

The Truth About



Was Jesus Born On December 25th?
Where do the customs come from?
What does the tree represent?
Does the Bible speak about xmas?
What are the origins of the celebration?
Should Christians observe this day?



TRUTH TRACTS

www.totw.org

[illegible]

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS

Many people, both religious and secular, celebrate Christmas time. The airwaves on radio, television and in retail shops begin pumping their catchy merry melodies and people gather with families and friends to exchange gifts and share '*holiday cheer*.' Many call it 'the most wonderful time of the year.'

Did you ever wonder about the **origins** of the celebration and the various associated trappings of the holiday called *Christmas*? Christmas trees, Yule logs, holly wreathes and kissing under the mistletoe? Where did these customs come from? Are they "Christian"? Does Christmas really commemorate and honor "the birth of baby Jesus"? If not, what are its origins? Let us dig into the matter and discover the truth together, shall we?

The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1911 Edition, published by the Roman Catholic Church informs us that **"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church...the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt."** They add, **"Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas."**

It is a well-known fact that Christmas was merely a new name placed on an ancient heathen festival. **"Our annual Christian festival (Christmas) is nothing but a continuation under a different name of this old solar festivity (Saturnalia)."** (The New Golden Bough, page 653).

In the Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia we read "How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia (December 25th) following the Saturnalia, and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the "new sun" . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and manner. Christian teachers of the West and Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian the pagan festival" [Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia]

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Earl W. Count, Professor of Anthropology at Hamilton College, in his book, "4000 Years of Christmas" page 18 states:

"We do not know its beginning . . . we do not really know when the Christ child it venerates was born: or the time and place when Christmas was first celebrated: or exactly how it was that, over the centuries, a bishop saint of Asia Minor, and **a pagan god** of the Germans merged to become Santa Claus". "Although the Christmas story centers in the Christ child of Bethlehem, **it begins so long before his coming** that we find its hero arriving on the scene after more than half of the time of the story has gone by. **Christmas began over 4000 years ago**, as the festival which renewed the world for another year. **The 12 days of Christmas, the bright fires and probably the yule log; the giving of presents; the carnivals with their floats; their merry makings and clownings; the mummers who sing and play from house to house, the feastings; the church processions with their lights and song all these and more began three centuries before Christ was born. And they celebrated the arrival of a new year.**"

Yes, Christmas was observed 2,000 years before Christ!

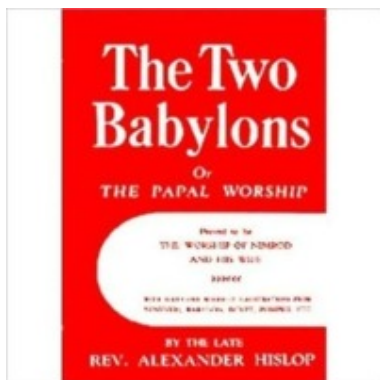
"It happened that the date (Dec. 25th) did fall in the midst of the **Saturnalia**. ... the birthday of Christ ran the danger of being swallowed up in **pagan merrymaking**. The (church) fathers tried strenuously to keep Christmas strictly a churchly celebration. **It was part of their unremitting struggle to break the grip of the pagan gods upon the people.** And as they broke, Romans **became Christians . . . but the Saturnalia remained**" (Earl W. Count, "4000 Years of Christmas, page 28).

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS



"The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in **pagan Rome** and **pagan Egypt**. In Egypt that tree was the palm tree. In Rome it was the fir. The palm tree denoting **the pagan messiah** as Baal-Tamar (Judges 20:33)." (The Two Babylons - Hislop, page 97).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



"The mother of Adonis, the sun god and great mediatorial divinity, was mystically said to have been **changed into a tree** and when in that state to have **brought forth her divine son**. If the mother was a tree, the son must have been recognized as "the man of the branch" and this accounts for the putting of **the yule log** into the fire on **Christmas Eve** and the appearance of the **Christmas tree** the next morning" (The Two Babylons - Hislop, page 97).

"The idea of using **evergreens** at Christmas also came to England from **pre-Christian northern European beliefs**. Celtic and Teutonic tribes honored these plants at their **winter solstice festivals** as symbolic of eternal life, and **the Druids** ascribed magical properties to the **mistletoe** in particular." [The Encyclopedia Americana International Edition. New York: Grolier, 1991. p666.]

Many of the customs associated with Christmas also took their origins from the heathen observances. The exchanging of gifts, extravagant merriment, and lighting of candles all have previous counterparts in the Roman Saturnalia. The use of trees harkens back to the pagan Scandinavian festival of Yule.~James Taylor, "Christmas," in The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church (J. D. Douglas, ed.; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974), p. 223.



"The Christmas tree...recapitulates the idea of tree worship...gilded nuts and balls **symbolizing the sun**...all the festivities of the [heathen] **winter solstice have been absorbed into Christmas Day...the use of holly and mistletoe to the Druidic ceremonies; the Christmas tree to the honours paid to Odin's sacred fir...**" (p. 236). [*Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days*,]

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

All of the traditional Christmas trappings = **Saturnalia's Celebration and Saturnalia Decoration!** (A pagan holly-day displeasing to God)



"Ancient Celtic priests [pagan Druids] considered the plant [**mistletoe**] sacred and gave people sprigs of it to use as charms. The custom of decorating houses with mistletoe probably came from its use as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans."
[The World Book Encyclopedia.
Chicago: World Book, 1995. p528.]

The World Book Encyclopedia: "The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honor **Saturn**, their harvest god; and **Mithras**, the god of light. Various peoples in northern Europe held festivals in mid-December to celebrate the end of the harvest season. As part of all these celebrations, the people **prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery, and joined in singing and gift giving.** These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebrations." [The World Book Encyclopedia 1995. p528.]



GIVING OF GIFTS



"The practice of **exchanging presents** at Christmas stems from the ancient Roman custom called **Strenae**. During the **Saturnalia**, Roman citizens used to give "good luck" **gifts** (strenae) of fruits, pastries, or gold to their friends" [Colliers' Encyclopedia. New York: P. F. Collier, 1991. p404.].

"Christmas gifts themselves remind us of **the presents** that were **exchanged in Rome during the Saturnalia**. In Rome, it might be added, the presents usually took the form of wax tapers and dolls, the latter being in their turn a survival of the **human sacrifices once offered to Saturn**. **It is a queer thought that in our Christmas presents we are preserving under another form one of the most savage customs of our barbarian ancestors!**" (William Walsh, The Story of Santa Klaus, p.67).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



The poet Catullus describes **Saturnalia** as “the best of days ” (Cat. 14.15). It was a time of celebration, visits to friends, and **gift-giving**, particularly of wax candles (*cerei*), and earthenware figurines (*sigillaria*).



"On the Roman New Year (January 1) [*Kalends which follows Saturnalia*], houses were decorated with **greenery** and lights, and **gifts** were given to children and the poor. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th edition, Micropaedia, Vol. II, p. 903, "Christmas").

To these observances were added the German and Celtic **Yule rites** . . . **Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings** all commemorated different aspects of this festive season. **Fires and lights**, symbols of warmth and lasting life, have always been associated with the winter festival, both **pagan** and [later]

Christian" (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th edition, Micropaedia, Vol. II, p. 903, "Christmas").



HOLLY WREATHS



The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, under “Celastrales,” which are flowering plants, exposes the origin of the **holly wreath**: “European pagans brought holly sprays into their homes, **offering them to the fairy people** of the forests as refuge from the harsh winter weather. During the *Saturnalia*, the Roman winter festival, *branches of holly* were exchanged as tokens of friendship.”

The origins of the Advent **wreath** are found in the folk practices of the **pre-Christian** Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered **wreaths** of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of **hope in a coming spring and renewed light**. [HistoryofChristmas.com]

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



Mind's Chief Executive Paul Farmer said:
"Christmas is an expensive time of year but it's not just your wallet that could be hurt by excessive spending. **Financial worries can have a devastating impact on mental health and can lead to serious problems such as stress, anxiety and depression...**

**ENJOY NOW & PAY NOTHING
UNTIL THE DAY OF RECKONING!**

That is a credit line you do not want to accept!

"Prominent elements of Christmas are commercial inventions, from Father Christmas (and his suit) to Christmas Cards. The history of commercialist Christmas is older still than those creations." *The Stations of the Sun: A History of the Ritual Year in Britain* (1996).
2001 re-issue. Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.



With the advent of modern corporations, pagan holidays such as Christmas have become **big business**. For major profits, toy, candy, decoration manufacturers and all retailers promote Christmas -- which may have altogether disappeared without their influence. Even Christians have supported this unwholesome merchandising. Some people even spend money they don't even have through the use of credit.

Poet Sir John Betjeman didn't like the way money was forever behind the spoiling of the world he loved - be it "characterful" English towns ruined by poor planning or here, in his poem Advent 1955 (excerpt right) , how Christmas was about **commercialism**.

**"We raise the price of things in shops,
We give plain boxes fancy tops
And lines which traders cannot sell,
Thus parcell'd go extremely well.
We dole out bribes we call a present
To those to whom we must be pleasant
For business reasons."** —J.Betjeman

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



Seneca the Younger wrote about Rome during **Saturnalia** around AD 50 (Sen. epist. 18,1-2): “**It is now the month of December, when the greatest part of the city is in a bustle.** Loose reins are given to public dissipation; everywhere you may hear the sound of great preparations, **as if there were some real difference between the days devoted to Saturn and those for transacting business.**”

WAS JESUS BORN ON DEC. 25th?

THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS' BIRTHDAY

If you asked the average person what event does December 25th commemorate in the celebration called Christmas you probably would get the answer “**It's when Jesus was born.**”

Was Jesus really born on Dec 25th? Where does this date come from? Does it have any significance? Does any of this matter today?

Anyone can prove these facts for themselves by searching common encyclopedias, historic and traditional sources. This booklet will help the reader to briefly examine these questions and prove the truth of the matter using some quotes from various intelligent and factual sources.

Does December 25th have any historic significance? Actually, to the surprise of many, and as previously shown in this publication, December 25th was commemorated **CENTURIES before** Jesus was born. Several **heathen sun-gods** had their traditional **birthdays** celebrated on this date by **ancient pagans** long before the Son of God came in the flesh to dwell with men.

A few of the most popular winter **sun-worship** celebrations with pagan religious cults were the Saturnalia, Brumalia, and the Calends which occurred between mid-December and early January.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

"December 25, the birthday of Mithra, the Iranian god of light and ... the day devoted to the invincible sun, as well as the day after **Saturnalia, was adopted by the church as Christmas, the nativity of Christ, to counteract the effects of these festivals."**[The New Encyclopædia Britannica.]



The observance of December 25
[as a Christian festival] only
dates from the fourth century and
is due to assimilation with the
**Mithraic festival of the birth of
the sun**" (World Popular
Encyclopedia, Volume 3)

Although modern claims associate the word "Noel" with the birth of Christ, the word NOEL apparently comes from two Celtic words novo and Hel. Novo means "new" and Hel means "sun = **NEW SUN**."

"The largest pagan religious cult which fostered the celebration of December 25 as a holiday throughout the Roman and Greek worlds was the **pagan sun worship** -- **Mithraism**...This winter festival was called 'the Nativity' --**the 'Nativity of the SUN'**," (Frazer, Golden Bough, p. 471)



This referred, not to Christ's birth, but to the birth of the **sungod** during the winter solstice (around Dec 17th- 25th), and marked the time of the year when the days began lengthening.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

"Although there was no Christmas observance at this time, **there were various pagan celebrations held in conjunction with the winter solstice.** In Scandinavia, the great feast of Yule with all its various ceremonies, had celebrated the birth of the winter sun-god.

[Ethel L. Urlin, Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days (London, 1915; rpt. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979), p. 232.]

In the Latin countries there reigned Saturnalia, a cult of the god Saturn. The date December 25, coincided also with the birth of Attis, a Phrygian cult of the sun-god, introduced into Rome under the Empire. **The popular feasts attached to the births of other sun-gods such as Mithras, were also invariably celebrated at the time of the winter solstice.**"

[Ethel L. Urlin, Festivals, Holy Days, and Saints' Days (London, 1915; rpt. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979), p. 232.]



These pagan celebrations were merely renamed and re-associated.

"Our annual Christian festival (Christmas) is nothing but a continuation under a different name of this old solar festivity (Saturnalia)." [The New Golden Bough- Fraser and Foster, page 653]

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

This **sun worship** and its related solstice celebrations were idolatrous and abominable to the true God of the Bible.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day *that* the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: **Lest ye corrupt yourselves**, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, The likeness of any beast that *is* on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that *is* in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest **the sun**, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the host of heaven, **shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them**, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.



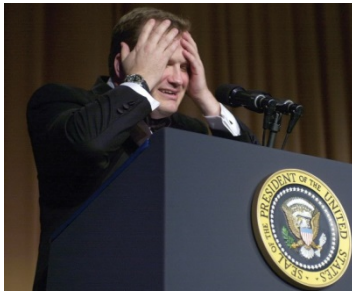
God also states that He will not share his glory with another.

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

That the Christmas observance is utterly pagan is common knowledge to anyone who is well-read. Luciferians even know the truth about Christmas and so do real life witches. Even non-religious people are learning the truth about the pagan origins of Christmas.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Drew Carey, the well-known, unconventional Hollywood comedic star, appeared as a speaker on May 4th 2002 at the White House Correspondents' Annual Association dinner. The event gathered US President George Bush and guests from every corner of Hollywood, media and government. Whether knowingly or inadvertently (we do not know) Drew testified some truth to the full house at the Washington Hilton International Ballroom:



Drew Carey said, "Yeah, I read the bible a lot, you know---this is crazy---we celebrate holidays in the United States. I found out just recently there are so many religious holidays we celebrate here in this country that have nothing to do with the bible at

all. Real famous holidays, like Christmas---Christmas has nothing---it's not in the Bible. The birth of Jesus is in the Bible, but not Christmas." Drew Carey continued, "The tree's not in the Bible, you know, gifts---that's not---there's nowhere that says, 'Celebrate My birthday, says Jesus ...It's just we---it's a pagan holiday that the Romans invented that we just do!'"

We now can only hope Carey does something with his new knowledge rather than become indifferent. Winston Churchill said, **"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened."**

When people fell away from worshipping of the true God of the Bible they invented their own false gods. The observation of the "birth" of the "sungod" was also invented by men and inspired by Satan long before the Catholic Church decided to adopt it and paint it as appearing to be Christian. The bible tells us that Satan deceives the whole world and one of his most frequent ways to do this is through false gods and pagan religion.

Does God care if we worship Him like the pagans worship their false gods?

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Yes! God most definitely cares. The God of the Bible tells us to only worship Him the way He prescribes – not any old way we choose – especially not like the heathen religions.

The bible tells us that Satan used to be named “Lucifer” which basically means “shining star of the dawn.” We are also informed that this “sun-god” wants to be worshipped as God. Thus, Satan foists himself off as a good god.



2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are **false** apostles, **deceitful** workers, **transforming themselves** into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**. Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

[And, yes, Satan has ministers that pretend to be righteous too!]

Consider this quote by a leading occultist of the New Age Madame Blavatsky: "**Horus** (Eg.) The last in the line of divine Sovereigns in Egypt, said to be **the son of Osiris and Isis. He is the great god 'loved of Heaven,' the "beloved of the Sun, the offspring of the gods, the subjugator of the world.'** At the time of the Winter Solstice (Christmas), his image in the form of a small newly-born infant, was brought out from the sanctuary for the adoration of the worshipping crowds..."

(H.P. Blavatsky, The Theosophical Glossary, London: 1892, p.145)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS



God warns against false gods and their trappings in the Bible. We are told to not serve the True God in the ways that the heathen served their false gods. [ref. Deut 13:6-10]

As you have read, it is a fact that the same Christmas festival was kept by the pagans in homage to their sun-god for two thousand years **before** Christ was born of the flesh. Should we take this celebration or worship and say it is for God? **Isn't the answer transparent to you now?**

Deuteronomy 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

When Moses was receiving the ten commandments on the mount, the Hebrews had his brother Aaron build them an idol, a golden calf. Aaron told them that these were the gods that brought them out of bondage and declared in their riotous celebration that **"tomorrow is a feast to the LORD** (YHVH, that is, the True God.)

We know that although they called it a feast to God's honor that God was **not** pleased with it – **neither** did He accept it as praise to Him. [See Exodus 32] **In fact**, if it wasn't for Moses' pleadings God would have **consumed** the people in His hot displeasure.

"This festival [now called Christmas] has been commonly believed to have had only an astronomical character, referring simply to the completion of the sun's yearly course, and the commencement of a new cycle. **But there is indubitable evidence that the festival in question had a much higher influence than this--that it commemorated not merely the figurative birthday of the sun in the renewal of its course, but the birth-day of the grand Deliverer...the Sun-God and great mediatorial divinity.**"

(Alexander Hislop, The Two Babylons, Loizeaux Brothers, 1916, pp. 94, 97)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

So what about Jesus' birthday? Is it okay to take the "birth" of the "sun-god" and all its pagan trappings and festivities and say that it honors the Jesus Christ, the Son of God? Would God like the idea of taking the date of His sworn enemies' birth celebration and having folks say that it honors His own Son with the occultist festival? (on a day that wasn't His birthday *i.e.* **a lie!**)

What does God think of such birthdays and pagan holidays of men? Some folks want to crusade to "put Christ back in Christmas" but the truth is Christ was never truly a part of this idolatrous festival hated by God. Can you prove that for yourself? **Yes, you can indeed prove it.**

Jesus Christ was **not** born on or anywhere near December 25th. The bible itself tells us that the timing was much earlier than the dead of winter. The biblical history tells us **that the shepherds were still staying overnight with their flocks** at the timing of the fleshly birth of Jesus Christ. This means Christ' birth was not in Judea's cold rainy season during the month of December but, more than likely, in the Autumn.

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

According to "Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays", Luke's account "suggests that Jesus may have been born in summer or **early fall**. Since December is cold and rainy in Judea, it is likely the shepherds would have sought shelter for their flocks at night." (p. 309).

Also, The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary says this passage argues **"against** the birth [of Christ] occurring on Dec. 25 since **the weather would not have permitted"** shepherds watching over their flocks in the fields at night.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

"There is no certainty as to the month or day of the birth (of Jesus). The **Christmas date, December 25, is first met within the West in the 4th century, and was then possibly borrowed from a pagan festival. December, in the winter season, seems unlikely, as unsuitable for the pasturing of flocks. A more probable date is a couple of months earlier"**

(The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1986, "Jesus Christ,")

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

Would Jesus have celebrated His own birthday? Let's take a look at what History tells us [We will discuss birthday celebrations in more detail on the next pages].

The famous Jewish historian Titus Flavius Josephus lived in the first century - a contemporary with Christ - and he wrote: "Nay, indeed, the Law does not permit us to make festivals at the births of our children, and thereby afford occasion of drinking to excess; but it ordains that the very beginning of our education should be immediately directed to sobriety. It also commands us to bring those children up in learning, and to exercise them in the Laws, and make them acquainted with the acts of their predecessors, in order to their imitation of them, and that they might be nourished up in the Laws from their infancy, and might neither transgress them, nor have any pretense for their ignorance of them."

(Josephus. Translated by W. Whiston. Against Apion, Book II, Chapter 26. Extracted from Josephus Complete Works, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids (MI), 14th printing, 1977, p. 632).

According to the December 23, 1996 issue of **US News & World Report**, **"the earliest Christians simply weren't interested in celebrating the Nativity..."**.

The same magazine continues, **"They 'viewed birthday celebrations as heathen'. The third-century church father Origen [a catholic] had declared it a sin to even think of keeping Christ's birthday 'as though he were a king pharaoh'."**

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

With all this help from history, encyclopedias, and the Bible we can clearly and with confidence declare that Jesus Christ was **not** born on or anywhere new December 25th. **We have also learned that this date, the associated festival and even decorations reverences Satan as the “sun-god” and NOT Jesus, the “Son of God.”**

Let's make this a little clearer by examining the birthday celebration. The birthday celebration is one of **self-exaltation**.

Only two birthdays are mentioned in the Bible. The birthday of Pharoah [Gen 40:20] and the birthday of King Herod [Matt 14:6] – two **heathen** leaders. Both of these **pagan birth celebrations** culminated in the **beheading of a human being**. That is all we can read about birthdays in the bible. Enough?



Let us quote the Catholic Encyclopedia published in 1913 AD "...Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that **in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday**; Arnobius can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods." (VII, 32 in P.L., V, 1264)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Encyclopedia Americana says "Christmas, . . . it was, according to many authorities, **not celebrated** in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian's usage in general was to celebrate **the death** of remarkable persons **rather than their birth** . . ." [i.e. *The taking of bread and wine, which is instituted by New Testament authority, is a memorial of the death of Christ.*] "A feast was established in memory of this event (Christ's birth) in the **fourth century**. In the fifth century, the Western church ordered it to be celebrated forever on **the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol** [the sungod], as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

"In early times this day [Christmas] was not one of the feasts of the Christian Church. **In fact, the church fathers frowned upon the celebration of birthdays and thought them a heathen custom.**" [The New Book of Knowledge. New York: Grolier, 1979. p289.]

Do we know better than they did? We can be certain that since the early Christians did not observe birthdays that they did not observe Christ's birth either. There is no record of anyone observing the birthday of Jesus Christ until the fourth century!

CHRISTMAS KEEPING IS IDOLATRY

".. as the **Saturnalia Saturn's**; Saturn's, which must necessarily be celebrated even by little slaves at the time of **the Saturnalia**. New-year's gifts likewise must be caught at, and the Septimontium kept; and all the presents of Midwinter and the feast of Dear Kinsmanship must be exacted; the schools must be wreathed with flowers; the flamens' wives and the aediles sacrifice; the school is honoured on the appointed holy-days. **The same thing takes place on an idol's birthday; every pomp of the devil is frequented. Who will think that these things are befitting to a Christian master, unless it be he who shall think them suitable likewise to one who is not a master?**" (Tertullian. On Idolatry, Chapter X. Translated by S. Thelwall. Excerpted from Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 3. Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. American Edition, 1885. Online Edition Copyright © 2004 by K. Knight).

SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE FAITHFUL TO TRUTH ...

OR TO A TRADITION THAT IS DECEITFUL?

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Early Churchman Tertullian wrote in 200 A.D. – **“ The saturnalia, New year, midwinter festivals, and matronalia are frequented by us! Presents come and go! There are new years gifts! Games join their noise! Banquets join their din! The pagans are more faithful to their own sect...For, even if they had known them, they would not have shared the Lord's day or Pentecost with us. For they would fear lest they would appear to be Christians. Yet, we are not apprehensive that we might appear to be PAGANS! ”**

Okay – Christmas is NOT Christian ... but utterly pagan in its roots. Some readers may say “But we don't honor pagan gods now so it's okay isn't it?” A person may even assume they do honor God and Jesus by observing Christmas. Let's look at that too. Most importantly we should remember that it's not about us but about what does God think?

Early Churchman Origin said in 248 A.D. – **“ It would follow as a consequence that we could take part in the public feasts, if it were proved that the public feasts had NOTHING wrong in them and were GROUNDED upon true views of the character of God...However, the so-called public festivals can in NO WAY be shown to harmonize with the service of God. Rather, on the contrary, they prove to have been devised by men for the purpose of commemorating some human event- or to set forth certain qualities of water, earth, or the fruits of the earth. Accordingly, it is clear that those who wish to offer an enlightened worship to the Divine being will act according to sound reason and NOT take part in the public feasts.”**

Tertullian 200a.d. – “He says 'Let your works shine.' But now all our shops and gates shine! Nowadays, you will find more doors of pagans without lights and laurel wreaths than those of Christians!...Do you say, ' But the lights in front of my doors, and the wreaths on my gate-posts, are an honor to God'? **However, they are not there as an honor to God, but to him who is honored in God's place through ceremonial observances of this kind.”**

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Does God say that it is alright to observe the pagan festivals such as Christmas even if we say we are honoring Christ?

No, He emphatically tells us not to learn or mimic the ways of the heathen or profane nations. Notice carefully what he said to the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land:

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 "When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.** Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. **What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**"

God tells us not to add unto, or take away from, what He has to say. In Leviticus 23 God gives His people a list of annual holydays – festivals in His honor - for to keep. Most people either do not know this or they are content to disregard God's festivals and rather observe pagan inventions of men in their stead.

Galileo- famous inventor physicist, mathematician and astronomer said:
"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."
How will YOU react to the Truth now that YOU discovered it?

Today, you have learned the TRUTH about Christmas.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Although against religion, a saying comes to us from Bertrand Russell [British logician, philosopher, and mathematician] who said:

"What a man believes upon grossly insufficient evidence is an index into his desires -- desires of which he himself is often unconscious. **If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence.** The origin of myths is explained in this way."



You just learned facts that probably go against some dearly held traditions. How will YOU react to the truth about Christmas being a pagan holiday that is abhorred of God?

Gods Holy Word, says: **1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.**

The Scriptures inform us that Satan is a real spirit being who is bent on preventing our ever becoming spirit beings (by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior) by using any means at his disposal. His favorite trick is to get people worshipping Him through false holidays, idols and religion.

Satan inspired the rejection of God's holydays and the observance of pagan holidays in their place. He has deceived the whole world! But God chooses to reveal His truth to those who seek Him and those which believe that He gives good things to them that believe.

But now you can see that all of Christmas, not just Santa Claus, is a **LIE**. No lie is of the truth. The true and Living God and His Son Jesus Christ have showed you truth this day. And the truth shall set you free.

Become **free** of the pagan holiday called Christmas. Let **the truth of God** destroy the entanglements of the world that bind you to the world's holidays.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

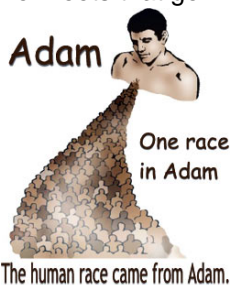
Repent of this sin and turn over a new leaf. Stop observing pagan holidays and learn about God's holydays and **weekly Sabbath**.

You will find a great reward in being obedient and humbly seeking God's will. God's Word as found in the Bible is for all mankind – not just the ones labeled as “Christians.” God wants all to come to the knowledge of truth. You are His creation, once lost but now found.



We are family! All of us have common roots that go back to Noah and his family saved by the Flood.

Therefore all of us come from the first man Adam who was created to become an obedient, loving Son of God. Adam disobeyed and disobedience became a way of life for us by choice. God has wanted each of us to be **reconciled** ever since. No matter how good you think you are you fall short of God's holiness and eternal life.



If you are **not** a Christian yet, or have **backslid** away from the faith once delivered please consider giving yourself to Jesus Christ today. Not only as your Savior ... but as your living Lord and reigning King of everything in your life.

Let's talk about salvation (the forgiveness of your sins and the way to eternal life.)

➤ **Everyone needs salvation because we have all sinned.**

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, **no, not one.**

Romans 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

➤ **The payment (or consequence) of sin is death.**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

- **Jesus Christ died for our sins. He paid the price for our transgression of God's holy law.**

Romans 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through him**. For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life**.

- **We receive salvation and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved**. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- **Salvation through Jesus Christ brings us into a relationship of peace with God.**

Romans 5:1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

- **As long as you follow Him, nothing can separate you from God and His love.**

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able **to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS

God loves you, **yes you!** No matter what you have done in the past or how you have lived – He wants you to turn your heart to Him. **He wants all of mankind to be saved.** [I John 4:10-11; I Timothy 2:4, John 3:16-18]

God sent His only Son, Jesus the Messiah (Christ), to pay the death penalty required for our disobedience. He did this so you and I can be forgiven and receive eternal life as a gift of reconciliation. All it takes is for you to confess to him that you are a sinner and that you need to be forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Then start life anew as a **living saint of God.**

[2Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 14:12; Romans 10:9-13]

Isaiah 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; **Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

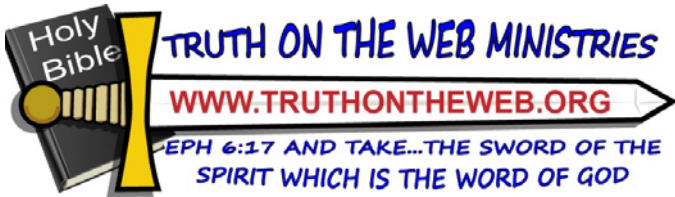
NOTES

GOT TRUTH?



TRUTH TRACTS™

For more information visit Truth On The Web Ministries
at www.truthontheweb.org



This tract may not be used for commercial or marketing purposes. This booklet may not be sold. It is freely offered to the public for use in spreading the truth and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Truth On the Web Ministries & The Church Of God At Woodstock, IL © 2013
E-mail: totw@truthontheweb.org