

‘Twas The Week After Christmas . . .

Do you sing the traditional carols praising and adoring Christ? Do you experience a warm feeling of religiousness in your Christmas celebrations? It not only is “the season to be jolly,” but also, to many, it’s the season to be religious. When the carols, the storytelling, and the special feelings are over, what will the Lord mean to us for the rest of the new year? Do we feel the same way about Him as we did during the celebration? And in mid-July, will we be as ready to praise and adore Him?

Experience tells me that, for many, two days of the year are set aside for becoming religious: Easter and Christmas. The rest of the year is sort of “free time.” If I am a servant of Jesus Christ, how will I serve him today differently than I did during Christmas time, or how did I serve Him during Christmas differently than I do today? We understand that adoration, submission, and service to God’s Son is not a seasonal commitment; it is an everyday, ever-maturing relationship and responsibility.

If I basically am irreligious, perhaps even a little sacrilegious in my daily language; if my usual pattern of behavior includes such vices as cursing, lying, taking what is not mine, cheating others (the government, my mate, my boss), dabbling in immorality, and such things...and then I turn it all off during Christmas week in order to “honor the birth of Christ,” what honor does He receive when I turn it all back on after the new year begins? Have I worshipped Him, or have I blasphemed Him?

Why not decide today to commit yourself to Jesus for all time, every day of the rest of your life? If that commitment is not made, all other forms and ceremonies, including those two famous seasonal ones, are useless. Let your first New Year’s resolution be to arrange to study the Bible thoroughly, so as truly to know and obey the Lord Jesus.

Psalm 78:34-35 - Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again. They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.

Fue la Semana Desp  s de Navidad . . .

¿Cantas los villancicos tradicionales alabando y adorando a Cristo? ¿Experimentas un sentimiento c  lido de religiosidad en tus celebraciones navide  as? No solo es *la temporada para estar alegre*, sino tambi  n, para muchos, es la temporada para ser religioso. Cuando terminen los villancicos, la narraci  n de cuentos y los sentimientos especiales, ¿qu   significar   el Se  or para nosotros durante el resto del a  o nuevo? ¿Sentimos lo mismo por El que durante la celebraci  n? Y a mediados de julio, ¿estaremos igualmente dispuestos a alabar y adorar?

La experiencia me dice que, para muchos, se reservan dos d  as del a  o para ser espirituales/religiosos: la Semana Santa y la Navidad. El resto del a  o es una especie de *tiempo libre*. Si soy un siervo de Jesucristo, ¿c  mo le servir   hoy de manera diferente a como lo hice durante la Navidad, o c  mo le serv   durante la Navidad de manera diferente a como lo hago hoy? Entendemos que la adoraci  n, sumisi  n, y servicio al Hijo de Dios no es un compromiso temporal; es una relaci  n y una responsabilidad de todos los d  as, en constante maduraci  n.

Si soy b  asicamente irreligioso, tal vez incluso un poco sacr  lego en mi lenguaje cotidiano; si mi patr  n habitual de comportamiento incluye vicios como maldecir, mentir, tomar lo que no es m  o, enga  ar a otros (al gobierno, a mi pareja, a mi jefe), incursionar en la inmoralidad y esas cosas... y luego lo apago todo durante la semana de Navidad con el fin de *honrar el nacimiento de Cristo*, ... ¿qu   honor recibe El cuando vuelvo a encender todo despu  s de que comienza el nuevo a  o? ¿Lo he adorado o lo he blasfemado?

¿Por qu   no decides hoy comprometerte con Jes  s para siempre, todos los d  as del resto de tu vida? Si no se hace ese compromiso, todas las dem  as formas y ceremonias, incluidas esas dos estaciones famosas, son in  utiles. Que tu primer prop  sito del A  o Nuevo sea hacer arreglos para estudiar la Biblia a fondo, a fin de conocer y obedecer verdaderamente al Se  or Jes  s.

Salmo 78:34-35 *Si los hac  a morir, entonces buscaban a Dios; Entonces se volv  an sol  citos en busca suya, Y se acordaban de que Dios era su refugio, Y el Dios Alt  simo su redentor.*