The Christian and Christmas
Galatians 4:8-11

Introduction:
A. We, like Paul, concerned when brethren observe days, months, seasons and years.
   1. Not talking about all “special observances”: Birthdays, Anniversaries, all holidays, etc.
   2. Talking about unauthorized “religious observances”: Religious holidays (holy days).
B. Christians have a real problem with holidays like Christmas.
   1. To what extent, if any, may we keep this holiday season?
   2. To what extent, if any, must we abstain from customs rooted in false religion?
      a. Calendar names.
      b. Sign of physicians.
      c. Vulcan
C. Christians should keep three Bible principles in mind in considering Christmas:

Discussion:
I. We Must Not Engage In Any Unauthorized Religious Practice (Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9-11)
   A. “Christmas” is no part of Biblical religion.
      1. Bible does not mention:
         a. “Christmas”
         b. The date of Christ’s birth
         c. Any special observances of the anniversary of His birth.
      2. Bible does warn against presumption in religion. (2 Pet. 2:10; Rev. 22:18,19)
      1. “Christmas” (Christ-Mass) and “Santa Claus” (Saint Ni-chlos) obviously Catholic.
      2. Probably introduced by Constantine to correspond to pagan sun feast.
      3. Many of practices tied to paganism: Tree, lights, holly, etc.

II. We May Non-Religiously Do Some Things Others Do Religiously.
   A. The washing of hands before eating. (Matt. 15:9).
      1. The Pharisees were wrong because they did it religiously.
      2. But, Christians were not forbidden to wash at all because other did it religiously.
   B. Paul evidently observed customs of Jewish Nation but not religiously.
      1. He shaved his head with taking a vow. (Acts 21:20-26). O.T. was Jewish Civil law too. Gentiles
         not subject to Jewish National laws.
      2. He had Timothy (a Jew) circumcised but not Titus (a Gentile). Acts 16:3; Gal. 2:3).
   C. Meat offered to idols could be eaten socially, but not “as meat offered to idols” (1 Cor. 8:7; 10:27,28).
      1. We may observed “Christmas” customs socially rather than as religious holiday.
      2. We do many things connected with Christmas at any time including December 25 -- Give gifts,
         express good will, sing seasonal songs, send cards -- not religiously.

III. We Must Be Careful Not To Abuse Any Liberty That We Might Have. (1 Cor. 8:9)
   A. No liberty should be done in way that puts stumbling block in brother’s way. (1 Cor. 8:9-10).
   B. No liberty should be used for licence for excess - easy to do at Christmas.
      1. Intemperance in eating, giving, etc. - lose self-control.
      2. Robbing Lord of contribution to pay “Santa Claus”

Conclusion: Let be careful not to:
B. Get caught up in spirit of Christmas and cause others to stumble