

**THE EMPEROR COMMODUS, OSTRICHES, AND CHRISTMAS.”** CONT. FROM

Burying our head for awhile in the gospel accounts of our Lord's birth would not be a bad thing at all.

While heeding this warning, and slowing down during the Christmas season I would also advise that you do not let anyone steal the joy and uniqueness of the Christmas season.

The Jehovah's witnesses will be strutting about and telling you that this season of the year was originally the Roman festival of Saturnalia. So what? We are thankful for God's great gift of His Son in the incarnation throughout the year. Why not set one day aside to have a special remembrance for this event that changed the Universe? It is better to revise a pagan holiday and make it honor the Son of God, than to deny Scripture and the Deity of Christ- as the Jehovah's Witnesses do.

In recent year we have also noted that various organizations and groups go out of their way to refer to the Christmas season as; "The Winter Solstice" (which of course is correct), or, the "Winter Light Festival." So what? The majority of Americans still refer to this season as "Christmas." Why not greet a stranger with; "Merry Christmas," it may serve as an opportunity to witness. It is better to receive Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sins than to worry about Political correctness. Don't let these folk destroy your Christmas joy either.

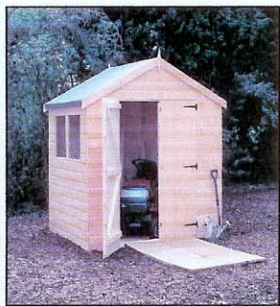
We might also add, that in our opinion the "headless ostrich" metaphor applies more correctly to the groups chastised above than to Christians who get just a little too busy at this time of year. It is better to be a little too busy at Christmas time, than to run about tilting windmills while ignoring the harm that is being done.

Enjoy the season, remember the real purpose of this celebration and the giving of gifts. Just make sure that your head is attached at all times.

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING



After a series of almost comical delays, we are making progress again on the construction of two outdoor sheds on our church property. Both sheds will be used to house electrical generators which were donated to the church. Many will recall that we already have the generator panels wired into both the church building itself and the parsonage. If God should give you an extra blessing at this time of year, so that you are able to give above your normal gifts, please remember our Building And Maintenance Fund. Monies give to this fund will be used to complete these buildings, and take care of other needs of the church. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact us.