



Nativity Trepation

Your birth,
 O Christ our God,
 has shed upon the world
 the light of knowledge;
 for through it,
 those who worshiped the
 stars have learned from a
 star to worship you,
 the Sun of Justice,
 and to know you, the
 Dawn from on High.
 Glory to you, O Lord!

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PRESENTLY...

Merry "X"-mas? How rude is that, to cross out the name of the Birthday Boy!

Not so fast! This abbreviation is from the Greek "Xhristos" which we Byzantines use all the time! In the 16th century, it became a popular abbreviation, known widely among all the Christians of the day to stand for the name of Christ. Nowadays, few people make the connection and mistake it for disrespect.

How sad it is that disrespect is so common in our day, especially towards Christ and His Church. Reality is hard to accept sometimes. It is becoming increasingly clear that most of creation feels completely comfortable in celebrating the ancient holy day, but can also reject Christ, Himself, and what He stands for. They have no problem feasting, singing, and decorating, but for whom? We, as devoted followers of Christ, owe it to ourselves to celebrate the coming of Our Lord.

In the eight treatises known as the **Constitutions of the Holy Apostles**, written from 375-380 AD, Section 3, 13, it says,

"Brethren, observe the feast days; and first of all the Birth of Christ, which you are to celebrate on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month."

In another place, it also says,

"Celebrate the day of the Nativity of Christ, on which unseen grace is given man by the birth of the Word of God from the Virgin Mary for the salvation of the world."

St. Clement of Alexandria, in the second century, notes that the Nativity is to be celebrated by the faithful on December 25

St. Hippolytus of Rome, in the third century, discusses the gospel readings for the feast in his writings.

St. John Chrysostom, in a sermon given in 385 AD, says that the Feast of the Nativity is an ancient one. Later in that same century, a Church dedicated to the Nativity of Our Lord would be built by St. Helen, mother of Constantine, over the spot where our Lord was born.

The early church thought it proper to celebrate the coming of the Savior. Since that time, it has become one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the church.



CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

-Written by Lynne Wardach