

## **Groundhog Christians**

Easter and Christmas bug me. Why? Isn't it great to celebrate the birth of Jesus? Isn't it wonderful to honor the birth of Christ Jesus? Why do we do that? It's customary to pay homage to Jesus as we take part in communion. Jesus did say to do this in remembrance of Him. I do think it's more about the community of believers sharing in the blood and sacrifice of Christ Jesus. We remember why and for who it was done. Jesus died so that we could live in Him. Believers are saved from the wrath of God. I get it. Yet, I'm bugged by the holidays.

The main reason I'm the Silent Preacher is my distain for hypocrite Christians. I did not grow up Christian. I heard about Jesus but my parents never taught about Him. I saw the Bible stories at the doctor's office but nobody ever mentioned God. Walking into church for the first time was scary. I am puzzled by that. Why is the house of God scary? They don't yell, hit, or rebuke you generally. It's a peaceful place where the Bible is spoken and songs are sung. People will pray for you. They call it a sanctuary for a reason. Yet, people are generally, nervous, suspicious, and afraid of the church.

I think that fear comes from a mixed message. Hollywood promotes that church is a bad place. They generally only portray Christians as hypocrites. They are the two-faced people. I'm holy and a liar. Yet, which face am I showing? There is an uneasy feeling when you don't know what to expect. I am Christian, yet I'm not old Christian. I was not born into it. There is a massive difference between the two. I was given a Bible and told to follow it. Yet, much of it is not followed by old Christians. In church we get instructions for good living, yet, that depends on which Christian you talk to. Christmas and Easter mean very little to me. They are holidays. The fact that Jesus was not born on December 25 and did not die on different easter dates each year does not help either.

What does God have to say? Jesus said to break bread and drink wine in remembrance of Him. Yet, the Jew does this for a very different reason. The Passover meal is what Jesus was celebrating. He took this opportunity to promote community and sacrifice. It's not a whole lot different than the people of Israel painting their door posts with blood to ward off death. The sacrificial blood of Jesus does the same thing. It's a great thing to do. We should thank Jesus. We should honor Him. Two or three days a year? Here is my beef. There is a difference between the Sunday and Monday Christian. Not all of them but many. There is a difference between the occasional attender and the staunch weekly attendee. Not all Christians are equal. Who worships hands raised and who has reverence in silence? I'm sure it makes Jesus roll His eyes.

Do I think that December 25<sup>th</sup> can be a date to honor the birth of Jesus? Absolutely! Can it be January 7<sup>th</sup>? Yep! Believe it or not but Easter is tied to astrology and the spring equinox. Easter is the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Blew my mind that Jesus dies every year on a different day and even month! Did you know that the lunar cycle is 512 years? Trust me Jesus died on many different days in history. I don't mind honoring His death. I think I do that almost every day. It should be weaved into our Christian fabric. The cross, duh! Yet, some get super excited about two days.

Some churches do communion weekly while others do it once or twice a year. One church has a good Friday service while others have a Sunday fun day. Christmas services are conducted routinely. Pastors know without a doubt that money and attendance is tied to both of these dates. Is it excitement for Jesus or do I see dollar signs in their eyes? Why get so jacked for Easter and take a break in the summer? The rule of thumb is more people come to church at Easter. Go to the people? Go to the packed beaches in the summer preaching the good news? Oh no, church is closed during those months. Typically, God does not save people in the summer.

It's a Jesus honorary thing, I guess. He's on vacation. Wait until Christmas and Easter. And for heavens sakes don't go to them! Wait for them to come to you! Don't worry it's not lazy Christianity, is it?

Then we have social media. Why do I avoid it during Christmas and Easter? It's the groundhog Christians. They post absolutely zero 363 days of the year. Then on two days they pop out of the ground telling everyone how they love what Jesus did for them. Then it's back into the ground until next spring. Doesn't the groundhog do the same stuff? I am tormented by Gods love for me and the death of His son daily. He was crucified and born for me each and every day of the year including the groundhog days. Is there an extra glint in my eyes on two certain days of the year? I don't know, the glint I have in my eye everyday for Jesus just might be overshadowing that. Six more months of doing nothing! Back in your hypocrite hole Tuesday people!