



Saturday, 12/24/16

LOVE IS BORN

READING: Luke 2:1-20

In high school I had a friend who was born at the end of December... and every year he would complain about how his birthday was a real bummer. His biggest complaint was that he never got the same amount of gifts on his birthday since it was so close to Christmas. It just wasn't fair! His parents always had a small party with a cake, but somehow he didn't get double gifts as he felt he deserved. He particularly resented me since my birthday was in June!

I suspect he still resents Christmas. In fact, he did a little research and found out that experts have determined that the birth of Jesus wasn't really in December – but was probably in August. “Why don't we celebrate Christmas in August?” he would ask. “That way it wouldn't interfere with my special day!” “We might even get to delay going back to school!”

I've never had to deal with such a concern about my birthday “interfering” with our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In fact, because of the birth of Jesus Christ, I have indeed received a double blessing of being born into this world and of receiving a new birth because of the gift of life through Jesus Christ. On that day (in August or December or whenever), love was born. God became man so that I could have the gift of eternal life. Because of the birth of Jesus Christ, I have received the greatest gift of all!

At the birth of Jesus, the angel of the Lord, the heavenly host, the shepherds, and all those who heard the good news glorified and praised God. Mary “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” This child – the Son of God and the Son of Man – was born as the Savior for us all.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!

-Jack Kem