

Lessons for Christmas and New Year

1. Video - in the shadow of Herod
 - a. Understanding the setting that Jesus was born into
 - b. Understanding who Herod was
2. List the components to the Christmas story
 - a. How many of these are factual, how many have we just seen or heard
 - b. Read Christmas story - Luke 2, Matthew 2
 - c. List what we know happened
3. Read "Christmas Truth" and "Day Jesus was Born"
4. Christmas story is a great thing - that Jesus came as a baby, but how much emphasis does the Bible put on this and how much do we emphasize this holiday
5. I Tim 3:16 - It is a great thing that Jesus came as a baby - but the emphasis is on why He came not so much how He came except for three facts
 - a. Born of a virgin
 - b. Born in Bethlehem
 - c. From the line of Judah, the line of David
6. Rat poison
 - a. Is 99.995% good food, .005% poison - it kills
 - b. Much good, but we start adding things
 - i. Make it worldly instead of Godly
 - ii. We make it the focus of Christianity - not resurrection
 1. Parties
 2. Spending money - many stores only make a profit because of
 3. Indebtedness
 4. How long is the focus on the resurrection
 5. How many easter (resurrection) songs on the radio
 - c. Holiday spirit, good will toward men
 - i. why now and not all year?
 - ii. are we going to continue in this spirit for the next 364 days?
 - iii. If not, why not, love your neighbor as yourself
 - iv. We make such a fuss at this time of year
 - v. the church goes into a tizzy
 - vi. We should be making more of a fuss for the remainder of the year
 - vii. Compartmentalizing life
 1. Make this one day special
 2. Stop what we are doing
 3. Make it special
 4. Try to make up for all the things that we didn't do through the year
7. Where does Paul tell us the focus should be - what is the gospel
 - a. I Cor 15:1-3
8. Look at how the Biblical account has been distorted over the years
 - a. adding things into the story that were not there to begin with
 - b. compare the prophecies fulfilled at Jesus' birth versus the rest of His life
9. We shouldn't celebrate Jesus on December 25 - we should be celebrating Him 365 days a year - it should be a lifestyle of praise!