



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The early bird rate for the **Midwest Founders Conference** will close at midnight December 31. On January 1, 2024, the rate increases to \$75 plus meals.

If you have any news, prayer requests, articles, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to Tony Mattia at spurgeonassociation@gmail.com.

O COME, LET US IGNORE HIM

Singing Carols About the Jesus You Won't Love

By Jim Elliff



There we are, sitting in the large public music hall listening to Handel's "Messiah." We're feeling a bit claustrophobic before we start, our coats draped over our shoulders or chairs, and our bulky sweaters surrounding us like woolen nests. We're heating up nicely as they sing, "For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given." We continue to warm to the inspiring music

as they reach, "And the government shall be upon His shou-ho-ho-ho-ho-holders."

On our crowded row are many who don't believe in the Son being sung about, yet are just as much enraptured by the music as we are. It's the best of Christmas traditions regardless of the layers of fabric suffocating us—a favorite community event with superb music from the finest of our local musicians. It is expected each Christmas season and many of us, unbelievers included, would be disappointed if it were not happening.

These same lovers of Christmas traditions will likely turn up at a church meeting this Christmas, which is every bit as much a seasonal event as going to the "Messiah". Maybe they will go on a Sunday morning, or to a religious Christmas musical, or to a candlelight service in the church "Mom and Dad used to attend." It's tradition.

Seasonal Saints

There's an irony in religious Christmas celebrations. Holiday-only worshippers really

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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Founders Conference — January 18-20, 2024. Theme: *Remember Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:8)* with Tom Ascol, Phil Johnson, Conrad Mbewe, Joel Beeke, & Travis Allen. Go to founders.org/conference for more information.

True Church Conference — February 15-18, 2024. Theme: *9 Maxims of a True Church.* Anchoredintruth/true-church-conference.

Founders Midwest Conference — February 27-28, 2024. First Baptist Church, Fenton, Missouri. Theme: *Learning from the Puritans Today.* Sbfcmw.com. ***The early bird rate for this conference will close at midnight December 31. On January 1, 2024, the rate increases to \$75 plus meals.***

Covenant Conference—March 14-16, 2024. LaGrange, KY. *Conquering and to Conquer.* Speakers: Voddie Baucham, Joel Beeke, Sam Waldron, John Miller. Covcon.org

Missions & Evangelism Conference — May 3-4, 2024. Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, KS. This conference is free to attend, but please register for planning purposes at trinitybaptist-wamego.org.

Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 17-21, 2024. Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. Sbfcyckansas.com

If you have a conference or event that you would like listed here, please contact us by email: spurgeonassociation@gmail.com.

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do not love Christ. Rather, they prefer the opposite—avoiding Christ as much of the year as they possibly can. Thankfully, these celebrations and worship gatherings might introduce Christ to some who are seeking Him. But, for most who just want to be a little bit religious, this long-anticipated Christmas season brings out all kinds of hypocrisy.

A holiday-only worshipper thinks that a little bit of Jesus goes a long way, and Christmas (and/or Easter) is certainly enough to pay respects to the concept.

Christmas, if such easy-going folks were honest, is a little discomfiting precisely because of Jesus. But in that this is impossible, they will do their part to keep traditions alive.

Another Jesus

“If one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached . . . you bear this beautifully (2 Cor 11:4)” Another Jesus? In fact, “yes.” Some people can handle a little bit of Jesus with a certain amount of diffidence. But others must alter their Jesus to another of their own making.

“Another Jesus” might be a Jesus who remains in a manger, or a Jesus who indulges all humans in the world even those who reject Him, or One who does not proceed from the Father and is merely human. There are lots of Christs out there to choose from. Such people try to re-invent Jesus rather than submit to the One who said hard things and who demands more than they want to give. They don’t want the One literally raised from the dead who will one day judge the world, and who offers a way of salvation that has to be “His way or no way.” Instead, they concoct a Jesus who is more compatible with the lusts and sophistry of their own hearts.

Remade in our own image, Jesus can be attractive. And it is this Jesus of the imagination that so many can and do celebrate over Christmastime.

“O Come, Let Us Ignore Him.”

If you are one who sings to the one you run from or worships the Jesus you created in your own image, you have some choices to make. Should you stop celebrating the incarnation of the One who you don’t love or ever intend to follow? Should you just get honest about it all and end the charade?

Better than all other possible “solutions,” following the Christ you sing about would be the best. It’s a huge change, I understand, but entirely possible. Find a pastor of a Bible-teaching church or seek out a friend who actually loves and follows Christ to talk to. Read an easy-to-understand version of the New Testament about Christ and ask real questions. Seek the truth. Find a church that is serious about Him, and listen to what is being said.

Perhaps you prefer the annual hypocrisy, but I hope you will consider, this year, singing to the authentic Jesus you will now love and believe and follow regardless of the season!

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PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.

