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Dear Friends,

Yesterday I watched a church TV program that spent an entire 30 minutes saying we should NEVER EVER celebrate Christmas or for that matter Christ's birthday at anytime! Now I accept the fact that Jesus was not born on or near the winter solstice but their strongest argument was that there is no verse in the New Testament telling us to celebrate His birthday. It is accurate that there is no 'commandment' telling us to officially honor His birth. Looking on the Web, it's surprising how many articles express this anti birthday sentiment. Is it a good argument to use the absence of the command to celebrate His birth as a reason to refuse to acknowledge the birth of The King?

I look at the Scriptures differently than some who completely reject celebrating Christmas. I see first angels who celebrate the birth of the King by joyously announcing it to shepherds working the night shift. Then the shepherds leave their flocks to stand and gaze at the new King and spread the news of His birth. More astonishing to me are the Wise Men who saw a sign in the sky announcing the birth of The King and traveled for a very long time to honor the young King. They brought gifts and recognized Him as someone very special! So my attitude is that I am aware that it's not the King's actual birthday but I want to join those angels, shepherds, and wise men who took time to celebrate the birth of the King from Heaven!

Now on the darker side I've met people who say they HATE Christmas! These are not necessarily Christians but are from the general public and partly I understand their negative attitude. Much of this season has nothing to do with Christ and His birth but focus on powerful traditions with the force of rejection if not followed in a 'proper manner'. These traditions can grind on us with obligations to buy gifts, attend functions, and in general decorate and 'act festive'. The pressure of Black Friday and Cyber Monday are examples of how the whole season has moved far from being a special spiritual celebration and that is really sad. But I am not going to let the negative, dark, and expensive side of the celebration stop me from honoring the birth of my King!

The Angel's message to the shepherds and us! Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!*

Debi and I hope you all have a wonderful Jesus filled Christmas!

Richard and Debi

*We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit Who is from God,
that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

1 Corinthians 2:12