

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Rodney Navey

Acts 17:22-34

Introduction: What's the history of Christmas? Some might think that would be a study of Santa Clause who has origins in the 4th Century; a Greek bishop named Saint Nicholas was generous and gave to the poor. Over time different traditions grew. I'll leave that to parents to discuss with their kids.

Background: The real story of Christmas fits into the one story of the Bible. Next week we'll begin walking through the first chapters of the gospel of Luke detail by detail of the actual birth of Christ and the people and events that surrounded His birth. However, the same writer, Luke, penned an address by Paul during his second missionary journey, Acts 17, which summarizes the one story.

1. When there was no need for Christmas – **Creation, 17:24-28**

God made **everything, 17:24.**

God needs **nothing, 17:25.**

God had a plan for **all things, 17:26-28.**

The original state of humanity was very good!

2. When Christmas became necessary – **Fall, 17:29-30**

The Athenians were very **religious** but were far from God (**Acts 17:22-23**).

Something went wrong way **before** the Athenians, **17:27.**

Sin always comes back to **idolatry, 17:29.**

Sin corrupted every part of the world and every person in the world.

3. When Christmas became a reality – **Redemption, 17:30-31**

God commands all people to **repent, 17:30.**

Repentance should be accompanied by **faith** in Christ's resurrection, **31.**

Scripture Memory Text for The History of Christmas: Luke 2:11

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David

Congregation: a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

4. When Christmas will be truly celebrated – **Consummation, 17:31**

A day is **fixed.**

He will **judge** the world.

The standard is **perfection.**

Don't try this on your own!

Conclusion: We make a big deal of Christmas as the church, **17:32-34**