

NEWSLETTER NO. 79 SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 I AIN'T BUDGIN' By Jim Burks

No small discussion occurred once while we were working on the church building in Salinas, California. I forget the Bible text, but I shall never forget one brother's summation of the matter. I guess he thought that arguing got us no where and quipped, "Well, we know one thing for sure, Jesus was born on Christmas Day."

It was my impression then, and remains the same now, this brother was serious. He did manage to - sort of - close the discussion; or, may be we were just ready to go home. Yet, even today, when things get a little Scripturally hot, I pull out the brother's words. Funny, it has the same closing force as it did back in the 60's. It's time to go home.

"Studying to show oneself approved" of 2Tim. 2:15, requires a little more Theological conviction than the day Christ was born or, other traditional practices, don't you think.

Well, certainly it does. We think Scripture favors a much earlier month of our Savior's birth. But, that's another Newsletter.

Something, so fixed in tradition as Christ's birthday, will never change. We need not question it. Paul said, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord;" Romans 14:5,6.

However, when it comes to Scripture, it is healthy to question. We should like the Berean Brethren who, "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so," Acts 17:11.

Sometimes the face gets red, but we must have the conviction to stand and defend what we say we believe.

Doctrine, often cannot be wrapped up with ease. In Paul's case, we see many heated debates in the book of Acts. Sometimes, Paul was heard but, more often than not, he was scoffed, rejected and, even beaten (13:21).

Where ever Paul preached, there was always opposition. They were not budging, in the least.

What would happen should Paul walk into the room and make start preaching? Well, Missionary Baptists have learned to love Paul; to respect his teaching. So, I can imagine Paul walking into a room full of Baptists working on the building, today. Hammers hit the floor and everyone listens, even if were midnight and time to go home.

We know for sure that Paul is going to give us "Bible," "Scripture," "the Word of God" and "Thus saith the Lord." In fact, Paul wasn't fond of special days, anyway.

I understand that differences will happen when we talk Scripture. But, with Paul - yea, with all God's people, there is a love for the Word which moves us to read and study it. And, how we love to discuss the heavenly things promised to us.

It was in Rome that Paul called the chief of the Jews, spending a day and "expounded and testified the Kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening," Acts 16:23.

The account records that some believed and some believed not. Boy, I would have been thrilled to be there, wouldn't you?

Yet, in today's time, people will not be moved by what the Bible says, even if preached by Paul, or some other Baptist.

It is serious and Paul said, "Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet...hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive," 28:25, 26.

They weren't budgin'. But, there's still time; for the Jews and for us for, "Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that come in unto him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ..."

We just can't sum up a Bible matter with one phrase, even if it is a true one or, one that is settled in Tradition, like the day we have set for the birth of Christ. It takes much study, which, when brethren engage in, are constantly moving to a better understanding of God's word, growing confident and a lot less red in the face.