



WARNERS CHAPEL



# MESSENGER

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him,  
and declare unto you" 1 John 1:5

Vol. 2

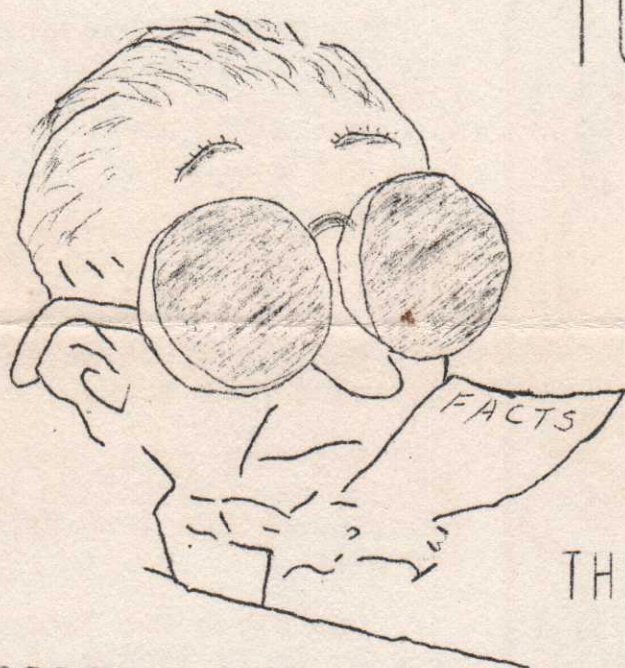
Clemmons, N. C.

December 17, 1952

No. 7

## LET US NOT BE BLIND

## TO THE FACTS



WE HAD 20 LESS  
LAST SUNDAY IN  
BIBLE STUDY THAN  
THE WEEK BEFORE!

### SOMEBODY WAS RESPONSIBLE, WERE YOU???

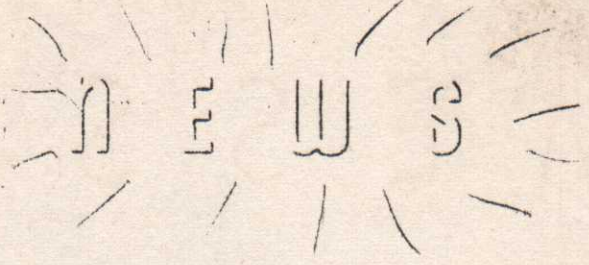
#### FACTS:

1. THERE REMAINS BUT TWO MORE LORD'S DAYS IN THIS YEAR TO MAKE OUR ATTENDANCE REACH AN AVERAGE OF 125.
2. OUR ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS "20" LESS THAN WE HAD THE SUNDAY BEFORE.
3. IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY MEMBER TO BE PRESENT FOR BIBLE STUDY AND ALL WORSHIP SERVICES.
4. THE BIBLE TEACHES YOU TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD, (COL. 1:10; 1 PET. 2:2; 2 PET. 3:18). ONE DAY YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE CHRIST AND GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF YOURSELF.  
(Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10)



**"WARNERS CHAPEL MESSENGER"**

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of New Testament Christianity;  
By the Church of Christ at  
Warners Chapel, Route 1  
Clemmons, North Carolina.  
Vestal Chaffin---Editor.



There were 63 present for  
Bible Study Wednesday night.

We are sorry to hear that  
Bro. Harvey Holder and Sis. Peggy  
Holder are sick. Sis. Alta Warner  
missed services Sunday due to  
sickness, also. We hope they will  
soon be able to be back with us.

The Chaffins expect to be  
visiting in Tennessee next week.  
Sis. Chaffin's mother is return-  
ing home after about four months  
stay here.

Bro. Bobby Messick arrived  
home on furlough yesterday and  
will be here for several days.

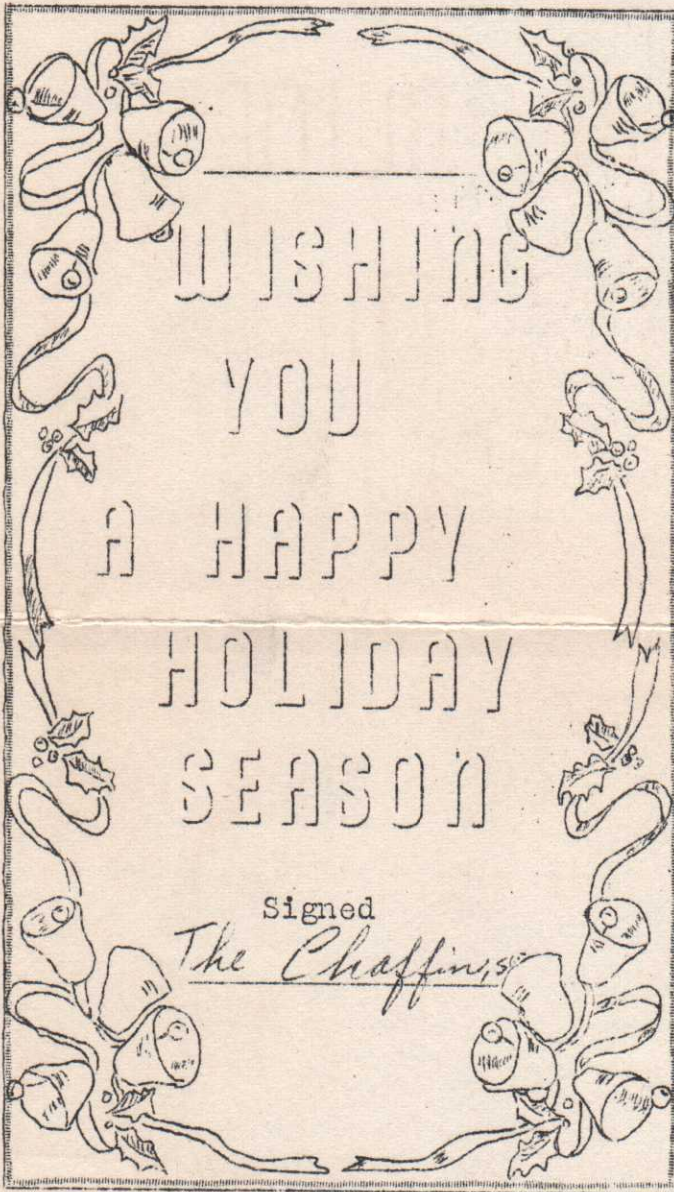
There will be no bulletin  
published next week.

Too many young people don't  
pay any more attention to their  
conscience than they do to their  
parents.

Our lives are judged not so  
much by their length as by their  
breadth.

Life must be worth living.  
The cost has doubled, and we still  
hang on.

**COME TO BIBLE STUDY!**



OUR BIBLE SCHOOL RECORD

Attendance last Sunday.....	115
Attendance a week ago.....	135
Attendance a year ago.....	100
Average attendance for 1951.....	105
Average attendance thus far 1952.....	124
Average attendance for November.....	127
Average attendance thus far for December.....	125



# SHOULD WE OBSERVE X-MAS AS THE BIRTHDAY OF CHRIST?

As the Christmas season again approaches multitudes of religious people turn their mind back to thinking of the birth of Jesus. This season of the year is traditionally celebrated by many as the birth of our Lord. Hence, with the multitudes of people it is a very sacred religious season.

Let us ask a few questions to stimulate our thinking upon this subject. Why observe X-mas as the birthday Jesus? Where is the authority for celebrating a day in the year as the birthday of Jesus? Does the Bible teach that such a day should be observed? These are pertinent questions for our consideration at this season of the year. There is absolutely no divine authority for the observance of the birthday of Christ. The Bible teaches absolutely nothing concerning the observance of a day as the birthday of Christ. So the zenith of all these questions is; Can a Christian observe X-mas as the birthday of our Lord and please our Heavenly Father? The answer is definitely NO! There are several reasons for this answer, and we shall give our attention to some of them.

Generally speaking, the spirit of X-mas is good. It is a season of the year when goodwill prevails. A spirit of liberality toward our fellow-man exist, and somehow it seems more people are friendly with each other. I would that all men would manifest these amicable spirits throughout the whole year. Let it also be observed that the writer does not believe that it is wrong to observe X-mas as a legal holiday set aside by our govern-

ment. But no observance should be in any way connected with the day called X-mas. Neither does the writer believe it is wrong to exchange gifts or to send greetings at this season or any other season of the year, so long as we do not associate these things with a religious observance.

WHY then, is it wrong for Christians to observe the day called Christmas as the birthday of our Lord? (1) Because there is no Bible example of the followers of Christ observing his birthday. The time when the X-mas festival was first observed is not definitely known. It seems that it had its beginning in the fourth century. For you cannot read about back of that date. "An armenian writer of the eleventh century states that the Christmas festival, invented in Rome by a heretic, Artemon, was first celebrated in Constantinople in 373." (Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge Vol.3, P.47) The early Christians then had no such festival in observing Christ birthday. Why should we? (2) God has given no command for such a day to be observed. Surely if God had wanted man to observe a day in the year as the birthday of His son, he would have given some instructions concerning it. But God gave no such instructions in all his word. The Bible is completely silent on the observance of the birth of Christ. Christmas is not even mentioned in all the Bible. We must not add to nor take from the word of God. (Revelation 22:18-19) (3) We cannot observe the birthday of Christ by faith. For Paul says that "faith cometh by  
(Continued on page 4.)



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*Route #1*

*Clemmons, N.C.*

(SHOULD WE OBSERVE X-MAS? Cont.)

hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17) Since the Bible is absolutely silent on the subject, man cannot observe any day as being the birthday of Christ. Furthermore, Paul says, "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin" Therefore it is a sin to observe a day in the year as the birthday of Christ, because it cannot be observed by faith. (4) It is sinful to observe special days in religion other than those designated by Jesus Christ. The Apostles writing to the churches of Galatia said, "Ye observe days, and months and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." (Gal. 4:10-11) Paul was afraid that all the labour that he had put forth in teaching these people the way of salvation would be in vain, simply because they had gone to observing those days that God had not commanded. And in so doing they would be lost. Will we not do the same today? If not, why not?

Another reason why we cannot observe Christ's birthday is because we do not know the day on which he was born. No man knows when Christ was born, that is, the day or the month. There are a number of reasons that would lead one to believe that Dec. 25th is not the day on which Jesus was born. One will suffice for this time. Luke the inspired writer says, on the night that Jesus was born, "There were in the same country shepherds abiding IN THE FIELD, keeping watch

over their flock by night." (Luke 2:8) As we take a look at our map we find that Judea is just about on the same latitude as the state of North Carolina. Hence the seasons there would be about the same as we have here. Would anybody argue that the weather would be suitable to graze sheep and especially at night on December 25th? Surely not! When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea the weather was warm enough for the shepherds to graze their sheep, even at night.

Let us then, be not guilty of referring to the day called Christmas as the Lord's birthday. Let us not be guilty of observing Christmas as the birthday of our Savior. Let us simply regard the day as a legal holiday set aside by our government, nothing more.

---Vestal Chaffin.

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H A V E A S M I L E

Teacher: "Is your mother or father boss in your house?"

Kathy: "My daddy is the boss, but mommy does the talking, and that's what we go by."

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"Excuse me a moment, preacher, while I go put on my percolater."

"Oh," said the preacher who was a little hard of hearing, "you look all right with what you have on."

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When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart---  
--not the head. Sel.