

The “Holy Days”

- **What are the most important days to go to church during the year?**
 - **“Christmas and Easter!”**
- **Why?**
 - **“The birth and death of Jesus!”**
- **So, what does God want us to do to observe these days? Where in Scripture does God establish when and how He wants us to observe the anniversary of these days?**

The “Holy Days”

- **Birth (aka “Christmas”):**
 - **First known reference to any observation of the Lord’s birth is in a text from the 2nd century. The first known organized observation was in Rome in 336AD.**
 - **No reference of observation in Scripture**
- **Death (aka Easter):**
 - **First known reference to an annual observance of the Lord’s death is in a text from the mid-2nd century.**
 - **No reference is found in Scripture**

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- **Socrates Scholasticus (of Constantinople, ca. 5th century), observing the tradition of these festivals, stated that neither Jesus nor His apostles enjoined the keeping of any annual festival**

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- **Matt. 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-17**
 - No “three wise men”
 - No “manger scene” with wise men; they didn’t come along until later
 - No mention of time of year, month, or day
- There is no evidence that Dec. 25th is Jesus’ birthday – if it was important, God would’ve told us

The “Holy Days”

- **What are we to commemorate?**
 - His fulfillment of prophecy, Scripture
 - His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension
 - The spiritual blessings we have through Him – **Eph. 1:3**
- These are to be remembered every day, but especially Sunday – **1 Cor. 11:23-29**

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- **What’s so special about Sunday?**
 - **First day of the week, the Lord’s Day: Acts 20:7 (see Acts 2:42); I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10**
 - **The Lord was resurrected on a Sunday, the church was established on a Sunday: Matt. 28:1, Mk. 16:2, Lk. 24:1, Jn. 20:1; Acts 2:1 (Pentecost)**
 - **Keeping of the Lord’s Supper: I Cor. 11:17-33, Acts 20:7, 2:42**
 - **Giving of means: I Cor. 16:2**

The “Holy Days”

- The “days” we are to observe have been defined for us by God – The Lord’s Day
- We have no example of celebrating Jesus’ birthday – we don’t even know when it was
- It is never wrong to remember that our Lord was born and why (and how), but it should not be observed on a single certain day, nor should the importance of the Lord’s Day be overshadowed by ANY holiday – one cannot teach what is not taught by Scripture
- Jesus says “Do this in remembrance of Me”