



"Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations"... "for the customs of the people are vain"

(Jeremiah 10:2 & 3)

CHRISTMAS

PAGAN CHURCHES

"The policy of the Church is to adapt old pagan holy days to Christian ideas, and not to suppress them... The festivals which we call Christmas and Easter are pagan, not Christian, in origin." Arthur Weigall – 1928."

The above quote certainly fits the world we live in today. The institution of "church" has managed to sell paganism to the people. Churches claim to be Christian, but if they were they wouldn't be teaching paganism. Churches are not Christian. They are the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing.

Indeed, the institution of "church," from its beginning, was a pagan concept whose origin was from Rome. The 4th-century Roman emperor Constantine gave the western world the "church" as we know it. It did not exist before Constantine. Thus, it was Constantine, not Jesus, who started the church and gave it state approval.

To some it may come as a surprise that the term "church" does not appear in the Holy Scriptures. I know, the term can be found in the published English versions of the Bible, but the translators added it in the text against all proper protocols of translation. "Church" does not appear anywhere in the Bible. If Jesus had founded church it would have certainly been in the Biblical record. But it's not there!

The word "church" was inserted into the English Bibles by Romanish translators to replace the actual Greek word: ECCLESIA. The Greek ecclesia is not church. Not even close. Ecclesia translates to "CALLED-OUT ONES." The translators simply inserted the word "church" and discarded the original term. Churchgoers are told that "ecclesia" should be translated "church." But that is just wrong. If Jesus and his apostles had meant "church" they would have used the Greek term "kuriokon." That would have translated to "church." But they didn't. They used "ecclesia."

Why did the English translators change the word? Because they were hirelings of the Roman church system and it needed them to endorse it. That system was started by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine. He started the state approved institution of "church" in order to incorporate

his pagan doctrine into public worship and replace the teachings of Jesus.

Constantine's main god was Mithras. Mithraism is one form of Sun worship. Constantine's church replaced Jesus with Mithras. But they still called him "Jesus." The Roman church taught Mithraism and called it Christianity. The church was pagan from its inception. Churches introduced paganism and pagan holidays disguised as Christian.

The Roman system later branched into Protestant churches. Today we see churches celebrating forms of Roman and Babylonian Sun worship, like Easter and Christmas, claiming they are Christian.

Churchgoers accede to these pagan customs which make them practicing pagans. It is curious that people would think they can give pagan customs new names that would gain Christ's approval. God's Word tells us that we are not to follow the pagan traditions of the heathen. Jeremiah clearly states this, and he describes a typical pagan Christmas symbol we can readily recognize:

- 2. Thus says Yahweh, Learn not the way of the nations, and be not dismayed at the signs of the heavens; for the nations are dismayed at them.*
- 3. For the customs of the nations are vain: for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.*
- 4. They decorate it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, so it doesn't move.*

Jeremiah 10:2-4

How is it that people who profess to be Christians read this Scripture but go ahead and put Christmas trees in their homes anyway? What are they thinking?

Again, in Ezekiel 8 we read of another old pagan holiday that Yahweh considers an "abomination." Churches still celebrate this pagan holiday. Ezekiel describes it thus:

- 13. He said also to me, Turn yet again, and you shall see greater abominations that they do.*

14. *Then he brought me to the door of the gate of Yahweh's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz [the slain Babylonian savior].*
15. *Then said he to me, Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn yet again, and you shall see greater abominations than these.*
16. *And he brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.*

Ezekiel 8:13-16

The Tammuz sunrise ceremony (Easter) is celebrated in churches every Spring equinox, just as the Nimrod/Mithras ceremony is acted out in churches every Winter Solstice. Sun worship is alive in the churches. These abominations are taught in churches worldwide. And why wouldn't the churches celebrate pagan holidays? The churches themselves are pagan in origin and practice?

But I can hear them respond, "My church teaches about Jesus and the Bible."

My response is: "Does it really?"

If the churches want to celebrate the birth of Jesus, why did they choose an annual date that couldn't possibly be near the time Jesus was actually born? Why would they choose a date that corresponds with the declared birthday of Babylon's Nimrod instead of Jesus? And why would they choose the drunken revelry and ceremony that fits the worship of Nimrod and Mithra, the Persian (Babylonian) sun gods? Does that make sense?

Romans celebrated the Winter Solstice – the death and rebirth of the Sun. For pagans DECEMBER 25TH is the Sun's birthday. It is called the Feast of Sol Invictus (Feast Of The Unconquered Sun). It is an ancient pagan celebration that predated the birth of Jesus.

Isn't it strange that the church world has adopted pagan celebrations, which God condemns, and renamed them? This travesty has been inculcated upon the western world – all in the name of worshipping Jesus.

And let's not forget the happy merchants who celebrate Christmas in their own way – by marketing their goods and making the greatest profits of the entire year. Even Jewish merchants, who openly despise Jesus, capitalize on the Christmas spirit by reaping the great sales profits when churchgoers spend money that many of them don't have, going into debt, to buy gifts, throwing elaborate parties where booze, debauchery, and all kinds of revelry and ungodliness rages. Christmas time brings an annual increase in suicides, crime, and mental problems ... and according to the churches it is all to glorify Jesus.

Really? Does that make sense to you? A little thought on the matter reveals that pagans, not Jesus, gave Christmas to the churches. It certainly didn't come from the Bible.

THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH

Where in the Bible do we find the date of Jesus' birth? NOWHERE! He certainly was not born in December. It is more likely that Jesus was born in the Spring or during the warm time of year when the sheep were out grazing in the fields and shepherds would have been in the fields tending them. It could not have been in the cold of Winter. The sheep would not have been out grazing in the fields in December. The pastures would have been dormant.

Where in the Bible are we told to celebrate Jesus' birthday? The answer is, NOWHERE! Nowhere in the Bible are we told to celebrate Jesus' birthday, or ANY birthday for that matter. In the Bible record there is no instruction to celebrate the birthday of Jesus or anyone else. Isn't it strange that the greatest church holiday in America has no mention or instruction in the Bible? The churches got the idea elsewhere.

The Bible tells us to recognize and remember the raising of Jesus from the dead, and his ascension as King. This is recorded plainly. But the churches prefer to picture Jesus with pagan tradition, as a helpless newborn rather than the reigning King that He is. The churches prefer to say that Jesus was defeated and sent away into outer space, leaving people to shift for themselves.

CHURCH-SANCTIONED PAGANISM

We are told by Eusebius (a contemporary with the Roman emperor Constantine), that Constantine, in order to recommend the new religion to the heathen, transferred into it (the church) the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own customs. Subsequent Protestant writers have made these teachings familiar to most of us. (Promotion of) Catholic "saints," and occasions with branches of trees; incense, lamps, and candles; votive offerings; holy water; asylums; holydays and seasons, processions, blessings on the fields; sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, the ring in marriage, turning to the East, the ecclesiastical chant, and the Kyrie Eleison (As seen in pagan antiquity in a ritual of imploring of help from the gods with the phrase "eleison." Likewise, the phrase was used in praying to the emperor.) These are all of pagan origin and adopted into the Church. –Newman-1878.

While churches claim to be Christian they operate as pagan, and they promote paganism in many ways including practicing non-Christian traditions. It isn't the first time God's people have chased after other gods. The Bible tells us that at times Israelites feigned worship of Yahweh while actually following heathen gods:

2. *And he (king Amaziah) did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh, after the abominations of the heathen,*

....

2 Kings 14:2

33. *They (Israelites in Assyria) feared Yahweh, but served their own gods, after the manner of the people*

34. *To this day they practice the former customs: they fear not Yahweh, neither do they after the statutes, or after the ordinances, or after the law and commandment which Yahweh commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel;*
35. *With whom Yahweh had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, You shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:*
36. *But Yahweh, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, Him shall you fear, and Him shall you worship, and to Him shall you do sacrifice.*
37. *And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which He wrote for you, you shall observe to do at all times; and you shall not fear other gods.*
38. *And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget; neither shall you fear other gods.*
39. *But you shall fear Yahweh your God; and He shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.*
40. *Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former customs.*
41. *So these people feared Yahweh, but served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they to this day.*

2 Kings 17:33-41

1. *Woe to the rebellious children, says Yahweh, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:*

Isaiah 30:1

- 3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his cunning, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*
4. *For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which you have not accepted, (I fear that) you might tolerate him.*

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Paul was concerned that the Corinthians might adopt false christs and false gospels. We must recognize that it is not unusual for our people to adopt false doctrine. The historical record shows that Israel often chose to follow pagan gods – even under Moses' leadership and shortly after being delivered from Egypt by God's great intervention. Thus it is not surprising that millions of people today, in the churches, and in theological seminaries are chasing false doctrines. Don't assume that popular teachings cannot be wrong if most people accept them. Our people, much to

their own hurt, have accepted lies many times in the past in spite of God's warnings and guidance. This is why the disciples of Christ are called "a remnant" (a few). In Luke 12:32 we are called his "little flock." And in Matthew 20:16 & 22:14 Jesus tells us that "many are called, but few chosen."

SANTA CLAUS

Where did the character of Santa Claus come from? What has he to do with Christianity or the Bible? Answer: Santa Claus has nothing whatsoever to do with Christ.

The name "Santa Claus" is a corruption of the name "St. Nicholas" who was a Roman bishop in the 5th century. St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra, was honored by the Greeks and Romans on the 6th of December.

Legend has it that this priest secretly gave dowries to three daughters of an impoverished citizen. This, then, allegedly originated the old custom of giving presents in secret on the Eve of St. Nicholas [Dec. 6]. The custom was subsequently transferred to Christmas day. Hence the pagan tradition of Santa Claus and gifts.

Again, Christmas (Christ Mass) origins come from European paganism through the Church of Rome.

Santa appeared in the Netherlands around the seventeenth century. He was called Sinter Klaas (a.k.a. Santa Claus). Dutch children began the tradition of placing their wooden shoes by the fireplace on December 5, for the mystic Roman Bishop, Saint Nicholas. The next morning, the Dutch children awoke to gifts and goodies in their shoes, left by Sinter Klaas. Like today's Santa, Sinter Klaas, miraculously traveled from housetop to housetop, and entered the houses through the chimney.

Encyclopedia Britannica describes the role of Nordic mythology in the life of Santa: "Sinterklaas was adopted by the country's English-speaking majority under the name Santa Claus, and his legend was united with old Nordic folktales of a magician who punished naughty children and rewarded good children with presents."

As the song goes, "Santa Claus is coming to town" and "he knows if you've been bad or good."

The Nordic Sinter Klaas' traveled in a sleigh that flew through the sky behind three mythical scary horned creatures that did not resemble reindeer.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO AMERICA

Christmas did not come to America by teachings from the Bible. No, indeed. Most of the customs came from old Dutch and German pagan traditions.

Certain groups four centuries ago eschewed the ancient custom of holiday revelry and gift-giving. They said it was reminiscent of the old Roman feast of Saturnalia. In fact, in the 1600s Christmas was banned in Puritan England for its connection to the hated Roman Church.

Also in some American colonies Christmas was banned as well. "Christmas was not established as a legal holiday in the U.S. until late 19th century. In 1659, the Puritan colony in Massachusetts passed a law that anyone 'found observing such a day as Christmas ... shall be fined five shillings.'"

There are many things that tie Christmas to Catholicism, and those were probably the main things that soured early American Protestants on the holiday. However, there are also many traditions added from American sources.

The bottom line is that in a culture open to paganism, whether in churches or in markets, there are many ways for Sun worship and self-worship to find ways to infest people's lives. Then after several generations of accepting pagan tradition the idolatry becomes so common and widespread that new generations don't question them and assume things have always been that way. Thus churchgoers condemn idolatry but unwittingly become its defenders.

WHAT CAN IT HURT?

People often defend Christmas (and other pagan holidays like Easter, Valentines Day, Halloween, etc.) by claiming that they aren't hurting anyone and they aren't keeping those holidays for pagan reasons. Often they say they do it for the sake of the children. They claim the pagan holidays are good for families.

Of course, that is pure nonsense. If paganism was good for our families why would God forbid them? The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that we are NOT to follow the ways of the heathen. God has provided extensive guidance regarding who we should honor, and who we should not honor. Why would God tell us to avoid it if it was harmless?

Regardless where it comes from, any tradition that sanctions paganism and teaches that it is harmless is blatantly denying God's commands.

1. *And God spoke all these words, saying,*
2. *I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*
3. *You shall have no other gods before Me.*
4. *You shall not make for yourself any graven image, or any likeness of any thing in the higher heavens, or that is on the land below, or that is in the water under the earth:*
5. *You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them: for I, Yahweh, your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the sons unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me;*

Exodus 20:1-5

As clear and obvious as this commandment is, there are always some who don't take it seriously. For millions of people this oversight starts in a church that teaches God's law is obsolete, and that men are our lawmakers.

21. *Whereas knowing God, they glorify Him not as God, nor are they thankful; but they become vain in their reasonings, and their foolish heart is darkened.*
22. *Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools,*
23. *And change the glory of the immortal God into an*

image made like to mortal man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24. *Therefore God gives them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity ...*
25. *Who change the truth of God into a falsehood, and worship and serve the created thing instead of the one who creates it, who is blessed into the ages.*

Romans 1:21-25

CHRISTMAS IS PAGAN

Anyone who honestly looks into the question of the origins of the Christmas tradition must admit that it is not Biblical – it is not Christian. This is very easy to see.

But what is not so easy to see is why churchgoers do not admit it. Perhaps it is because churches do not follow the Bible. They teach the doctrines of man.

7. *Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,*
8. *This people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is kept far from Me.*
9. *But in vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the precepts of men.*

Matthew 15:7-9

We can see clearly that churches are teaching something other than God's word. Instead, they teach the precepts of men. Churches are of the Beast System. If you think they are merely innocent groups attempting to do good – you are wrong. If false prophets were merely innocent well wishers God would not have commanded harsh judgments upon them. God hates false doctrine for good reason. It destroys societies. It does it by distracting people and causing them to take their eyes off God's guidance.

We can see the result of non-Biblical teachings in the churches. Churchgoers are ignorant of the Bible. They have no concept of what God wants, or does not want. They are choosing to live in ignorance.

- 6 *Let no man deceive you with empty words ...*
7. *Therefore be not participants with them.*
8. *For you were being darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of the light:*
10. *Proving what is acceptable to the Lord.*
11. *And have no fellowship in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

Ephesians 5:6-11

Pray that Americans will open their eyes and ears to see and hear truth which will set them free.

Ben Williams