

“Christmas in One Word”

Review of the last year’s message (“Christmas in Two Sentences”):

- The message of Christmas can be described by two simple sentences that are, for many people, difficult to accept.
 1. God became man! (God’s action)
 2. We worship Him! (Our response)

- The Bible does not command us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ
 - God has told us to observe certain events such as Passover and the Lord’s Supper, but not the nativity.
 - There is no evidence of Christians celebrating the birth of Christ before the third century.
 - Why then celebrate Christmas?

- Origin of Christmas
 - In the 3rd century and earlier, the pagan religions celebrated the sun gods in the midst of the darkest season of the year.
 - Christians took over the holiday, celebrating **God’s Son**, rather than the **gods of the sun**.
 - The original purpose to celebrate Christmas is to shine the true **Light** of the world in the darkest time of the year literally and spiritually!

- Christmas in One Word: “**Light**”
 - No matter where you may be in the world during this Christmas, God wants you there to shine the light of the world!