

Birth or Death?

- **Which should be observed? Eccl. 7:1-4**
 - **“Both! Christmas and Easter!”**
- **So what does God want us to do to observe these days? i.e. Where in Scripture does God establish when and how He wants us to observe the anniversary of these days?**

Birth or Death?

- **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**

Birth or Death?

- **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**

Birth or Death?

- **So what day of observation is found in the New Testament?**
 - **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**

Birth or Death?

- **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, much less Christmas – one cannot teach what is not taught by Scripture**