

From the Pastor

As we saw in last week’s article concerning the date of December 25 for the birth of Christ that this traditional date does not harmonize with the biblical fact that the shepherds were “living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (Luke 2:8)

Another difficulty that historians have when they want to believe in and support the traditional date of December 25 for Christ’s birth is the date of the death of Herod I, or the Great.

From Philip Schaff’s work “History of the Christian Church” we understand that Jesus was born in 4 B.C. Quote from:

“#16 Chronology of the Life of Christ

1. THE YEAR OF THE NATIVITY, page 112

“Our Christian era [the Roman calendar], which was introduced by the Roman abbot Dionysius Exiguus, in the sixth century, and came into general use two centuries later, during the reign of Charlemagne, puts the Nativity Dec. 25, 754 Anno Urbis, that is, after the founding of the city of Rome. Nearly all chronologers agree that this is wrong by at least four years. Christ was born A.U. 750 (or B.C. 4), if not earlier.

THE DEATH OF HEROD

- (1) According to Matthew 2:1 (comp., Luke 1:5, 26), Christ was born “in the days of King Herod” I, or the Great, who died, according to Josephus, at Jericho, A.U. 750...”

Schaff goes to some lengths to try to prove that Herod died in early spring of the year 750. Since Jesus was born when Herod was alive (but not too many months before his death), by having Herod dying in the early spring, Schaff is thus able to support a birthdate of December 25 for Jesus.

But Schaff ignores a fact of history. The Jews who had no love for Herod who ordered the death of the children from two years an under (Matthew 2:16), recorded the date of Herod’s death and celebrated on that day.

Quoting from John Gill’s “EXPOSITOR” (Commentary) from his comments on Matthew 2:19:

““But when Herod was dead,’ &c. Who died, as before observed, a few months after this tragedy [the death of the children] was acted; and, according to the {w} Jewish writers, on the seventh day of the month Cisleu, and which answers to the twenty fifth of our November; and was afterwards observed as a day of rejoicing by the Jews.

{w} Megillah Taanath apud Van Till. De anno, &c. Christ. Nat. p. 122.”

From Jewish historians Herod died in late November. Thus Jesus had been born earlier when the shepherds were still in the fields. A little more next time

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:37pm	5:40pm	5:45pm
Sunset Friday 12-30	5:40pm	5:44pm	5:49pm



Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Split Sermon: Michael Watts
Split Sermon: Gilbert Gonzalez

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

James 1:27

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12/24	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 12/31	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

From Mark Winner, coordinator, Winter Family Weekend:

We are once again offering a webcast from the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville on the Sabbath of Dec. 24. This webcast will start at 2:15 p.m. Eastern time, with services beginning at 2:30 p.m. The webcast link will be available at COGWA.TV prior to Sabbath. If you have the ability to connect to COGWA.TV and would like to connect to the webcast, please see Mr. Moody for the password.

Foundation Institute Continuing Education Seminars 2017

Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, is pleased to announce two weeklong seminars will be held in the Church's office in Allen, Texas, next summer. The dates will be June 26-30 and July 17-21, 2017. An exciting and varied program of classes will be offered, taught by FI instructors David Johnson and Ralph Levy and other ministers from the headquarters office. More details will be forthcoming as summer plans firm up.

Spaces will be limited, so if your plans are certain, please reserve your space early. You may send an email to Mr. Johnson, at david.johnson@cogwa.org, to indicate your interest, but your place will be reserved only when your tuition is received. Tuition will be \$75 per individual, or \$125 per couple, and will include the cost of a light lunch each day.

The class offerings in each seminar will be similar, with most of the content repeated, so please sign up for one seminar only.

Those who have come in previous summers have stayed in motels or with friends. Some FI apartment housing is likely to be available; more details will be made known at a later date.

Foundation Institute 2017-2018

Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for our sixth academic year, August 2017 through May 2018. The Foundation Institute website provides helpful answers to most questions about attending FI.

Those who are interested in attending next year should go to the Foundation Institute website and click on the "Apply Now" tab. You may print an application and fill it out by hand, or you may fill it out online and then print out the completed application. Completed applications may be mailed to the address on the application or emailed as a PDF attachment to apply@foundationinstitute.org.

Our facility is at capacity this year, and we anticipate similar interest next year, so we encourage those who are interested to submit their applications as soon as possible. The deadline for applications for next year will be May 31, but it is possible we will reach capacity prior to that date. We plan to accept our first group of incoming students just prior to Passover

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next potluck is scheduled for January 14
Harlingen Bible Study & Potluck: The next Bible Study/potluck is scheduled for January 28