Pentecost, Christmas, And Other “Holy Days”
Acts 20:1-7, 13-16

Introduction:
A. Paul, a Christian in a Jewish and pagan influenced society.
   2. What about Pentecost? Other Jewish holy days?
   3. What about eating meat offered to idols? (cf. 1 Cor. 8).
   1. Calendar rooted in paganism.
   2. Holidays rooted in Catholicism: Easter, Christmas, Good Friday, etc.
C. Facts about Christmas:

Discussion:
I. Christmas Is Not Divinely Authorized.
   A. “Christmas” neither mentioned nor described in N.T.
   B. Date of Christ’s birth not revealed. (Cf. Deut. 29:29).
   C. No special observance commanded.

II. Christmas Is Rooted in Catholicism and Paganism.
   A. Catholic Marks.
      1. Christ-mass — Officially “Feast of nativity of our Lord.”
      2. Pope Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) — died 867
   B. Pagan Marks.
      1. December 25 — pagan sun festival.

III. Christmas Is of No Religious Significance to Many Christians.
   A. Like non-ceremonial washing before eating. (Matt. 15:9).
   B. Like non-religious observance of Jewish National laws and customs by Paul.
      2. Circumcision (Acts 16:3; Gal. 2:3).
   C. Like eating meat offered to idols, but not “as meat offered to idols.” (1 Cor. 8:7; 10:27,28).
   D. A special time of national, community and family closeness and good will.

Conclusion:
A. Let us be careful about religious observances: Xmas pageants, Religious Xmas songs.
B. Let us be careful with non-religious observance: Stumbling block; excesses; cut church contribution.