

~Is Christmas Christian?~

by Bob Stokes

To many people, this will seem like a 'non-issue' but read on and see!

The following excerpt is from C. H. Spurgeon's Treasury of David, on Psalm 81, verse 4.

For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. It was a precept binding upon all the tribes that a sacred season should be set apart to commemorate the Lord's mercy; and truly it was but the Lord's due, he had a right and a claim to such special homage. When it can be proved that the observance of **Christmas, Whitsuntide**, and other Popish festivals was ever instituted by a divine statute, we also will attend to them, but not till then. It is as much our duty to reject the traditions of men, as to observe the ordinances of the Lord. We ask concerning every rite and rubric, "Is this a law of the God of Jacob?" and if it be not clearly so, it is of no authority with us, who walk in Christian liberty.

XMAS by A. W. Pink

"Thus said the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen... for the CUSTOMS of the people are vain." (Jer. 10:1-3)

Christmas is coming! Quite so; but what is "Christmas"? Does not the very term itself denote its source--"Christ-mass." Thus it is of Romish origin, brought over from Paganism. But, says someone, Christmas is the time when we commemorate the Savior's birth. It is? And who authorized such commemoration? Certainly God did not. The Redeemer bade His disciples "remember" Him in His death, but there is not a word in Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation which tells us to celebrate His birth. Moreover, who knows when, in what month, He was born? The Bible is silent thereon. Is it without reason that the only "birthday" commemorations mentioned in God's Word are Pharaoh's (Gen. 40:20) and Herod's (Matt. 14:6)? Is this recorded "for our learning"? If so, have we prayerfully taken it to heart?

And who is it that celebrates "Christmas"? The whole "civilized world." Millions who make no profession of faith in the blood of the Lamb, who "despise and reject Him," and millions more who while claiming to be His followers yet in works deny Him, join in merrymaking under the pretense of honoring the birth of the Lord Jesus. Putting it on its lowest ground, we would ask: "Is it fitting that His friends should unite with His enemies in a worldly round of fleshly gratification? Does any truly born-again soul really think that He whom the world cast out is either pleased or glorified by such participation in the world's joys"? Verily, "the customs of the people are vain"; and it is written, "Thou shall not follow a multitude to do evil." (Ex. 23:2)

Some will argue for the "keeping of Christmas" on the ground of "giving the kiddies a good time." But why do this under the cloak of honoring the Savior's birth? Why is it necessary to drag in His holy name in connection with what takes place at that season of carnal jollification? Is this taking the little ones with you out of Egypt (Ex. 10:9, 10) a type of the world, or is it not plainly mingling with the present-day Egyptians in their "pleasures of sin for a season"? (Heb. 11:25) Scripture says, "Train up a child in the

way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6) Scripture does command God's people to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), but where does it stipulate that it is our duty to give the little ones a "good time"? Do we ever give the children "a good time" when we engage in anything upon which we cannot fittingly ask the Lord's blessing?

There are those who do abstain from some of the grosser carnalities of the "festive season," yet are they nevertheless in cruel bondage to the prevailing custom of "Christmas" namely that of exchanging "gifts." We say "exchanging" for that is what it really amounts to in many cases. A list is kept, either on paper or in memory, of those from whom gifts were received last year, and that for the purpose of returning the compliment this year. Nor is this all: great care has to be taken that the "gift" made to the friend is worth as much in dollars and cents as the one they expect to receive from him or her. Thus, with many who can ill afford it, a considerable sum has to be set aside each year with which to purchase things simply to send them out in return for others which are likely to be received. Thus a burden has been bound on them which not a few find hard to bear.

But what are we to do? If we fail to send out "gifts" our friends will think hard of us, probably deem us stingy and miserly. The honest course is to go to the trouble of notifying them--by letter if at a distance--that from now on you do not propose to send out any more "Christmas gifts" as such. Give your reasons. State plainly that you have been brought to see that "Christmas merry-making" is entirely a thing of the world, devoid of any Scriptural warrant; that it is a Romish institution, and now that you see this, you dare no longer have any fellowship with it (Eph. 5:11); that you are the Lord's "free man" (1 Cor. 7:22), and therefore you refuse to be in bondage to a costly custom imposed by the world.

What about sending out "Christmas cards" with a text of Scripture on them? That also is an abomination in the sight of God. Why? Because His Word expressly forbids all unholy mixtures; Deut. 22:10, 11 typified this. What do we mean by an "unholy mixture"? This: the linking together of the pure Word of God with the Romish "Christ-mass." By all means send cards (preferably at some other time of the year) to your ungodly friends, and Christians too, with a verse of Scripture, but not with "Christmas" on it. What would you think of a printed program of a vaudeville having Isa. 53:5 at the foot of it? Why, that it was altogether out of place, highly incongruous. But in the sight of God the circus and the theatre are far less obnoxious than the "Christmas celebration" of Romish and Protestant "churches." Why? Because the latter are done under the cover of the holy name of Christ; the former are not.

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day." (Prov. 4:18) Where there is a heart that really desires to please the Lord, He graciously grants increasing knowledge of His will. If He is pleased to use these lines in opening the eyes of some of His dear people to recognize what is a growing evil, and to show them that they have been dishonoring Christ by linking the name of the Man of Sorrows (and such He was, when on earth) with a "Merry Christmas," then join with the writer in a repentant confessing of this sin to God, seeking His grace for complete deliverance from it, and praise Him for the light which He has granted you concerning it.

Does any Christian reader imagine for a moment that when he or she shall stand before their holy Lord, that they will regret having lived "too strictly" on earth? Is there the slightest danger of His reproving any of His own because they were "too extreme" in "abstaining from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." (1 Peter 2:11) ? We may gain the good will and good word of worldly religionists today by our compromising on "little (?) points," but shall we receive His smile of approval on that Day? Oh to be more concerned about what He thinks, and less concerned about what perishing mortals think.

"Thou shall not follow a multitude to do evil." (Ex. 23:2) Ah, it is an easy thing to float with the tide of

popular opinion; but it takes much grace, diligently sought from God, to swim against it. Yet that is what the heir of heaven is called on to do: to "Be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2), to deny self, take up the cross, and follow a rejected Christ. Oh that each of us may be able to truthfully say, "I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep Thy Word." (Psa. 119:101)

Our final word is to the pastors. To you the Word of the Lord is, "Be thou an example of believers in word, in deportment, in love in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 4:12) Is it not true that the most corrupt "churches" you know of, where almost every fundamental of the faith is denied, will have their "Christmas celebrations?" Will you imitate them? Are you consistent to protest against unscriptural methods of "raising money," and then to sanction unscriptural "Christmas services"? Seek grace to firmly but lovingly set God's Truth on this subject before your people, and announce that you can have no part in following Pagan, Romish, and Worldly customs.

*"This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me"
(Matt. 15:8)*

*Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God"
(Luke 16:15)*

*"Little children. keep yourselves from idols"
(I John 5:21)*

Is Christmas Christian?

This article was compiled from Michael Schneider and several others.

For the vast majority of people the question is really no question at all. *Is Christmas Christian?* "Of course it is! What could be more Christian than Christmas? Isn't it Jesus' birthday?" Others have begun to feel increasingly uncomfortable with the celebration of Christmas. When they look at the bacchanalia that takes place around December 25, there is an uneasy feeling that something is not quite right. And yet they keep telling themselves, "Isn't Christmas Jesus' birthday"? The world has corrupted Christmas, but underneath it's still a wonderful holiday." And so they struggle year after year to "put Christ back into Christmas."

It may be a shocking thought to some, but after wrestling with the question for several years now, searching the Scriptures and church history, I have come to the conclusion that there is nothing Christian about Christmas; that in its present observance as well as in its origin, Christmas is basically and essentially pagan. If that thought is new and startling to you, I invite you to consider the possibility that for you Christmas is a blind spot that needs some re-examination.

I don't mean to say that I'm unimpressed with the sentimental appeal of the "holiday spirit." There's a certain charm about this season of the year-the thought of family gatherings, dreaming of a "White Christmas," "chestnuts roasting on an open fire," "city sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style." No one with any sentimentality could escape a twinge of nostalgia when there's a feeling of Christmas in the air. Even the most hardened cynic can't stifle a softening childlike feeling of good will that lasts for a few days.

I've tried the approach that says, "Let's put Christ back into Christmas," but I have become more and more convinced that Christ doesn't want to be "put back into" Christmas. If we speak against the "commercialization" of Christmas and emphasize "the real meaning of Christmas," and most people would readily agree. People are very well aware of what they consider to be the materialistic excesses of Christmas celebration, and they love sermons on the "true" meaning of Christmas. But I'm asking, "What is the true meaning of Christmas?" When you get right down to its essence, what is "Christmas?" Where did it come from? How did it originate? What does it stand for now? The real question is the nature of the institution itself.

I think you will be shocked if you evaluate the institution of Christmas realistically. What I'm asking you to do is lay aside your cultural prejudices and preferences and approach this question with an open mind.

Granted, that's hard to do. We are so snowed under a century of tradition and nostalgia that it's almost impossible for some people to look at the issue objectively at all. I'm asking you to put aside your preconceived notions, at least temporarily, to look honestly at this institution we call Christmas. Frankly, this article is calculated to disturb you, to make you think, and to cause you to change your actions if they are not consistent with the truth of the gospel.

I: It's Inception

What is the origin of Christmas? How did it begin? Were its beginnings pagan or Christian? There is no indication in the New Testament that the early Christians observed Christmas at all. It can be demonstrated in church history that for probably the first 300 years after the birth of Christ Christians knew nothing of Christmas celebration. It was only as the church began to drift from apostolic doctrine and practice into corruption that Christmas began.

Where did it come from? Where did the drifting Church get the ideas and customs associated with Christmas today? The source of most of the basic forms of paganism in the ancient world can be traced back to the Babylonian "mysteries." All of the ancient cultures, Egypt, Greece, Rome, even India and China, had beliefs, traditions, practices, gods and goddesses that were related to those found in Babylon. The names were different, and different modifications were added, but basically the ancient religions were related and find their "purest" form in Babylonia. In the Old Testament Babylon stands as the epitome of everything that is godless and perverse. The greatest indignation suffered by God's people for their sins is to be carried away into Babylonian captivity, into the heart of the heathen world.

In the New Testament "Babylon" becomes Rome. The Roman Empire embodies the pagan beliefs and practices of ancient Babylon and is seen as the archenemy of God's people. In the book of Revelation Rome is called "the great whore that sits upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication...a woman sits upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And John says that she was "drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (Rev 17:1-6).

What was to be the attitude of God's people toward this "Babylon" of their day? "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev 18:4). Of course they could not physically separate themselves from the Roman Empire where they lived. The call was to spiritual separation from its attitudes and practices. But, did God's people hear the warning and separate themselves from Babylon? No, they did the very opposite. They compromised with her and became

contaminated with her corruption. In 313 A.D. the Roman Emperor Constantine supposedly adopted the Christian faith and declared it to be the official religion of his realm. His embracing the Christian Church proved detrimental to true Christianity. Constantine retained the traditional pagan titles, and his coins still bear the figures and names of the old Roman gods.

The Church became the "Roman Catholic Church" and its method became compromised with paganism. Ever since, the Roman Catholic way of converting pagans to its style of worship has been to absorb them gradually, along with their idolatrous observances. The church was content to swell the number of nominal adherents by meeting paganism halfway. There were some valiant voices of protest who bitterly lamented the inconsistency of this approach, but their voices were raised in vain.

The Roman Church has continued the same approach until this day. It can be seen particularly in Central and South America, where idols have simply been replaced with statues of the saints. Some of their names and traditions have even been combined. Roman Catholic Churches in these countries are often opened to the Indians for the worship of their animistic gods.

How then did we receive our "holidays" (holy days) with their customs and traditions, Christmas as well as Easter, Halloween, and Mardi Gras? Each of them has come to us from ancient Babylon, through Rome, through the Roman Catholic Church.

It was for this very reason that in Calvin's Geneva you could have been fined or imprisoned for celebrating Christmas. It was at the request of the Westminster Assembly that the English Parliament in 1644 passed an act forbidding the observance of Christmas, calling it a heathen holiday. In an appendix to their "Directory for the Public Worship of God" the Westminster divines said: "Festival-days vulgarly called 'Holy-days', having no warrant in the word of God, are not to be continued" (see also, James Bannerman, "the Church of Christ," Vol 1, pages 406-420).

When the Puritans came to America they passed similar laws. The early New Englanders worked steadily through December 25, 1620, in "studied neglect" of the day. About 40 years later the General Court of Massachusetts decreed punishment for those who kept the season: "...anyone who is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such days as Christmas Day, shall pay for every such offense five shillings."

It was not until the 19th Century that Christmas had any religious significance in Protestant churches!!

What then is the history of Christmas? It came into the Church centuries after the New Testament, was discarded at the Reformation, and has only in this century crept back into the Protestant Church. What I'm saying, then, is that the "real" Christmas has always been pagan, and to make it a Christian celebration is to try to add Christ or Biblical elements to an essentially pagan holiday.

II. It's Institutions

Let's look, then at some of the familiar customs of Christmas and examine their significance. I'm taking only a small selection of the many familiar traditions, but I assure you that what I say about these is true of all the Christmas customs, and I encourage you to check them all out in any secular encyclopedia.

Take, for instance, the very date of Christmas, **December 25**. As you are probably aware, no one really knows the time of Christ's birth and December 25 (winter season) is a highly unlikely time for shepherds to tend their flocks. Why then December 25? Well, at the time of year when the days began to lengthen

again, the Babylonians celebrated the victory of their Sun god. The Roman copy of this Babylonian custom was called Saturnalia, the feast of the birth of Sol. It was for centuries an abomination to Christians. The celebration was an orgy of pagan revelry. But the Church, instead of standing firm against paganism, began to compromise. It wanted to "help" weak young Christians who didn't want to give up the fun and merry making surrounding this winter solstice. So the Church said, "Go on with your fun and celebration. Only now we'll call it a celebration of the birth of the Son of God. Instead of losing people to paganism, we'll combine the two and gradually even win some of the pagans of our day to profess Christianity. Let's not force men to choose between the two."

Then think about the name "Christmas" itself. What does it mean? Many people do not even know that it is a combination of Christ and mass. Christmas is the Roman Catholic celebration of a particular mass in honor of the birth of Christ. Perhaps it would impress on our minds that the "real" meaning of Christmas if we would refer to it as "Christmass." What is the significance of the mass? At its heart the Roman Catholic mass is a denial of the sufficiency of Christ's atonement. It professes to be a reenactment of the sacrifice of Christ for sin. It is a denial of the Gospel (Heb 9:12, 24-26; 10:10, 12, 14). The Roman Catholic Church has many other masses, such as "Michaelmass," but it is their "Christmass" that Protestants have singled out for observance.

What could seem more harmless than the beautiful Christmas trees that light our homes during the Christmas season? But do you know why we have trees in our homes? From ancient times trees have played an important role in pagan religion and were even worshipped. Norsemen, Celts and Saxons used trees to ward off witches, evil spirits and ghosts. In Egypt, the palm tree was prominent; in Rome it was the fir. Because of this association, idols were often carefully carved from trees.

Even the nativity scene, which some regard as the most "Christian" symbol of Christmas, is tainted with pagan influence. Nearly every recorded form of pagan worship which has descended from Babylonian "mysteries" focuses the attention of the worshipper on a mother goddess and the birth of her child. Different cultures used different names, but the concept is uniformly the same. In Babylon it was the worship of the queen of heaven and her son Tammuz, the sun god, who was thought to be the incarnation of the sun. The birth of the sun god took place at the winter Solstice. "Yule" was the Babylonian name for child or infant, and "Yule Day" was celebrated on December 25, long before Christ's birth. The next time you see a manger scene on a Christmas card and Mary and Jesus have a **halo** around their heads, remember that this Roman Catholic concept is borrowed from the Babylonian "mysteries." And remember that the believer is forbidden to make for himself "any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exo 20:4). Do we take these commands of God seriously, or have we long since outgrown them and explained them away?

Or what about "**Santa Claus**?" Can anyone seriously deny that he represents the "real" meaning of Christmas for the vast majority of people? I won't go into the familiar stories of his origin as a Roman Catholic saint, but what does he stand for today? Is he a harmless, jolly, fat elf, or has he become an anti-Christian symbol of greed, materialism, selfishness-an expression of "something for nothing?" "What's in it for me?"

Parents who tell their children the Santa Clause myth are endangering their credibility with their children. When they ask you, "Can Santa really see me through these walls?"-what do you reply? Our children ought to be able to know that they can trust everything we tell them without question. How else can we expect them to believe us when we tell them: "*the old, old story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love?*"

Everything the modern pagan believes about God is encapsulated in Santa Claus. He is busily engaged in a nice though rather meaningless activity most of the year. He exists somewhere up north as a harmless, friendly old man with a long white beard. He visits his people once a year, spending the other 364 days in obscurity. A child may write him at the North Pole, but the communication is strictly one way; Santa is not involved with daily living. The way for a child to be acceptable in Santa's sight is to be "good." Santa warns of the consequences of being "bad," but his word really can't be trusted. The child knows he has not been perfect, and even though he may feel some anxiety, he remembers last year and knows that no matter what Santa says or what the child does, in the end Santa will reward him. Santa represents a god who threatens man with hell and judgment only to keep him in line in this life, but who will accept all men in one way or another in the end. If you teach your children the Santa Claus myth, you are unknowingly giving them the material to build an un-biblical concept of the Transcendent.

Isn't it interesting that the Japanese have raised Santa Claus to the rank of a deity and given him an equal place among the seven popular gods of good luck? No wonder that a liberal Protestant churchman recently suggested that St. Nicholas could well be the first truly ecumenical saint. He said that both the average pagan and the ordinary Roman Catholic, as well as the Protestant, would applaud the move: *"Even the Buddhists and Moslems who revere the old fellow, might take a long stride along the ecumenical way with us...He has done more to spread the teaching that 'It's better to give than to receive,' than any churchman of the past thousand years."* That says it all!

But isn't the giving of gifts a lovely way to remember the birth of our Lord? Surely there is nothing un-Christian about giving to one another. But has any other aspect of Christmas become more perverted than this? "We spend money we don't have to buy gifts they don't need to impress people we don't like." What a mockery and a madness the shopping whirl has become. Could anyone seriously suggest that what goes on around December 25th is honoring to Jesus Christ, the One who lived a life of simplicity, humility and self-denial, who condemned ostentation and self-indulgence, who taught us that "a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses" (Luke 12:15)? Yet people claim to be Christians spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars on their Christmases and at the same time give little for the work of the gospel in our land or in the needy mission field. Isn't true Christian giving something that should take place the year round, out of a true heart of love, and not from compulsion and with an expectation to receive in return?

What about the parties and revelry and debauchery that take place at this time of year, supposedly in connection with the birth of Jesus Christ? Why is it that liquor flows more freely at this time of year than any other? Why is it that there are more automobile accidents during the "holiday season" than at any other time? We may quibble about the origins of the Christmas tree and manger scene, but one thing is certain: If you use the Incarnation of our Lord as an excuse for revelry and debauchery, you can be sure that you will reap the judgment of God.

Now, the question is this: "Is all of this travesty surrounding the Christmas season inconsistent with the 'true' meaning of Christmas, or is this the 'true' meaning of Christmas derived from its origin and history"?

But aren't the traditions surrounding Christmas really harmless, you may ask? Aren't they innocent enough? Well, are they? How does Satan most effectively tempt us? Does he set before us horrible, grotesque-looking things that repulse us? Does he jump out of a dark alley in a red suit with a tail, and wave a pitchfork and say, "I'm the devil. I've come to deceive you, to bring you down to hell?" Of course not. The devices of Satan are subtle: "for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor 11:14). He sets before us things that seem "harmless," "innocent," "fun"-things that "everyone else is doing." Sincere Christians are often unwittingly led into idolatry through man's traditions.

III. It's Implications

From this mass of material (and we've only scratched the surface), let's draw some conclusions. How is the Christian to react to the Christ-mass and all its traditions? As I see it, we have only three alternatives:

1. We can keep on trying our best to "Put Christ back in Christmas," keep on fighting the losing battle to salvage something remotely Christian from this thoroughly pagan holiday. But then we must ask ourselves, "Am I 'putting Christ' in a pagan celebration?" We must deal with the basic questions, What is "Christmas?" What is it really? Where did it start and what has it historically been?

2. We can try to separate Christmas entirely from Christ. We can observe it as kind of cultural folk festival, reasoning that the pagan elements are so far removed historically that the traditions have been somehow purged from their idolatry. That would be more consistent, but there is still a problem: Your non-Christian friends and society still vaguely associate Christmas with the birth of Christ and assume that since you're a Christian you are joining in this celebration of Jesus' birth. Christians in primitive cultures have had this problem for years. They are urged to participate in pagan rites as a kind of cultural heritage, disassociating themselves from their idolatrous origins. But can they do that and still maintain a consistent Christian witness?

3. The only other alternative is to forsake Christmas entirely. I'm convinced that for myself, this is the only consistent course to take. I know well the objections. I've heard them many times. "No one is completely consistent." No, of course no one is completely consistent. But that fact doesn't relieve us of the obligation to be as consistent as we can be; to obey every Scriptural command that we understand. "But isn't that a drastic step? If we are going to stem the tide of paganism in our day-or even challenge it-drastic measures are going to be necessary! "Isn't that a radical proposal?" Yes, but then true Christianity is a radical faith.

"But wouldn't I be considered fanatical if I took such a drastic measure?" Probably. That would be a new experience, wouldn't it? No one enjoys being considered a fanatic-if they do there's something wrong. No one enjoys persecution. But think how little persecution we face as Christians. Isn't it because we are inconsistent? Isn't there something wrong when our beliefs and practice don't disturb the world any more than they do? If we compromise at this point, why wouldn't we compromise at another, and another, and another? We Christians often wonder why we are not persecuted today. The conclusion we often reach is that we would be persecuted if we were faithful. Why doesn't the world hate us? Isn't it because we are not challenging the world's concept of what Christianity is?

The world has substituted a folk religion for the gospel and we are supporting it!

"Wouldn't it be a very hard thing to go against the religious tradition of Christ-mass?" Yes, it would. No question about it. It is so firmly entrenched in our society-and even in our own hearts-that it would be most difficult to swim against the stream. But the question is not really, "Is it hard?" but "***Is it right?***" The right thing is not always easy. Christ has never promised us that following him would be easy. When our Christian lives are as easy as ours are, there is bound to be something wrong somewhere.

How can groups and cults, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, give up Christmas for what they believe (a lie) and we, as Christians, cannot give it up for the truth? Surely there is much in this question, is there not?

Let us consider what lies we, as Christians, are telling the world. We say that:

- 1) *Jesus was born on December 25th when the Bible is silent.*
- 2) *The wise men came to the stable at His birth when, actually, they came later to His house.*
- 3) *There were 3 wise men even though the Bible does not tell us the number.*
- 4) *Christ-mass means the birth of Jesus (Christmas).*

How in the world can we, as bearers of the truth, present lies to justify Christmas? "Oh", we say, "it doesn't matter. Those are just trifles. The important thing is to declare the birth of Jesus and to celebrate His life." Sounds good, doesn't it? The problem with that thinking is that it is NOT Biblical whatsoever!

Nowhere in the entire Bible are we commanded to celebrate the birth of Jesus-NOWHERE! We are to remember His DEATH! Not His BIRTH! WE may think it is a trifle to 'lie' about the facts, but the world is not so easily fooled. They see it as hypocritical! ***In fact, it is!***

What then are the positive reasons we should consider scrapping Christmas altogether? The first is the reason our Protestant forefathers so carefully avoided Christmas; It was because they held the Scriptures to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice. One confession says, "The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men" (**Westminster Confession, I.6**).

"The acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or under the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture" (**XXIII.1**).

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men...making the word of God of none effect through your tradition..." (Mark 7:8,13). Paul wrote to the Galatians in dismay, "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (4:10,11). He wasn't condemning them for observing those institutions commanded by God, but for observing those of man's making, contrary to God's law.

Do you think I enjoy saying these things? No one enjoys being an Ebenezer Scrooge or the Grinch who stole Christmas. But the only real question is this: ***"Is what I've been saying Biblical"***? Is it consistent with God's Word? If it's not, then you ought to disregard it. But if it is, then you ought to consider it carefully and heed it. You may, of course, disagree with my interpretation of Scripture at this point; you may disagree with my assessment of the historical background and the present situation. I could be wrong. I very often am. But you must do with a message like this is what the Bereans did with Paul's preaching: ***"and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"*** (Acts 17:11). You must openly, honestly, and realistically evaluate the evidence for yourself and come to your own conclusions. You are not responsible to the preacher-but to God.

The Scriptures point out what is to be a stark contrast between the Christian and the world. That contrast has been largely glossed over in our day. ***"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him"*** (I John 2:15). "wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate" (II Cor 6:17). "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom 12:2). Or, as it could be translated: "Do not live according to the fashions of the times; you must not adopt the customs of this world; do not imitate the way this world lives; don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold." The idea is, don't let the world write the agenda,

don't let the world call the shots or set the standard. The Christian is in the world, but he must not be of the world. He is a citizen of another country, a stranger and pilgrim here. He isn't keeping pace with his companions because he hears a different drummer.

What I'm really questioning is whether you can have a "Christian" Christmas. The "religious" aspects are the worst part of Christmas. There is not a more pointed illustration of Christmas than the contrast between cultural religion and Biblical faith. *Christmas promotes an "imitation gospel"* that actually keeps the world from understanding the true Gospel. Christmas presents a substitute gospel that the world can easily live with. To the world, the Christian message is simply "love, peace, the spirit of giving, the feeling of good will." That stripped-down "gospel" gives men just enough inoculation to keep them from understanding the true Gospel.

The world loves Christmas because Christmas promotes a sentimental picture of a baby in a manger. *Jesus is misrepresented by Christmas. The Gospel is misrepresented by Christmas.* Christmas is the one time an ungodly person can be religious safely. Most people like to do something religious every once in a while to ease their conscience and convince themselves that they are really a pretty good person after all; and Christmas affords them the perfect opportunity to do that. It's perfectly safe for the most pagan person to join in the Christmas spirit. You can have the Christmas spirit without having the Holy Spirit, without having the mind of Christ.

The very popularity of Christmas should cause the Christian to question it. Anyone and everyone can celebrate Christmas without question! Outright pagans, nominal Christians, even Buddhists join in the celebration. If in reality December 25 was a date set by God to remember the birth of Jesus, you can be very sure that the world would have nothing to do with it. *Shouldn't the Christian be suspicious of a celebration in which the whole sinful world can join without qualms?*

The crucial question for the believer is the Lordship of Christ: "Ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price" (I Cor 6:19,20). Are you sincerely willing to think about this whole matter? Are you willing to do whatever God would have you do even though it may mean a drastic change in your thinking or practice? It's at this point that the conflict really comes. I have heard many people say about this subject, "No. I don't want to read a book about it. No, I don't want to think about it. I don't want to talk about it. I'm going to have my Christmas no matter what. I enjoy it, and no one is going to take it away from me" (*the implication being, not even God*). It's then that Christmas becomes an idol. An idol is anything that comes between you and God. Anything you refuse to give up, even at his command. General exhortations to "surrender all" don't affect us greatly; but discipleship really counts when it affects some concrete area we really care about. The real question is, can you sincerely say to God about this issue

Part 1: What Is Christmas?

These three verses from God's Word should be intensely startling to anyone who is in the habit of celebrating Christmas. They ought to search out the very depths of the conscience and bring a conviction and condemnation to every Christian who has been active in any way, in the festivals of Yuletide.

From these words of the Spirit, we should have no trouble understanding that whatever is very popular in the world is not of God. They place the unerring finality of Omnipotence on the decree, "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." They also present to our innermost being the chilling fact that people are not always at heart what they appear to be. And again, here we find a lesson as positive as it is appalling, that the saints of Christ are often, even if unwittingly, led through man's traditions into idolatry, which thing God hates.

We all know holiday seasons are very popular. Any time of festival seems to have great sentimental appeal to the hearts of most people. Add to this emotional expectation, the complex of a conscience which compels a vague respect of the day when Christ supposedly was born and we have - the Christmas spirit. No date on the calendar is welcomed more. Old and young - rich and poor - pious and vulgar, saint and sinner, with boundless frenzy, race with the coming of Christmas day like the waters of a flooded river, submerging everything before it. Christmas is the day when the driving power of this festival love reaches its zenith. No other day can equal it for fleshly revelry, and debauchery combined with a heathen misrepresentation of Christ which, as a fanatical religious orgy from every quarter swirls to a literal vortex of confusion and jamboree on December 25th.

*"Have YOUR own way, Lord; have YOUR own way.
Thou are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still?"*

No - Christmas is NOT of God. It is abomination to Him. It is NOT honoring to Jesus Christ. It only calls forth from multitudes of unthinking people a natural sentimentality and a false worship of Him. The observances of Christmas are in no way inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Christmas spirit is only terrible mockery to Him.

Christmas time is not a season of revival and upbuilding in the Church of God. Instead it is a pagan spell of evil, which spreads spiritual pollution as it rages among churches and believers for the time appointed.

Thousands of evangelical believers who would be horrified and deeply depressed to find a professor smoking or drinking or dancing, calmly and deliberately indulge in the idolatries of the heathen at

Christmas time. And those who know and love the Truth are counted to be narrow minded and sacrilegious if a protest is raised. So, such honest souls are forced to stand aside and witness annually this glittering cloud of pagan observances descend with a smothering and paralyzing pall on all people. And as we watch parents, who loudly proclaim the necessity of truthfulness in children, who advocate the need of so many social reformations and who bemoan the juvenile delinquency which prevails, deliberately teach their unsuspecting little ones the monstrous Santa Claus lie, we can only cry with the Apostle John "I wondered with great wonder" (Rev. 17:6 R.V.).

"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" (Jer. 5:30, 31).

Part 2: The Origin of Christmas

The celebration of Christmas is a mixture of pagan Babylon's "mystery" idolatry in its purest form, imported through Pergamos (Rev.2:13) into Rome, and there incorporated into her pagan religious ritual, and from thence introduced into the world by the Roman Catholic Church as a commemoration of Christ's birth. A wealth of proof can easily be produced today to put this fact beyond question.

It is freely admitted by all learned and honest writers of old, that the date of Christ's birth cannot be known. How then did it come to pass that the Roman Catholic Church fixed December 25th as the day He was born?

Satan, in his bid for the worship due to God, instituted a great pagan feast which was celebrated at that exact time of the year in the Chaldean city of Babylon. This heathen celebration was in honor of the birth of Tammuz or Bel or Bacchus who was the son of Semeramis, or Cybele or Rhea, the Chaldeans queen of

heaven.

Now in Babylon where the sun was worshiped, it was not worshiped as merely a light giving divinity, but as the Incarnate God. And one essential in this Chaldean worship was, that Baal was that same God. So when Tammuz was worshiped as God incarnate the implication was that he was an incarnation of the sun, or Baal.

When Belshazzar was slain (Dan. 5:30) and the Chaldeans defeated by Darius the Mede, those with authority and power to continue Babylon's idolatrous "mystery" worship, fled to the city of Pergamos, where afterward a Christian Church was founded (Rev. 2:13). There for many centuries Satan himself brought about the worship of Aesculapius, the child of the "incarnate sun." This worship was celebrated in frantic excesses of evil as Babylon's "mystery" idolatries were perpetuated in their exile. Then in the course of time, at the death of Attalus III when Phrygia was given to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C., the worship of pagan Babylon was removed from Pergamos and its wicked course renewed in the city of Rome on the Tiber.

Now nearly every recorded form of pagan worship which has descended from the Babylonian "mysteries" focuses the attention of its deluded worshipers on a mother god and the birth of her child. In Egypt the mother and child were Isis and Osiris. In India they were Isi and Iswara. In Asia the mother was Cybele and the son Deoious. In Greece we find Ceres and her son Plutus. Even in Tibet and China the mother was Shing Moo and her son was devoutly worshipped with her. Lastly, we have many records of the mother Fortuna and her son Jupiter in pagan Rome. In the worship of all these false gods there has been more or less departure from the original Babylonish form. Only in the Roman Catholic Church can we find today the pure idolatry of the ancient Chaldean "mysteries." From that source has emanated the greatest "mystery" idolatry of all ages. For Rome has given to the world this mother and child worship of wicked Babylon of old, concealed beneath the Satanic disguise of a commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

How did this come to pass? In the third century when the Apostolic Church was in its infancy, grievous wolves entered among the flock of God speaking perverse and evil doctrines. Slowly and cautiously at first (Acts 20:29), they began to bring Rome's pagan worship among the believers Constantine's false conversion and his edict making Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire, rapidly developed the imported paganism in the worship of the fast decaying Church of Rome.

Now Rome's way of converting the other pagans to her style of worship has always been to absorb them gradually, along with their idolatrous observances. So about the 4th century the Roman Church brought the worship of Semeramis the Babylonish queen of heaven and her son Tammuz into her ritual, disguised as the worship of Mary and her son Jesus. Then followed the December 25th commemoration of the birth of Christ, and the evil institution of the "mass" for Christ, and behold! - the iniquity of Christmas was launched forth! Thus the pagans in the now apostate Church could worship the queen of heaven and observe the birth of her son Tammuz while the untaught unsuspecting believers thought they were honoring Christ in the same ritual. Behold the trail of Satan's Christmas festive ritual of counterfeit! From Babylon on the Euphrates, to Pergamos once the capital of Asia, to Rome upon the Tiber and thence into the apostate Church there, finally to emerge through the Roman Catholic Church a flood of lying pagan wonders, covering the earth!

Faithful men of God who knew and loved the Scriptures of truth fought against the mingling of paganism with the name of Christ. They were valiant in opposing the entry of Christmas and its festivals among the believers. But in spite of their efforts, the lukewarm and rapidly decaying church, with the exception of a few faithful Christians, was overcome and finally forced to submit to the observance of the mother and

child worship from Babylon. Sad and solemn has been the spiritual and moral wreckage wrought by this Romish evil down through the history of men. And in spite of the plain truths of the Word of God, revealing His holy hatred of idolatry, nearly all of the Protestant Churches and assemblies of Christian believers have followed Rome in her Satanic observance and unholy celebrations of Christ-mass. For though some may consider the sin of idolatry a light thing, our God does not, no indeed, for the Almighty has attached the greatest of all threatening to the commandment forbidding false worship.

"Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God. visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:4, 5).

And shall we, who have been saved by the great grace of God through the atoning blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who enjoy the liberties of a government founded by our Puritan fathers who themselves fled from Roman Catholic persecution shall we join hands with that same false and bloody Rome which is daily adding to the fearful list of over 50 million martyrs of Jesus? And if, alas, too late, we awake suddenly to find the relentless judgments of God bearing mightily down upon our nation and people, can we not discern His own hand in fulfilling His Word for our national sin of following Rome into her glittering sanctuary of Christmas and Easter evils?

Part 3: Origin of Christmas Customs

The following quotations are from standards of authority on the origin of Christmas customs and observances.

- 1. In Alexander Hislop's famous book *The Two Babylons* the following quotation concerning the birth of Christ is on page 91 ...** "There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of His birth, or the time of the year He was born."
- 2. In Webster's Student Dictionary for Upper School Levels, page 145 (a Catholic dictionary used in our schools today) we read ...** "**Christmas.** - Christ + mass. A church festival, December 25. Christmas day commemorating the birth of Christ."
- 3. In the Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, 1903, Vol. 2, page 987 - we read ...** "**Christmas,** - Christmas properly begins with the evening of December 24 ... and continues until Epiphany, January 6, the whole period called Christmastide. In the Roman, Greek, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches Christmas is observed as a religious festival with special services. Its celebration was formerly forbidden by the Puritans."
- 4. In the Encyclopedia Britannica, 9th Edition, Vol. 5; page 611 - we read ...** "**Christmas Day,** - There is however difficulty in accepting this (December 25th) as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season when neither flocks nor shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. By the fifth century, however, whether from influence of some tradition or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of the period of the year such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon.
- 5. The Encyclopedia Americana, 1942 Edition, Vol. 6, page 623 reads thus ...** "**Christmas.** - It was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the fourth century. In the fifth century the western

church (Roman Catholic) ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol."

6. In the new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, 1900, Vol. IX, page 5236, we read ... "Saturn.
- An ancient Italian god ... Saturnalias, this is the great 'Festival of Saturn,' celebrated on the 19th, but after Caesar's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December. Augustus decreed that the 17th and the 18th should be sacred to Saturn and the 19th and 20th to Opalia the festivals of Ops. Caligula added a fifth day, 'The Day of Youth,' December 25th lasting seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed ...

"Gambling and dice at other times illegal was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro thought that these dolls represented original sacrifice of human beings to the Infernal God."

7. The new Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica, Edition of 1899, Vol. XI, page 404, has this ... "Befferna. - A corruption of the word 'epiphania' (Epiphany) is the name of an old female character in Italian folklore, who was so busily engaged in housecleaning, when three wise men of the east passed by on their way to offer their treasures to the Infant Saviour, that she excused herself for not going out to see them thinking she would have the opportunity of doing so when they returned. Not knowing that they went home by another road she has been ever since watching for them. She, like the Dutch Santa Claus, is supposed to take great interest in children, where in Italy a stocking of each is hung up before the fire. Soon the cry "Ecco le Befferna" is raised when the children jump up and seize their stockings, each of which contains a present bearing value in proportion to the conduct of the child during the year. One whose behavior has been particularly bad finds his stocking filled with ashes in token of Befferna's displeasure. The custom of carrying an effigy called the Befferna on the 'Twelfth Night' in a procession through the streets is probably a relic of one of the 'Mysteries of the middle ages.'"

8. The new International Encyclopedia, 2nd Edition, Vol. 3, page 27, tell us ... "Epiphany. - A festival held on the 6th of January by the Roman Catholic, Eastern and Anglican Churches in commemoration of the manifestations of Christ. Three different events are included in this celebration. As early as the third century, at least, it was observed as the commemoration of the baptism of Christ ... Later in the east it was taken to commemorate the manifestation of divine power in Christ's first miracle at Cana in Galilee In the fourth century the birth of Christ was also connected with it by some writers. Many special observances have been connected with the day which under the name 'Twelfth Day, Twelfth Night,' was a time of special merry making in England and closed the Christmas festivities."

9. In the History of the Christian Church by Fisher on page 65, it is recorded ... "About the end of this period (3rd century) two new festivals came in. One was Epiphany originating in the East - the other was Christmas, a festival of Roman origin taking the place of the heathen festival in honor of the sun or of the deity bearing that name, which was celebrated at the winter solstice or on the 25th of December the time erroneously assigned for the solstice in the Julian Calendar."

10. In McAbes History of the Popes, Vol. I, page 18, we find the following information given by Bishop Eusebius in his "Ecclesiastical History" ... "There was at the time (fourth century) an acute controversy about the date on which Easter (Ishtar or Ashtoreth-the Sidonian goddess of the OT) ought to be celebrated. We must remember that Easter was then the greatest, if not the only ecclesiastical festival; for December 25th was the supreme festival of the pagan and Mithraic calendars and was an abomination to Christians."

Part 4: Practical Considerations

1. The name Christmas. This very name is an abomination to our Holy God. The reason for this is that this word Christmas is an unholy and pagan combination of the two words "Christ" and "Mass." Christ died once for our sins (Heb. 9:26). By that ONE offering He has perfected forever every believer (Heb. 10:14).

But behold the terrible mystery of iniquity! What is the "**Christ-Mass**"? It is the teaching that the "mass" is not a mere representation of the sacrifice of Christ, but that it is a continuation of the same offering, as the priest commands our Lord Jesus to come down from glory and become a piece of bread. And besides all this, the Roman priest teaches that this same "mass" adds to and improves upon the atonement of our Saviour which He made at Calvary.

Christ is the divine title of our wonderful Lord and Saviour. "MAS" is just the shortening of the blasphemous "mass" of Rome. Christ is the head of the true and living Church which He bought with His own blood. *Nothing in the realm of the natural will stir one to anger so suddenly as to learn of someone having connected the name of his wife, sister or mother with the name of a well known woman of ill fame.* Christian, how then can you, with serene composure, and interested cooperation, join hands with Rome as she brazenly and wickedly blends the "mass" of the harlot church with the name of Christ the risen Head of the True Church of God?

2. The Christmas Tree. The production and sale of evergreen trees in the U.S.A. has developed, thanks to Rome, into a vast enterprise.

So while lumber is becoming scarcer and prices soar, millions of young trees are annually sacrificed to satisfy America's Christmas god, Tammuz. During the weeks of Christmas festivities one is met everywhere with these dead evergreen trees arrayed in their glitter and tinsel, reminding us of the lifeless pagan gods of old. But behold! as the fervor of festivity dies down, out goes the stripped and bedraggled remains of the Christmas god into the junk pile or garbage barrel or to be kicked around the street! Yet thousands of untaught people will gladly go hungry and willingly deprive their families of necessary things in order to buy and decorate this same Christmas tree.

The first decorating of an evergreen tree was done by pagans in honor of their god Adonis, who after being slain was brought to life by the serpent Aesculapius. The representation of this slain god was a dead stump of a tree. Around this stump coiled the snake Aesculapius symbol of life restoring. And lo - from the roots of the dead tree comes forth another and different tree - an evergreen tree symbolic to pagans of a god who cannot die! In Egypt this god was worshiped in a palm tree as Baal-Tamar. The fir tree was worshiped in Rome as the same new born god as Baal-Berith, who was restored to life by the same serpent, and a feast was held in honor of him on December 25th called the "Birthday of the unconquered Sun."

Now in Babylon's "Mystery" system of idol worship the sun was called "Baal," the one and only god. So when Tammuz the son of the queen of heaven was worshiped as God he was also revered by the name of Baal.

Thus we can see how, in the annual custom of erecting and decorating evergreen trees, the Roman Catholic Church has brought down through the ages to us, the paganism of Baal or the worship of the sun, mingled with the worship of Aesculapius the serpent. Whether erected in public or private, a tinsel and spangled evergreen tree is just a glaring symbol of the worship of this false god. So, in keeping with the

policy of Rome for centuries, while she keeps millions vainly supposing they do honor to Jesus Christ with a Christmas tree, they are actually even if unwittingly commemorating a pagan festival in honor of Baal, which thing our God hates (I Kings 18; Judges 8:33).

3. The date of the birth of Christ. There is not one Scripture in the Word of God which indicates that December 25th is the anniversary of the day on which Christ was born. Neither do we find in that Word anything to prove what time of the year He was born. There is not a verse in the Bible in which can be found the word "Christmas." No one knows the date of the birth of Jesus. Those archeologists and historians who can be depended upon and whose honesty never was doubted, and who are unbiased in their conclusions all agree that the birth of Jesus could not possibly have been in December. There is no reason to connect His birth with December 25th, except for the purpose of using His name to hide the commemoration of a pagan festival as the Church of Rome has so successfully done.

God in His wisdom has chosen to hide the time of His Beloved Son's incarnation. The Bible is the inspired Word of the same Holy God who inhabits Eternity. His dear Son is the central figure in that Word from Genesis to Revelation. He has revealed to us many wondrous things about His Son Jesus Christ. But one thing He has completely hidden from man. It is the precise date of His birth.

Nowhere in the Word of God are we told to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians are commanded to remember His death, both by the Lord Himself in Luke 22:18, 19 and by the Apostle Paul in I Cor. 11:23 to 26. Surely the heart of man must be far from right with God when it can enjoy itself greatly in doing exactly the opposite of His command. Yet many who pass before the world as Christians gladly join the hilarious ungodly in celebrating the pagan festival of Christmas. Another thing I have noticed, those who make the most of Christmas day are those who care the least about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But who that has been taught by God's Spirit can go in for these pagan celebrations? Christian, can you take part in the idolatries of Babylon? Can you like Judas, betray Christ by joining hands with them who hate Him and blaspheme His atonement, yet falsely pretend to honor His birth in a festival of sin? Can you, too, enjoy the Romish pageantry in your church and help crucify Jesus afresh by putting Him to an open shame in the idolatrous mockery of Christmas?

"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

4. The giving of gifts. In Bible accounts where celebrating and gift giving were done at someone's birthday party, sin and evil prevailed and murder followed. In Genesis, on Pharaoh's birthday, the chief baker was hanged and beheaded. During Herod's birthday celebration John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching against sin. In Rev. 11 we read how wicked people celebrated the slaying of God's two faithful witnesses by making merry and sending gifts to one another. The Holy Spirit by the mouth of Paul once said, "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10,11).

I believe that gifts can be great blessings. But a gift is of no value whatever unless it is given in love. Today the common custom seems to be to give a gift at Christmas as a part of a bargain to receive one. Those who give only at a time of a celebration of idolatry certainly are only doing so to the abhorrence of the Almighty. How much more then are they mocking God and making themselves abominable to Him, who send gifts to one another at such a time in a pretense of honoring the birth of His Son? And what account shall those Christians give to our God in the day of judgment, who have annually spent hundreds and even thousands of dollars upon Christmas presents out of their abundance and yet have given little or

nothing to support gospel work in our land or in the needy mission fields?

The godly wise men from the East gave their gifts to the child Jesus Himself - not to one another or to their friends. They gave to Him from hearts moved by the Holy Spirit. Their gifts were a part of their worship of the new found Messiah. Neither were their gifts common trinkets but presents of great value showing their heart's true love for their Lord. They did not bring to the Christ child presents that they might receive from Him something in return. O how far removed from those first gifts to the child Jesus is the modern cheap knick-knack giving of the fickle throng of Christmas revelers who annually submit themselves to all the festive responsibilities of gift purchasing, which is only a burden grievous to be borne!

5. The world and Christmas. Here is one thing which, if it were the only thing, would prove to me that Christmas celebrating is not of God. It is this; the world which hates Christ and His blood atonement for sin, respond as one man at that time to revel and feast and celebrate. If in reality December 25th was a date set by God to remember the birth of Jesus, the world would not have anything to do with it There would be absolutely no response by the rank and file of mankind. But the world DOES regard and love Christmas, therefore it is not of God. "For the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God" (I Cor. 2:14). Then how can an obedient child of God, or a church or a gathering of Christians, follow Papal Rome and the drugged and reeling world in their abominable idolatry and sin of Christ-mass festivities?

Those who despise the Gospel of God's grace will go to any length to celebrate a false tradition about His Son's birth. Those who hate the doctrine of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus alone, are filled with great zeal to promote programs, to play Santa Claus, to adorn their dwellings with wreaths and trees and say "Merry Christmas" to everyone they meet. Proud sinners, self-righteous sinners, immoral sinners with a character black as midnight, morally virtuous sinners with hard impenitent hearts, refined and well educated sinners seeming to know everything but Christ as Saviour, religious sinners with a lofty heady profession - all, all with one accord join hands in the gay hilarity of Christmas, ignorantly imagining they are doing honor to a Saviour they neither love nor know nor care to know.

During Christmastide men and women become foully drunk on "Christmas present" liquor and perpetuate every kind of social vice, and criminal debauchery. In wild "Christmas parties" young men and women willingly sell their bodies to evil and their souls to Hell around the be-ribboned and wreathed "Christmas gifts" of champagne, brandy, wine and beer. And thousands of others who would not get drunk commit the abominable sin of gluttony like some gorging carnivorous animal. And in these the name of Christ is used in vile cursing, vulgarity and blasphemy by men and women, boys and girls who lie deliberately about "St. Nick" and "Santa Claus" and love a "Merry Christmas." Dear Christian, can you help to betray Christ with these pagans, by going with them in their religious riots? Can you sell Christ to the ungodly world for a pagan Christmas like Judas did for his 30 pieces of silver?

6. Christmas Programs and Literature. Please read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 2, then Luke, Chapter 2. By doing so with care any thoughtful reader can see at once that Christmas songs, books, cards and programs are not scriptural. For in most of these we find in one way or another, misrepresentations about the shepherds, the wise men, the star, the child, the stable, etc.

[The Christmas time manger scene always includes Mary, Joseph, a baby Jesus, three wise men and shepherds. This tradition clearly contradicts the Bible record.] Let us begin to solve this problem by stating that nowhere in God's Word are we informed how many wise men there were. [Secondly, the scriptures do not say that the wise men saw Jesus in the manger. They saw him in a HOUSE with Mary His mother (Matthew 2:11) - no mention of Joseph or the shepherds. Even if this house were the inn, this

could not have occurred when Jesus was first born because Jesus was not born in the inn, there was no room (Luke 2:7).]

It was not the wise men but the shepherds who came to visit the babe Jesus in His manger cradle in Bethlehem. They followed no star either as they did not even see one. They were informed of the birth of their Messiah by the angel of the Lord (Luke 2:10). Our country teems with covetous men who have made the Christmas season a profitable one indeed for themselves. And through their misrepresentations of the Bible the land abounds at that same season with all sorts of literature, cards, books and programs of celebrations, which utterly confuse the facts written in God's Word about the birth of Jesus. Shepherds and wise men, angels and stars, stable and inn, manger and house are misrepresented. The visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men are confused, so that the whole story of the birth of Christ becomes a distorted combination of truth and error.

Long ago King David said to a carnal generation like ours, "Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing?" (Psalm 2:1).

7. God's Judgment. One more point we dare not overlook concerning Christmas. The very source of Christmas equipment condemns the tradition. Until World War II nearly all Christmas goods were stamped "Made in Germany" or "Made in Japan." Thus these very goods, used by England and the United States to pollute the worship of God and make whole nations to sin, came from the very countries God used in bringing His judgment of war upon us. How did such poor nations finance so great a war? By selling us the fruit of their cheap labor among which Christmas goods played a major role. Ought we to regard this as a mere coincidence? Ought we not rather to see the threatening of God in it? **NO COUNTRY IN ALL HISTORY HAS TURNED TO IDOLS AND THEN PROSPERED FOR LONG!**

The national fear and unrest, the ominous rumblings in the various world councils the low standard of morality, the universality of open sin, along with the wickedness of idolatry and unbelief, all point to one great event we may soon see come to pass, the fall of this nation. **FOR IF THE SIN OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PAGAN IDOLATRY IS NOT NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AND CONFESSED AND FORSAKEN WE CAN ONLY LOOK FOR NATIONAL DOOM.** If it is increased and developed and our nation goes on with her open idolatry, her legalized gambling, her mountainous liquor corruption, her disregard for the Truths of the Bible, her desecration of the Lord's Day and the maintenance of pagan festivals, all of which are backed by the Roman Catholic Church, we may be sure of one thing. The Lord's anger will not be "turned away". but "His hand" will be "stretched out still" (Isa. 9:17).

"Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14: 34)

"Thou shall not follow a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2).

8. Perhaps some well-meaning but untaught Christian will say, "We only keep Christmas to give the children a good time."

Let me give you some questions to consider.

1. If you are a Christian how can you teach your little ones to delight in and love a Christmas tree which actually is a pagan symbol of sun and serpent worship?

2. How can you before the all-seeing eye of God tell your children the lie about Santa Claus and his reindeer? You should read Rev. 21:27. Do you think that the God who holds our destiny in His hand

will preserve the freedoms of our future generations if we make them a nation of liars?

- 3. How can you have the brazen boldness to tell your children you are a Christian, and then connect pagan idolatry to the story of the birth of Christ?*
- 4. How can you help a bewhiskered clown dressed like a dunce, who is hired by some commercial establishment to lie to children all day long, betray your own trusting child into a maze of falsehood to save your face before Christmas idolaters?*
- 5. How can you expect your children to have any confidence in whatever you teach them, when they find you have lied deliberately to them for years about Christmas and Santa Claus - and during those years you punish THEM for telling untruths?*
- 6. Does not your heart smite you as you think of them growing up in servitude to the pagan observances and celebrations of Rome, instead of the real truth of the gospel of Christ?*
- 7. How can you have the shameless boldness before God, to teach your children paganism and the Word of God at the same time? Do you expect that God will spare a people, whose chief delight is to make a mock of the birth of His Son?*
- 8. Does not your conscience accuse you as you combine the story of our adorable Saviour with the Roman heathen idol, the Christmas tree of Baal-Berith?*
- 9. How can you expect your children to believe you, that they must worship Christ alone, if they see you indulge in an annual festival which had its beginning among the devil worshipers of ancient Chaldea?*
- 10. How can you expect your child to believe your witnessing to him about Christ when he finds out you have been lying to him about Santa Claus and his reindeer, etc.?*
- 11. Do you believe that a festive season that not only came to us through Rome from Babylon, but in itself is a system of perpetual lying to little children, is of God?*
- 12. Can you teach your children to honor the Lord and then help them engage in honoring a heathen god,
Baal-Berith, a Christmas tree and all the God-dishonoring observances connected with it?*
- 13. How can you tell your children with a clear conscience that you are a child of God yourself when they annually watch you celebrate a Romish Christmas, and lie to them like a child of the devil?*

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20).

"Train up a young child in the way he should go: when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Part 5: Conclusions for Your Meditation

It may be you have saved up money to buy Christmas gifts and cards and decorations and a tree. Be sure this is not pleasing to God, fellow Christian. Let me suggest to you what should be done if this is the sad case with you.

Do not spend what God has given you on temporal gifts. Do not contribute to the "good cause" of

supporting a Romish Christmas entertainment in your church. Do not buy an expensive tree with its ornaments and decorations, like the Christ-hating world does. Dare to leave them all behind for Christ's sake.

Instead of all this, take what God has given you and send it as a gift to the Lord to some needy missionary in a dark and foreign land. Think awhile on those poor of the earth, those millions of souls who have never heard the glad tidings of Christ for the lack of support of real Christian missionaries. Can you use what the good Lord has given you to celebrate like the idolatrous heathen, instead of giving in order that those same poor heathen in awful darkness might hear the Gospel and be saved?

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

I have no desire to discourage one honest soul. But I have witnessed this Christmas festival of sin creeping as a deadly thing, coiling its slimy and glittering idolatries slowly and surely around the feeble Church of God as a part of Rome's program to strangle the true worship that remains. And I have found most of those who know Christ as Lord and Saviour totally unaware of the truth about Christmas. And few are the voices raised in protest of this paganism, for the honor of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour.

Therefore I have revealed to you the truth as God has shown it to me by His Word and by history and existing facts. May He make it a word in season to you. It is my hope and prayer that every Christian who discovers he has erred so exceedingly as to partake of Rome's Christmas, will turn again to the God of all grace and in contrition, utterly and forever forsake all that pertains to this Christ-dishonoring sin of Babylon. It is my desire to see, not only the souls of men saved, but the children of God walking in obedience to Him. The Apostle John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (III John 4).

Christians are commanded to be holy (I Pet, 1:15, 16). They are to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). They are to utterly forsake idolatry (Ex. 20:5). They are told to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the fleshly desires (Gal. 5:16). They are told to stand fast in the liberty of Christ (Gal, 5:1). They are commanded to grieve not the Spirit of God (Eph. 4: 30). The Apostle said we believers ought to walk as Jesus walked (I John 2:6). Christ Himself said we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is (Matt. 5:48). Jesus told us to set our affections on things above where He is (Col. 3:2). In Christ we are new creations (II Cor. 5:17). By His grace we have come from the hole of the pit (Isa. 51:1) to Mount Zion, the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, into the Church of the Firstborn whose names are written in Heaven (Heb. 12:22, 23). By God's Grace we have been brought from the terrible darkness of death (Eph. 2:1) to the light of life (John 11: 6; John 8:12). We have been saved from eternal death by the blood of His dear Son (Rom. 5:9). We have been bought with a price most precious (I Pet. 1:19). We are not our own any more but His (I Cor. 6:20), and now in Christ we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16).

Reader, do you now see why faithful John said "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (I John 5:21)?

And can **you pastors** see now why you should faithfully warn your flocks against the idolatries of the mother of abominations?

Can you not see what terrible hypocrisy it is to hold out the Word of God in one hand to the souls of men, and welcome the heathen Christmas customs of Rome into your midst with the other?

You who would not think of honoring Rome's "Lady Fatima," are you annually welcoming Rome's Christ-mass into your own church?

And **you pastors** to whom has been committed the care of God's flock, do you not care if our church and nation drift on to disaster? Dare you stand in your pulpit between God and your people and yet not raise your voice against those idolatries which have caused North America to be weighed in the balances and found wanting? O Pastor watchman, can you not see that God will require this nation's blood of your hand if you refuse to heed the handwriting on the wall, and if you allow Babylon's idolatrous pageantry and revelry to prosper in the Church of God for whom Christ died?

*Friends, this issue is very difficult for folks to digest because it is so **BIG** in our culture. My family and I made the decision to follow Scripture rather than indulge in this 'festival' for a season. It is hard, I know, but the reward of doing what is right is greater than the pain of denial. All will be made right when we go to be with Him! Bob*