

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- BELIEVE – ACTS 16:31
- REPENT – ACTS 17:30; LUKE 13:3
- CONFESS – ROMANS 10:10; I TIMOTHY 6:12
- BE BAPTIZED – ACTS 2:38; MARK 16:16
- BE FAITHFUL – REVELATION 2:10

### PRAYER LIST:

North Ridgeville church of Christ  
 36364 Chestnut Ridge Road  
 North Ridgeville, OH 44039

www.nrcoc.net

### *Times for Meeting*

Lord's Day

9:30 AM Bible Study (all ages)  
 10:30 AM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study (all ages)

#### *Elders*

Bruce Dean  
 Mark Ullman

#### *Evangelist*

Steven Wallace

## THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
 deceiving your own selves.” James 1:22

December 25, 2022

### “Seasonal Religion”

Steven J. Wallace

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:11-14).<sup>1</sup>

### What About Seasonal Worship?

For some, the extent of worship is tied up to a day or season of the year. Why would anyone think that God will give *eternal life* to someone who desires to rarely and infrequently worship God? It hardly compares to those who are “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” It doesn’t match being “zealous for good works.” Reducing our duty toward God and worship to a single day of the year or some passing season of the year is not motivated by zeal or the hope of eternal life.

When one imposes his wishes through a lawless system of worship that circumvents the power of the Lord's birthright while circulating *fiction, tradition, and unwarranted claims* about His birth, he ignores everything that Jesus called for. "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Any lawless and pretentious religion that exalts the *manger* over the *cross* insults His purpose for coming to earth. Again...

Titus 2:14: "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people zealous for good works."

With this article, we encourage others to walk away from worshipping the baby Jesus in a manger and obediently turn to the adult Jesus. Our sins were not paid for by the baby *in the manger* or the child *in the house*, or even the boy listening and asking questions *in the temple* (Lk. 2:7, 46; Matt. 2:11). Redemption is costly and comes through Jesus, *our God, and Savior*, dying on the cross. Paul wrote in Colossians 1:20:

"and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

While there are great and wonderful lessons from the virgin birth and the wise men coming to the house to worship, there is no authority to mark a certain day of the year as the day of His birth nor to ascribe a certain day of the year to worship the Babe in a manger. We are called to worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). "In truth" is according to His word (Jn. 17:17). "In spirit" would certainly deny any *off and on* seasonal religion.

While Jesus commanded us to observe His death, He said nothing about observing His birth (Matt. 26:26-28). The early church came together on the first day of the week to

commemorate the body and blood of Christ (Psa. 118:23, 24; Matt. 26:29; Acts 20:7). Worshiping God should not only mark the beginning of our every week but also become a part of our daily lives (Acts 2:46; Heb. 3:13).

Perhaps some are drawn to these earlier scenes of the Lord's physical existence because they are sweet to our thoughts and where no fears of being judged exist. There are no feelings of intimidation from a babe wrapped in swaddling clothing. Perhaps some are drawn to the manger to limit and control His influence and blot out His demands. Regardless, Jesus will never again be born of a woman or be subject to a human judgment bar as He did before Pilate. In the final book of inspiration, *Revelation* presents the Lamb of God as:

- our **Redeemer** (1:5; 5:6-12; 7:14ff; 12:11; 19:7)
- our **Groom** (19:7; 21:9)
- our **Warrior** (14:10; 17:14; 19:11ff)
- our **Leader** (14:1-4; 7:17)
- our **King of kings** (17:14)
- our **Judge** (7:9; 13:8; 15:3, 4; 17:11)
- our **Temple** (21:22)
- our **Light** (21:23)

What a beautiful manifold picture of the Messiah is given! Is this the Christ that you worship? Come and learn more about Jesus Christ at the church of Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Unless noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

---

## JUST A THOUGHT

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do."  
– Henry Ford