.
5. So at this time of the year, people are exposed to Christmas songs about the Savior Jesus Christ, and the story of Jesus birth is often played which recites the story of Jesus birth from Luke 2.

✚ I don't agree with everything about the modern contrast of Christmas but it is a time when people who would otherwise not hear anything about Jesus will get to hear about who he is.

6. But they are hearing songs being played about Jesus, like the handles messiah, which quotes verses from Revelation and they are hearing scripture being quoted and this is happening at the same time all over the world.

✚ Therefore to me it is a great thing that people will hear that and even be exposed to that, where as in any other time they would not want to hear anything about Jesus.

7. **Even Christmas is a time in which people will be more receptive to hearing the gospel if you were to go to them and talk to them about the birth of Christ. So I think it is a good thing.**

But on the Negative side of Christmas,

1. Christmas can become just a materialistic time of wanting to receive gifts, and to party and to drink alcohol and carry on and it can be all about spending money.
2. One of the things that I don't like about Christmas is that people expect you to give gifts.

Whereas gifts as the bible says should be freely given, or it is not a gift, the same as salvation is a free gift.

- ❖ So when people ask me what they can get me for Christmas I say nothing, because I don't expect a gift, so why should they ask me then.
 - ❖ That does not mean I don't like getting gifts, it's just that I don't expect them.
- ✓ I hate how people try and keep score as to what gifts they give you, and you measure your gift against what you should give them. That's really not giving and it becomes a commercial chore to carry out your duties of giving gifts. I hate that.
 - ✓ I hate the fact that people who don't have any money to begin with and can't afford to buy anything; But will get themselves into debt just so that they can give you a gift.
3. They should rather than buy anything for me; they should be spending their time with their families.
 - ✓ So the things that I hate about Christmas is that it can be very commercial and materialistic.
 4. The bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive, so we should go into the season to see what we can give to others to make a difference in their lives. Not going into it to keep score as to the size of the gifts we give and then expect the same in return.
 - ✓ I can understand both side of Christmas and how it can make children very ungrateful and to expect things in their lives, or how it can make Christmas just a commercial venture, I understand all that.....

But.....I also understand the wrongful misguided aspect of Santa clause being the person who gives these gift to children if they been good that year. And you may say that Santa Clause is of the devil. Some people will say that if you rearrange the words Santa it spells Satan, that may be true but really the word Santa just means Holy in Spanish.

I can also understand the concerns about Santa, because he's supposed to know.....when you sleeping....he knows ...when you awake.....he knows

when.....you been good or bad....so be good for goodness sake. So what that is teaching is that you need to be good to earn a gift, that is works based. (is that what the bible teaches about receiving a gift). No.

- ✓ Also some parents will teach their children about Santa clause or Father Christmas. If you been good he will bring you gifts, and that is wrong and we should not teach that to our children.

But..... we who are saved, know that it is wrong and we don't teach that to our children. Because when they grow up they just might think that other things we taught them were also a myth, so we should not lie to our children but always tell them the truth.

1. So I can see the concerns about Christmas and the commercialization it is associated with.

2. But you know what?

- ✓ You can celebrate Christmas without having any of those things of the world.
 - ✓ **Therefore to me it is just celebrating the birth of Christ.**
- a) This consists of singing songs about the birth of Christ.
 - b) Singing songs about his resurrection
 - c) Singing songs about his return (the King is coming).
 - d) Having family over to celebrate this with, and eating a meal together and giving each other gifts if you wish to .
 - ✓ It is reflecting on who Jesus is, and sharing him with others in the form of the gospel message.
 - ✓ How can any of those things be wrong or sinful?
 - e) So how can you say that we should not celebrate his birth, when the bible contains many scriptures about his birth, and Luke 2 gives us the story of his birth and many angels were singing in heaven at his birth.
 - f) So how can it be wrong to say that you should not sing hymns or songs about the birth of Christ or read the Christ birth story in Luke 2 at Christmas time?
 - g) **Celebrating the birth of Jesus is a mark in history which proves that the Messiah had come**, and again when we celebrate his birth it still remains a testimony to the Jews that Jesus has come. So how can that not be praising God.
1. But people today are attacking Christmas and saying that it is a wicked and Pagan Holiday.
 2. And they will say that if you are celebrating Christmas then you are worshipping Baal, you worshipping Nimrod, you worshipping Satan.....and so on.

This is false.....

1. The name that is associated with salvation is Jesus.
2. And the name above all names is Jesus.

3. So when we are singing songs about Jesus, and reading his word in which we quote the word of God and embrace his birth and the gospel message, how can that be wrong?
 4. How can they say then that to celebrate Christmas is to worship Satan? They are being false accusers.
 - How can they say then because you come to church and worship Jesus and his death burial and resurrection and sings songs of glory unto him and praise his name and because you wearing a tie with snowflakes on it or a Christmas tree that they can say that it is a pagan symbol and you are therefore worshipping Satan because of that tie that you are wearing.
 - That's accusing people of something that they are not.
 - There is no place in the bible where it says don't celebrate Christmas **but there are plenty of places where it shows that you must not be a false accuser?**
- ✓ I can you show you some verses which say that regarding a day.....

Romans 14:5 ⁵ One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.**

✚ So to say that you are worshipping Satan, when you are saying the name of Jesus Christ, and you reading from the scriptures in the KJV. That's worshipping Jesus, not Satan.

1. But they will say that because you are doing it on the 25th December that is why it is wrong? Because they will say it is a Satanic day. A Pagan day.
2. **Well what are we supposed to do on that day? Must we just sit and do nothing or work, or is it better to worship Jesus?**

✚ I want to show you why people have objections to Christmas.

1. I want to show you some facts before people will come to you and try to persuade you that Christmas is Pagan.
2. They will quote to you Jeremiah 10:2-4 out of context and try and have you believe that Christmas trees are wrong.
3. I want to show you how these things are just not biblical what they say about Christmas.

- ✓ So after I have shown you this passage in what it is really saying and that if you still think that Christmas trees are bad then don't accept it. I won't be offended at all.
- ✓ But let us at least look at the facts this morning and that is all I want us to see. Then make your own decision based on the facts that you see from scripture not something that man has presented to you?

So let's read.....

Jeremiah 10:2-4 ² Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

³ For the customs of the people are vain: **for one cutteth a tree out of the forest**, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

⁴ **They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**

- ✓ Now that's where the people who don't want to believe that Christmas trees are right stop reading. And that's what they will quote to you.
- ✓ And that's what they will say when they quote verse 2-4. They will say that you have cut down a tree and decorated it with a gold and silver ornaments.
- ✓ But hang on? Is that really what the chapter is talking about? – No that's their view and it is not what the chapter is talking about at all.

But keep on reading verse 5.....

⁵ They are upright as the palm tree, **but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go.** Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

- What this is talking about and explaining, is cutting a tree down in the forest and making it into an idol and decking it with gold and silver.
 - This is an idol carved out of wood and is silver and gold plated.
 - When the bible is explaining that it is decked with gold or silver, it is not saying that you are hanging ornaments on it; because the word deck is explaining the process of coating the entire wooden structure with plated gold or plated silver coating the entire "deck" of the tree which is the idol.
 - You see the bible is also saying that this idol is placed in a position where it is hammered in with nails, and that it cannot speak. It is a dumb idol.
- ✓ Do we think that a Christmas tree can speak?
 - ✓ Do we think that a Christmas tree is an idol?

Jeremiah 10: Verse 8 and 9 explain further what this tree is.

⁸ But they are altogether brutish and foolish: **the stock is a doctrine of vanities.**

⁹ **Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder:** blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

- ✓ The gold and silver are explained for us a silver spread as plates and gold which was fashioned by the hands of a founder.

So Question: - Is this a round silver ornament hanging on a tree? No.

What about verse 14 and verse 15. ¹⁴ Every man is brutish in his knowledge: **every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.** ¹⁵ They are vanity, and the work of errors: **in the time of their visitation they shall perish.**

- ✓ These idols were made and covered with gold and silver because the founder wanted them to last as graven idols or like gods, but the scripture says they too shall perish in the time of their visitation they shall perish.
- ✓ They wanted their graven images to last forever. It was that the people were vain, this is seen in verse 3.....verse 15. They thought that they could cut down a tree and deck it in Gold and Silver and that it would become their god and speak to them. That's vanity.
- ✓ Is this a Christmas tree with ornaments on it then?

Is a Christmas tree a graven image?.....

In what shape or form is it carved. It has no engraving, it's not made of molten metal, it's not made as an idol, it's just a tree.

- ✓ Yes a graven image is one of Gods 10 commandments not to worship and that's the whole point of Jeremiah 10.
- ✓ But the Christmas tree is not a graven image.
- ✓ An image is something that is made as unto a human, or animal or a god.
- ✓ But a tree is just a tree.

✚ Ok, so a Christmas tree is not graven, because it has no engraving and has no molten metal.

✚ Cutting down trees is not wrong unless you are an environmentalist?

➤ Then there are those that want to further prove their point will go to Isaiah 60.

- Saying it is pagan to bring a tree or greenery into your house or building?
- ✓ If that is the case then all of us are guilty of that because what about our house plants that we have in our house. Is that not greenery?
- ✓ Even Gods house is decorated with Palm trees, and that's greenery is it not?
- ✓ Well you might say well I can accept that if it's a palm tree it's ok, but I draw the line at Pine trees.

Well let's test that with scripture again....

- ✓ And people will also say that it is the evergreen trees that are pagan; it's the ever green trees that we don't accept.

✚ Ok, well let's take a look at what the bible says about pine trees.

[Isaiah 60:13](#).¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, **the fir tree, the pine tree,** and the box together, **to beautify the place of my sanctuary;** and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

✚ So which trees does God favor?

✚ And which tree does God use for decorating his sanctuary? Mmmmmm

✚ **the fir tree, the pine tree.**

✚ Are those not the 2 choices people use for Christmas trees? – Not pagan.

✚ **Even though God said this in the OT more than 2800 years ago – It is not the Germanic gods who used them 400 years ago, and that's why we should not use them? – so who came first? Was it God or the Germanic gods?**

- ❖ So we can say what we want, but Christmas trees are not pagan. And has been made so only by man.

Now I can go on and on and show you many more examples like this, but for the sake of time today I won't be able to.

But we really need to make this decision ourselves as to whether we want to celebrate at the time of Christmas based on what the bible has to say, and not to base it on what some extra biblical scholar or satanic synagogue of Satan rabbi had to say from the Talmud.

- We don't celebrate the day (25th December), we celebrate the fact that Jesus was born to this earth in a manger, to be the Savior of the world.
- We celebrate the opportunity that this time brings together all families and people to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Use this time to acknowledge Jesus.

PRAYER.....CLOSE