

The Prophet's Column

This is a paid advertisement by J. M. Little

As we said in part one, when you link Christ's name to this pagan celebration you are blaspheming the Lord's name! Just think, preachers are leading their congregations to blaspheme the name of the Lord! There is no fellowship between the temple of God and idols. Practically every church I know of is just a pagan temple. I realize this makes people mad, but it's true. We are told in the Scriptures to celebrate the death of Christ, not His birth! The average preacher will not preach on the crucifixion, death, and burial of Christ, but they will always preach about Christmas. The average preacher is just a "con artist." I realize that what I am giving you is not popular, but the

Scriptures say we are to preach the Word, no matter what people think. Are you going to believe what the Lord says about this pagan tradition? There is no neutral ground. You are either going to come out of it or rebel against God and go on in it. Remember this, if the world runs after a thing, you flee from it. We usually remember our friends and loved ones on their birthday, and we try to show a special token of our love. The world, in their religious zeal, though completely ignorant of the birth date of our Blessed Lord, have pretended such consideration to Him as to set aside a special day to remember His birth and the world falls over itself to celebrate Him, but the

strange thing about all this CHRISTMAS FANATICISM is that He (Christ) is the most forgotten Person in the whole celebration. Everywhere you hear the slogan, "PUT CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS," but of course Christ never was in Christmas. Pagan revelry and ritualism was simply christened with a Christian name. Christ stands on the outside of the door and knocks, and pleads for you to come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing and He will receive you and be a Father unto you. Pity that the tinsel of the world should dazzle our eyes and hide from view the face of Him who is altogether lovely. I pray that you will not waste His precious time and money on His enemy's heyday.

Ramadan festivities planned

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT - A growing number of Arab Christians are joining their Muslim friends and neighbors in a show of solidarity to fast for Ramadan. Janein Shurafa, a 43-year-old Lebanese-Christian mother of two, is one such person. She said she used to celebrate Ramadan in Lebanon with her Muslim friends. "Why should I stop celebrating with them in America?" she asked. Ramadan, the holiest month for Muslims, commemorates the days when the Angel Gabriel imparted the wisdom of the Koran, Islam's holy book, to the Prophet Mohammed. It begins Jan. 10. Muslims from around the world observe the month with a fast that involves abstaining from food, drink and sexual

intercourse from a half-hour before sunrise until sunset. "People fast to strengthen their willpower physically and spiritually," said Imam Husham Al-Husainy, a cleric at the Islamic House of Wisdom. "Fasting is not a new thing. Jews and Christians have also been fasting for a long time," he said. Al-Husainy said Muslims consider Ramadan a month of social virtue, meant to create new bonds of understanding among all classes of people. Christians who celebrate Ramadan give differing reason for it. Clara Fakhouri finds it a bonding experience. "Last Ramadan, I had dinner with my friends and colleagues," said Fakhouri, 25, a receptionist at the Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Services Center in Dearborn. "It was a wonderful experience. I celebrated Ramadan with their family and many of them celebrated Lent with mine." Fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam. The fasting process, which can be done any time throughout the year, is most worthy during the holy month of Ramadan. All who are in good health are required to fast during the specified hours for the entire month. Those who are ill cannot fast, but must make up the fasting days later. Children who have not yet reached puberty, pregnant women and the elderly are exempt from fasting. Ramadan falls at different times from year to year, due to a slightly shorter lunar calendar in Islam.

School prayer okayed in Texas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON - Prayer will still be allowed at a Galveston school district that was sued by four students for promoting religious activity at district functions, according to a federal ruling. Galveston U.S. District Judge Sam Kent ruled that

prayer can remain part of the Sante Fe Independent School District's graduation ceremonies and activities before sports events. But Kent stipulated that only students may organize and present the prayer and that the prayer must be non-sectarian and non-proselytizing.

The court also ruled last week that some former policies of the district violated constitutional religious rights, but the district does not have to pay damages to the four students who sued. Kent said student-organized baccalaureates still may be held in the district's high school auditorium.

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