"CHRISTMAS" BY JESSE G. JENKINS.

There is not one shred of evidence in all the New Testament that even hints that the followers of Christ are to celebrate His birth date. Further, there is nohistorical evidence that our Lord's birthday was celebrated during the apostolic or early post apolostic times (Schaff-H Herzog encyclopedia of of religious knowledge, Vol 3 p. 47.) Therefore, the followers of Christ cannot attempt to celebrate the birthday of Christ with the approval of God. I say CANNOT ATTEMPT to celebrate His birthday because it is a physical impossibility for one to really celebrate His birthday, for His birthdate is not known. The Bible does not reveal the date of His birth. And historians freely admit that there is no way of determining the date. Many dates have been set, and one has as much possibility of being correct as another. The truth is that very likely that none of the dates that have been set is correct. Some of the dates that have been set are January 2 March 28, April 19, May 20 and December 25. Surely if God had intended for His people to celebrate the birthday of Christ, He would have informed us as well as reveal the date." "As late as 245 Origen, in his homily on Leviticus, repudiates as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ as 'if He were a king Pharoah ("Britannica, 11th edition, vol 6. p. 293.)

WHY WILL MAN TRY TO DIRECT HIS OWN STEPS?

It is shameful indeed that so many people today claim to pay homage to Christ on the occasion of His birth, which is unknown any way, and fail to pay any attention to the first day of the week upon which He was resurrected and which is specified in the New Testament as the day for followers of Christ to commemorate the death of Christ. Why cannot people realize that man cannot direct his own steps (Jer. 10, 23) and content to follow the teaching of Him who is able to direct Psa, 37:23.

ORIGINALLY A HEATHEN FESTIVAL.

Originally Dec. 25 was the day for a heathen festival celebrating the "new sun", or the beginning of the lengthening of days. "In 1664 The English puritans forbade any merryment or any religious services by act of parliment, on the ground that it was a heathen festival, and ordered it to be kept as a fast". (Britannica, 11th edition, vol. 6, P294. It was not until the fourteenth century that the fastly apostaxing church began celebrating Dec. 25 as the birth date of Christ (Chaff-Herzog, Vol, 3, pp47-48.)" An americas writer of the eleventh century states that the Christmas festival, invented in Rome (by a Heretic, Artemon, was first celebrated in Constantinople in 373. "Schaff-Herzog, vol, 3, p47.) However after it was introduced "The celebration of Christmas as a special Christmas festival spread rapidly from the middle of the fourth century onward in sympathy with the triumph of orthodox christology.--The pagan with its riot and merry making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit or in manner. Christians of Mesopotima accused their western brethren of idolotry and sun worship for adopting as christian this pagan festival. Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at least so firmly established, that even the protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it. And Evangelical christians even of the more radical types, who rejected or ignored nearly all of the ecclestical festivals, have never been able to ignore it ("Schaff-Herzog, vol, 3 p, 48.2)

Refuse to line up.

Christmas, then, as a religious festival, was born in paganism, glorified in Catholicism, and gullibly swallowed by Protestants, and some members of the Lord's church. It is high time that those who profess to "speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the bible is silent", cease to observe this religious and encourage others to do so. As ther is no authority in God's word for such a religious festival, Those who respect the authority of Heaven will refuse to "line up" in the observance of this Pagan-Catholic holiday.

END OF JESSIE JENKINS ARTICLE.

LET US NOT NEGLECT -the assembly on the first dayof the week to break bread in remembrance of our Saviour's death which is authorized by our Lord and passed on to us by the Apostles of our Lord.

Ac. 2, 42 The first converts on the day of Pentecost, Continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and in prayers, --Ac. 20, 7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them.

Read Mt. 26-26, 27, 28, --Mark 14, 22, 23, 24, 25. --Lu. 22, 17, 18, 19, 20. 1 Cor. 11, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. The disciples were eating the Jewish passover at this time which was a memorial of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage-the feast of the passover. 1 Cor, 10, 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The Bread we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we being many are one body and one bread: for we are all partakers of that one bread. J. H. Lackey Church of Christ.