The Reason for the Season

Right now, it's 50 degrees here in the mountains of southwest Colorado, almost no snow on the ground and I can drive the "back way" to the neighbor's house (usually under 2 to 3 feet of snow this time of year). So, it does not seem very "seasonal" at the moment, but it sure is nice! But it's still December 22, and all is well with family and friends, the most important thing, regardless of the time of year.

In the same way, the *timing* of the birth of Jesus is not nearly as important as the most important thing… that He came in human form, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to take away our sins, rose from the grave, just as He predicted, then ascended back to heaven through the clouds, as all watched in awe!

Theologians and many others debate the date, or even the season, of the birth of Jesus. The Bible settles it for us, if we will just look at the details… wait… give me a minute… just a little while longer… I'm almost there – or maybe not. I can't find it. It's not in my concordance. It's not in my computer Bible and it's not on my phone Bible. Hmmm. There must be some mistake. *Oh wait, there it is! It's found in human tradition!* Most of what we think of as being "traditional Christmas stuff" began in the Middle Ages as various religious institutions created and debated things about the holiday. (If you are interested in such, see Wikipedia's interesting entry – search "Christmas" there.)

For most people seeking God through His book, not human historical traditions, it becomes clear rather quickly that, ***"It's not the when, but the what!"*** God's word does not tell us *when* Jesus was born, but we see even angels singing and celebrating the incarnation (Jesus taking on a human body). Isaiah 7:14 is finally fulfilled, a virgin gives birth to a child and they called His name Immanuel, meaning "God with us."

Peace on earth, good will toward men with whom God is well pleased," (Luke 2:14).

Where, when and how (or even *if)* you and your family choose to celebrate the birth of Christ, I'll leave up to you and yours (Romans 14:1-23). But I pray that all who truly seek Him will focus on the reality of our eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, His life, His crucifixion, His resurrection, His ascension, and His promise of returning and taking us home with Him forever. As for our journey until then, let us keep in mind the old saying, "No Jesus, no peace; know Jesus, know peace." Remember, He is the reason for evey season!

Ray Wallace