

The Importance of the Birth

On Saturday of this week, many people in this country and around the world will celebrate Christmas. Many will be traveling to visit their families. They will exchange gifts and enjoy the time together. Some do this as a celebration of the birth of Jesus; others do not. While this holiday may have begun as a religious holiday, it has become one of the most secular holidays that we have on our calendar.

As we enter into this holiday, it is important to understand that this is not the time of year in which Jesus was born. While we are not told when He was born, we are given some clues that lead us to believe that it was not during the winter. The reason for this is that the shepherds were in the field with the sheep (*Lk. 2:8*), which they would not have done during the winter. Most scholars believe that He was born during spring, around April.

Some have often wondered why we are never told of when Jesus was born. The answer is simple. It is the same reason that we do not have memorabilia of the life of Christ. If we did, we would worship them instead of Christ. If we knew the exact date that Christ was born, we, as humans, would be tempted to worship the date instead of the Christ. It has always been human tendency to worship objects or times instead of worshiping God.

God has made it clear throughout the Bible that our birth is not the most important day of our life. It is only the beginning of our life. Solomon said that “*the day of death [is better] than the day of one’s birth*” (*Ecc. 7:1*). If we do not live a life that is faithful to God, then our life is wasted. At the same time, if we live a life that is faithful to God, the day of our death is much greater than the day of our birth because the end result will be a home in heaven. The point of our life is not how we are born, but what we choose to do with that life.

The same is true for Jesus. Without His perfect, sinless life, His birth would be meaningless. Without His death, burial and resurrection, His birth is meaningless. The purpose of His birth was to enter the world so that He could save us from our sins. In fact, from His birth it was said that He would “*save His people from their sins*” (*Mt. 1:21*). Jesus said that He came “*to seek and to save that which was lost*” (*Lk. 19:10*). The point is that His birth was only the beginning of His physical life; and it is through His death, not His birth, that we are saved.

The birth of Jesus is important. It was prophesied that He would be born of a virgin (*Is. 7:14*). This was fulfilled when Jesus was born to Mary (*Mt. 1:18-25*). In the whole scheme of God’s plan, the birth of Jesus is extremely important. However, we must understand that it is His death that we are commanded to remember, not His birth.