

Merry Christmas!

Ponder: Happy holidays?

Scripture: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels" (Lk. 9:26, NKJV).

Should I say, "Merry Christmas," or would "Happy Holidays" be better? Not many years ago a big brouhaha erupted when certain businesses told their employees not to say "Merry Christmas" because it might offend people who don't believe in Christ. Some believers vowed to boycott such businesses. I seriously doubt that they convinced anyone to honor Jesus.

Organizers of a "Holiday Festival" in California told a group of entertainers they would have to wear their shirts inside-out because they had the name "Jesus Christ" on them. My objection would have been that they insulted the name of Jesus with a vulgar dance routine. But the organizers were fine with the dance; their objection was to the name "Jesus Christ." The same event, however, included a prayer to a Hawaiian volcano god and the appearance of a Menorah. A pagan god and a Jewish symbol were ok, but the name of Jesus Christ was taboo!

How should we respond to such tactics from the secular progressives? Are boycotts and protests the answer?

I would hope that we honor Jesus in far more significant ways than saying, "Merry Christmas!" If I say, "Happy Holidays" rather than Merry Christmas, it doesn't mean I'm ashamed of Jesus! Informed believers know Jesus wasn't born on or anywhere near December 25th. Secular progressives don't care one way or the other.

We don't need to be "in your face" about our dedication to Christ. Neither should we be intimidated into silence. The apostles didn't mount a boycott or protest in the streets of Jerusalem when the Sanhedrin told them not to speak about Jesus anymore. They just preached anyway and willingly suffered the consequences.

How many have been converted to Christ because businesses were pressured to say, "Merry Christmas"? You know the answer. Brothers and sisters, we have bigger fish to fry.

Hymn: "I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord"

Prayer: Father, please help us to honor Jesus in all that we say and do. Please forgive us in the many ways we fail. In Jesus' name, Amen.