

"Christmas, A Pagan Holiday"

By J.M. Little
Part III

All the world, both religious and secular, now is getting ready to celebrate what they call Christmas. You say it is the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is it? Are you instructed in the Word of God to celebrate the birth of the Lord? Does the Bible say when He was born? Do you know when Christ was born?

The answer to all those questions is "no." You listen if you can. May the Lord create in you a "hearing ear" as to what we have to say on this subject. No one knows when Christ was born. He did not tell in the Scriptures when He was born. He did not tell any of the apostles to tell it either. Nowhere in the Scriptures will you find even the slightest hint as to the exact time or date of His Birth. And nowhere do we have a commandment to celebrate His birth.

Listen to the Word of God as to where this celebration came from; "Hear ye the Word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: 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. For the customs of the people are vain: FOR ONE CUTTETH A TREE OUT OF THE FOREST, the work of the hands of the workman, WITH THE AXE. THEY DECK IT WITH SILVER AND WITH GOLD: THEY FASTEN IT WITH NAILS AND WITH HAMMERS, THAT IT MOVE NOT. (Jeremiah 10:14).

My friends, there is the origin of your Christmas Tree. The Jews were in Babylonian captivity during this time and took on the celebration of the heathen. But the LORD (Jehovah) said "learn not the way of the heathen." When we were growing up as children we would take the axe and go out in the woods, cut a cedar tree, nail two pieces of wood across the trunk of the tree so we could fasten it to the floor with nails. Then we would put silver and gold decorations on it along with bulbs of all sorts of colors. And in later years Christmas lights have been used. The heathen of old Babylon started this pagan celebration.

The LORD says don't do it. You have a decision to make, either you are going to obey God, or you are going to give assent to pagan tradition.

I'll never forget the day the Lord first began to open my eyes to my lost condition, when He first gave me the Effectual Call. I had been out to the local church for the usual Christmas program. During the sermon I knew the message was not going home in my heart. Upon returning home I went over to visit my aunt and found her in the kitchen cooking dinner. I told her I had been out to the church for the Christmas sermon. She promptly replied; "all these holidays you all celebrate are nothing but Demon Holidays." She shoved the message, "Christmas A Demon Holiday" by our late pastor L.R. Shelton into my hand. I went off somewhere alone (so I thought) to read it. I didn't read very far into that message and the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the fact I was lost and had never been saved. I saw what had been the trouble all the while. I was



J. M. Little

lost even though I had joined the church and was baptized at an early age, and even though I had been very religious and had held leadership posts as a young person in the church. I had been looked upon as the ideal boy in the community, a leader among the young folks. It was the greatest surprise of my life to find out I was lost. But I'll never cease to praise the Lord for opening my eyes to my lost condition and bringing me down in repentance and giving me faith to lay hold on Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord didn't deal with me over just a short period as He has some. But I praise the Lord He put me under the Blood, revealed Himself to my heart as my Lord and my Saviour. I know Whom I have believed. The greatest thing in all this world is just to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Saviour. Do you know Christ? Many times a preacher will ask for everyone in the congregation to hold up their hands if they know Christ. Preacher, why make those folks tell the lies you do? Very few people are saved. If I asked the average preacher to tell you how God saved him he would be embarrassed.

I can leave my house and drive up Beatties Ford Road to I-85 bridge, I'll pass about a dozen or more churches within that four mile drive. The pastors of all those churches are going to have their churches put on a great Christmas celebration but not one of those preachers can tell a sinner how God saves a sinner. You cannot tell a sinner how God saves a sinner unless you know Christ!

When you link the precious name of Christ with this pagan celebration you are blaspheming the name of the Lord. Just think, you call yourself a preacher and yet you are leading your congregation to blaspheme the name of Christ. There is no fellowship between

the temple of God and idols. Practically every church I know of is just a pagan temple. Now I realize this makes you mad preacher, but you are on the road to Hell and you are leading your congregation to Hell! We are told in the Scripture to celebrate the death of the Lord but not His birth! The average preacher does not preach the crucifixion, the death and burial of Christ. Let me talk to you about the atonement and you have business elsewhere. The average preacher is just a "con-artist." I realize what I am giving you is not popular, but I am not running a popularity contest. You and I are supposed to declare the Word! The Scripture says preach the Word.

I went to see my uncle Joe Ratliff before he died. Uncle Joe gave me some cutting words after I told him the preachers were soft-soaking the Gospel. Uncle Joe had this to say; "Christ said I am the Way the Truth and the Life." Then he asked me, "Why have anything else?" Then he said, "If the Lord called me to carry the Word I'd carry the Word!" Now brother, that is my determination. Preach the Word! Carry the Word! It doesn't matter what you think about me or the Word. The Word is the Word and you cannot change it. God's Word will never pass away. It'll be standing when you long robed devils, who go in the name of preachers are dead and in Hell! Now you let that soak in.

Go in the average church and you never hear about Christ dying for sinners and that Christ is the sinner's only hope. It is always some program or something else that is magnified. Or as Bro. Shelton used to say, man is deified and Christ is humanized. I know that is so. If I'd go in the average church in this town and tell how God saves a sinner in the dust and ashes of

repentance, the preachers and congregations would brand me crazy and throw me out.

"Curseth be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD (Jer. 17:5). Are you going to believe what the LORD says about this pagan celebration or will you trust the arm of the flesh which is pagan tradition? This celebration is just pagan tradition. Pagans started it. What will you do my friend? There is no neutral ground. You are either going to come out of it or rebel against God and go in it. Christmas is idolatry! (Wherefore my dearly beloved, flee idolatry. I Cor. 10:14). Then listen again; "...that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15). Now you think seriously about these things my friends and I plead with you to take a stand for the truth. If the world runs after a thing you flee from it. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (I John 5:21).

The Lord willing we will continue the series on Demon Possession in late December.

We give you an invitation to worship with us Sunday December 19th in the Deep Creek Baptist Church, Wadesboro, N.C. 28170. Come and bring a friend with you. Be with us at 11:00 a.m., come looking for a blessing.

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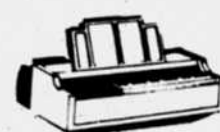
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