



Christmas

The True Story

Introduction



As another year comes to an end, we face the holiday season that is called “Christmas” by many in our world.



We are all affected by this day and the events surrounding it, and there are certain questions that may arise as we desire to serve the Lord and still participate in the secular aspects of this day.



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Introduction

Most people who have spent time studying God's word, have learned that "Christmas" is not found in its contents

Perhaps you are wondering...

-Where does "Christmas" come from? -Can a Christian celebrate "Christmas"?



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False Reasons For Not Celebrating “Christmas”




- ❶ The birth of Jesus is not important
-Matthew 1:20-21
- ❷ We don't want to honor and remember Jesus -Ac.
11:26; Rom. 16:16; I Cor. 11:23-26
- ❸ We don't appreciate God sending Jesus -Col.
2:14-16; I Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:15-17



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#1 Christmas Is A False Tradition Of Man

-  It is commonly accepted that Christ was born on December 25th in the year 1 A.D.
-  In 754 A.D. a "Christian calendar" was used to mark the center point in counting time with the birth of Christ at Dec. 25th, 1 A.D.
-  King Herod who sought to kill Jesus with all males under the age of 2 died in 4 B.C. which shows that Jesus was born between 7 B.C. and 4 B.C.



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Also, a winter month shows to be a false setting for the birth of Christ



It is recorded in the Bible that the shepherds were with their sheep in the fields when Christ was born
(Luke 2:7-18)



Those knowledgeable of the Bible lands tell us that it is during the winter months that the shepherds bring their sheep into shelter, and are no longer in the fields with them.



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- ❶ So how was the 25th selected as the exact date of Jesus' birth? Man's command!
- ❷ In 354 A.D. Liberius, who was the Bishop of Rome and a forerunner to the pope ordered that Dec. 25th be adopted as the date
- ❸ When Liberius wanted to keep those of pagan religions converting to Catholicism, he chose the date for the feast of the sun or winter solstice, celebrating "light over darkness".



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- ❶ No celebration of Jesus' birth was held until the first half of the 4th century
- ❷ So where did "Christmas" come from? It has its roots in Catholicism.
- ❸ The manger scene comes from Francis in 1224 A.D. who was highly esteemed by the Catholic Church and his saints








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-  In several northern countries, the season's gifts come from a "Saint Nicholas"
-  Saint Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century and was known to "protect children"
-  The children prayed to Saint Nicholas after his death, and believed that he answered their prayers with thousands of miracles



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In the times of the reformation, the Protestants who wanted to keep the holiday simply removed Saint Nicholas for the “Christmas man” or “Father Christmas”



Today we think of Santa Claus which is our English version of Saint Nicholas. Even the Dutch call Him Sinter Klaas. How many of you have ever sang: “Jolly old Saint Nicholas, lend your ear this way?”



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With the red uniform, Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) comes dressed in the color of the Bishop's robes of the Catholic church



When we encourage our children to sit on Santa's lap and petition him for gifts, like the tradition of having the

Saint Nicholas in prayer for

THINK IT OVER!





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Christmas or Christ – Mass is certainly of Catholic origin. The Mass is a re-sacrifice of Jesus by the priest as he lifts his hands to heaven to bring Him down. (Heb. 7:26-27)



John A. O'Brien said, "The priest speaks and lo! Christ the eternal and omnipotent God bows His head in humble obedience to the priest's command" What blasphemy!!!



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The idea behind the reformation with the protestants was to protest the error of the Catholic church, while the restoration sought to remove all unbiblical practices in use.



If we are willing to practice one of the innovations of the Catholics, why not practice them all! If we honor one Catholic saint, why not do the same for all of them. CONSISTENCY...CONSISTENCY...



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We need to be careful not to be involved with idolatry (Ex. 20:4-5) and the keeping of certain days religiously that are not found in the law of Christ (Gal. 4:10-11)



While we have the freedom to esteem one day above another, we should not allow our liberty to cause us to sin, or cause others to stumble (Col. 2:16; Rom. 14:5-10)



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#2 Christmas Has Ties To Paganism



It has been said by Compton's Encyclopedia: "Old as our Christmas festival is, many of the customs and ceremonies associated with it are far older. They got their start thousands of years before the Christian era, for our pagan forefathers used to celebrate the winter solstice as the birth date of the sun."



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#2 Christmas Has Ties To Paganism



Again Compton's Encyclopedia says:

"Christmas, it has well been said, is like a big sieve in which everything that was most beautiful, most significant, most potent, and most lively, both in heathendom and in Christianity, remained, while all that was small and trivial and outlived fell through and blew away"




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We must also acknowledge that the 25th of December was the birth date of not only the sun (so called), but 3 false gods (Bacchus, , and Apollo)



Page 2070 of the Lincoln Library of Essential Information says, "December 25th was already a festive day for the sun god Mithra and appealed to Christians as an appropriate date to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the "light of the world"



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It is said of the Christmas tree that, “Tree worship was common in the Scandinavian countries. When the pagans of Northern Europe became Christians, they made their evergreen trees part of the Christian festival, and decorated the trees with gilded nuts, candles (sun worship carryover), and apples to stand for the stars, moon, and sun”





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It is believed that the Christmas tree “custom is a survival of the tree worship of ancient German tribes” that “Our Christmas decorations of evergreens also came to us from pre-Christian times” as they had their “association with the early pagan festivals.”



Perhaps this is where we get the “Christmas Tree” and its beauty.





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#2 Christmas Has Ties To Paganism



The mistletoe has similar associations with paganism as we read that, “because of its peculiar character, the mistletoe played a prominent part in German and Norse mythology, and it was with an arrow from its wood that the beautiful god Balder was slain.”





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It is reported that “The mistletoe was said to bring happiness, safety, and good fortune so long as it did not touch the ground” We usually hang it above an entry way



The Druids regarded the mistletoe with “great reverence. Priests cut it out of the oak trees with a golden sickle and piled it on their altars and burned it as a sacrifice to their gods”



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The giving of gifts and the filling of stockings was a practice during the winter solstice as the fairy Befanna on that night is to fill the stockings of the children with gifts in accordance with their deserts, the naughty children received only ashes.”



Has anyone ever said that you might receive a lump of coal as a gift...? That is where it comes from.





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Application



For the longest time we have seen signs or heard people that say with the best of intentions : “Put Christ back in Christmas” OR “Don’t say X-mas say Christmas” OR “Jesus is the reason for the season” etc.



It is time for us to realize that Christ was never in Christmas and that it is a man made holiday, laced with paganism that cannot be practiced religiously



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Application



The secular nature of the day may be enjoyed such as: a day off, visiting friends and family, having a tree, decorating (Angels, vs. Snowman) sending greeting cards (Neutral), exchanging gifts, singing songs (Jingle Bells vs. O' Holy Night), eating a meal etc.



We need to be careful about binding a religious significance to the day, unless we involve ourselves in pagan man-made religion



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Application



In all of this, we do not want to take away the importance of Jesus' birth, and the appreciation we have to God for sending Him



It is because of His birth that He could die for the sins of the world. We remember Him every first day of the week (1 Cor. 11:23-26)



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Will You Receive The Salvation In Christ?

- Hear John 12:48
- Believe John 8:24
- Repent Luke 13: 3, 5
- Confess Matthew 10:32-33
- Baptized Mark 16:16
- Faithful Matthew 24:13