

It is not the particular ceremony that makes you a better Christian. It is what is in your heart, but a ceremony can help to remind you of things, can help to drive things into your heart and make them stay there more easily. Avoid the spirit of legalism, We can simply avoid it and bring damnation to ourselves. We do not = = = It is that legalism ~~is~~ made an objective, made an end --- always leads to damnation. Instead of being subject ~~of~~ to ordinances of any type we must be subject to the Saviour and try to follow His will.

Of course in putting these principles into practice we as in all features of Christian life or of life in general we find particular details that rise to give us problems. Sometimes it seems as if by simply making an absolute rule and following it and letting the chips fall where they may we think we can save ourselves a lot of misery. Yet this is not in the end the way that is effective. We must get the principles and principles interrelate. We must see what principle applies in a particular situation and work it out in such ~~as~~ a way as to ~~give~~ bring honor to our Saviour. The principle of having particular times set apart for particular purposes is a very good principle. The details of it we can work out as seems best. The early Christians saw that human nature was greatly benefited by having a === by setting aside ordinary things and (having) a complete change about the turn of the year. Not knowing when Christ's birth had been but knowing that there was great benefit in having one particular time of the year when ~~great~~ great attention was paid to it, a time was settled in which they could take over the natural benefits of the pagan ceremony, leaving all the pagan ideas behind and substituting a adoration of Christ. The world-wide observation of it gives us == calls Christianity to the attention of the whole world, calls to people's minds the child in the manger, and the wonderful gift of God gives us a marvelous chance to use these == to point people to Christ.

It also gives us a special aid once a year to stop and do what we should always do but do it at ~~this~~ time perhaps more fully, and measure our own lives to see if Christ is truly born in our lives. Ceremonies and customs in relation ~~to~~ ^{decking} to it, ~~making~~ the walls with holly and having the feast and all these things, they may be helpful