

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 -- "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. . . . When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

- D. The fourth element biblically associated with the meaning of Christmas is witnessing of the meaning of Christmas

Christmas means witnessing of what God has revealed concerning Jesus, and witnessing of what we have experienced concerning Jesus.

Luke 2:8-11, 17 -- "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

These then are the four elements that the Bible specifically associates with the meaning of Christmas:

Recognition of the meaning of Christmas

Rejoicing at the meaning of Christmas

Worship of the one who gives ultimate meaning to Christmas

Witnessing of the meaning of Christmas

This brings us to our third question:

III. What should our attitude be toward these traditional and biblical elements, as we seek to make Christmas meaningful?

A. One answer that has been given is that we should affirm only the biblical elements and have nothing to do with the traditional elements because the traditional elements (at least the secular ones) are pagan in origin.