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What is Valley Station Church?

It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord's word teaches.

If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

Come and see.

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

Visit Valley at www.vscoc.org

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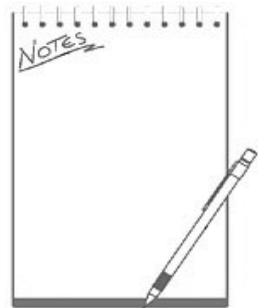
Valley Tidings

Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings

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Twelve Ways to Enrich Your Life

1. Keep your life simple. Accept the simple things. Do not get into the habit of requiring something that is unusual for your pleasure.
2. Avoid worrying about your health. If you have any doubts about your health, go to the doctor.
3. Learn to enjoy work. If you feel pleased about doing something important in society, you will feel the sense of success.
4. Have a good hobby. A hobby gives you something interesting to do so life will not become boring and you will not think about your troubles.
5. Learn to be satisfied. A satisfied person will be happy, and that helps keep a person healthy.
6. Learn to like people. The greatest pleasure comes from giving pleasure to other people—to a person who works with you, to the next-door neighbor, and to your family.
7. Get into the habit of saying cheerful, pleasant things and smiling. People will enjoy your company and will smile at you.
8. Accept problems with courage. Realize and accept that you cannot change everything. Then keep living the best possible way.
9. Do not be afraid to make decisions. Decide what you are going to do about a problem, then do not worry about the problem.
10. Always do your best. Do your best in your work, your thinking, and helping other people. The future will be as good as the present if you do your best all the time.
11. Think positive about today and the future. You will not have a pleasant day if you continually think something bad may happen to you. Thinking something good may happen in your life will make your present moment a positive experience.
12. Trust God and follow [obey] His ways.



Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Even before Halloween the stores of the Shopping Centers and Malls are being decked with holly because Christmas will be here before you know it. Around the world, this holiday will be celebrated, allegedly as an honor to the birth of Jesus Christ. Yet, sociologists tell us in unison that there will be more domestic violence, more alcoholic related injuries and death, more money spent uselessly, more infidelity by marital partners, than at any other time of the year. The annual office party, which is nothing more than a “drinking party,” furnishes the stage for many adulterous relationships to be spawned. The drinking begins, the party gets rolling along rapidly, and at the end, dozens of drunk and half-drunk people stagger toward an automobile, ignition keys in hand. Is this really a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

There is no biblical basis for the “Christmas” celebration. It did not originate with the Lord or His apostles. The only day which honors anything about Jesus is Sunday, the Lord’s Day. It is the day Christians meet to remember His death and suffering (I Corinthians 11:26). The bread and the cup of the feast are the elements of the communion or participation of saints in the body of Christ (I Corinthians 10:16). Outside of this feast, there is nothing in the New Testament authorizing celebrations, masses, or special days.

Christmas is more pagan than biblical. An apostate Christian, Liberius, called “Bishop of Rome,” decided that December 25 would be an appropriate date on which to celebrate a special “mass” in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ. The Romans had celebrated a Mithraic feast to the Sun-god. The Roman Saturnalia, another pagan festival marked by extremely wild revelry and licentious abandon, began near the middle of December and lasted till the new year. It honored the gods the Romans associated with the planet Saturn. Liberius apparently felt that it was a good time to attract people away from the pagan practice of honoring the winter solstice to a day honoring the birth of Christ. Christmas surely is not even hinted at in the Bible.

Christmas is an English word that means literally, “Christ Mass.” A “mass” is a religious celebration in Roman Catholic and some Anglican churches in which the prayers and rituals are regarded as a repetition of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Why should one day in the year be set aside to remember the birth of Christ, or to have special ceremonies in which there is a vain attempt to duplicate the once for all time sacrifice of Christ? Christmas is not biblical; it is a combination of paganism and Catholicism.

For Christians, this poses a problem. Should we celebrate the holiday called “Christmas?” The answer to the question depends on what is meant by celebrate. If by “celebrate Christmas,” there is any kind of religious significance attached to the day, the answer is no. If by “celebrate Christmas,” is meant no more than celebrating the 4th of July, then the answer is yes. There is nothing wrong with national customs, holidays, celebrations,



or festivals. Christmas is declared as a civil holiday. Banks and schools close. Factories and businesses shut down. Mostly, only such businesses as emergency services, convenient stores, and a few others remain open on Christmas Day. It would be pretty difficult not to celebrate it in some fashion. As long as the religious and pagan elements are not included, and as long as people act decently, there is no harm in exchanging gifts, and getting together as families and friends.

This posture toward this holiday can be a useful tool. From now till December 25, the phones in the offices of buildings where Christians meet will be ringing with an appeal such as, “Do you give out Christmas baskets?” My stock answer is, “No, we do not observe this as an activity of this congregation,” or some similar such response. If the person doesn’t immediately hang up, you may have an opportunity to explain why, and then a few other things -- possibly. It is a little difficult to explain, however, when someone says, “Well, I noticed a Christmas Tree in the lobby of _____ church of Christ.” My response has to be that I am ever more grateful that the Lord gave independence and autonomy to each local church.

No special cantatas or Christmas celebration will be held here at Valley Station. We won’t be handing out fruit baskets or other special gifts. We will meet exactly as we do each Lord’s Day of the year to observe the Lord’s Supper, study the Bible together, pray together, sing together, and give of our means together. If anything special is done, possibly it would be an excellent idea to concentrate on what the Bible teaches about self-control, over-indulgence, and revelry. These are topics badly needed all the time but especially during the so-called celebration of Christ’s alleged birthday.—DRS

The Scriptures give four names to Christians—**saints**, for their holiness; **believers**, for their faith; **brethren**, for their love; **disciples** for their knowledge.



Ye observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain.— Gal. 4:10-11

