

## The Tree that Hung the Light of the World

### 1 John 4; John 1; Galatians 4; 1 Peter 2; Jeremiah 10

**Introduction:** Scripture does not command us to celebrate Christmas on December 25, but it does command us to celebrate Christ.

- I. **Did God become a baby?** (1 John 4:1-6; John 1:1-18)
  - a. The doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_ is central to the Christian faith. There is \_\_\_ God/ \_\_\_ Persons who is revealed to us as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The scribes understood \_\_\_\_\_ 5:2 to speak of the birth of Christ. It is also a reference to the humanity and divinity of Christ (Revelation 22:16). How can Jesus be 100% God and 100% human at the same time? \_\_\_ Person/ \_\_\_ Natures (divine nature and human nature).
  - c. Before the incarnation Jesus exists as the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is the true Light. Some people affected by spiritual darkness could not recognize the Creator and rejected Him. Some people received Him and became born again children of God.
  - d. Jesus was born through the womb of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit. The incarnation is the ultimate revelation of God to humanity.
- II. **Why was the Light of the World hung on a tree?** (Galatians 4:4-5; Galatians 3:13-14; 1 Peter 2:21-25)
  - a. The incarnation is part of God's plan for our \_\_\_\_\_ from sin.
  - b. Deuteronomy 21:22-23; The \_\_\_\_\_ comes from breaking God's commandment. Jesus voluntarily experienced death on a cross (tree) as an innocent person. Those who place faith in Christ are free from the curse that comes from breaking God's law.
  - c. The incarnation was necessary for Christ to provide the perfect example of humanity. Jesus lived as a man and never sinned. Christ needed a physical body to "carry" our sins on the tree. Now we can live for righteousness with a restored relationship with God.
- III. **Does Scripture forbid the use of Christmas trees?** (Jeremiah 10:1-16; Jeremiah 7:16-19; 1 John 5:21)
  - a. Jeremiah 10:1-16 describes the process pagans used to create a carved image. Idolatry is a worthless doctrine. God will eliminate all false gods from the

universe. The Creator will judge all those who make idols and worship created things.

- b. Entire families participated in idolatry. Bread and drink offerings were offered to idols. This angered God. Sin causes you to “lose face” or bring dishonor upon yourself (Jeremiah 7:16-19).
- c. Santa Claus is described as having supernatural abilities. Milk and cookies are a bread and drink offering for Santa. Letters to Santa and telling Santa what you want for Christmas are prayers to a false god. How many parents teach their children to ask Santa for gifts but never ask God for anything?

**Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen (1 John 5:21). Do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the sinless Son of God, born of a virgin, 100% God and 100% Man who hung on the tree for the sin of the world?**

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