

“Why I Don’t Celebrate Christmas” Part 2

By Pastor Raul Enyedi, Sovereign Grace Baptist Assembly, in Bocsia Romania
You can read this entire article here, <http://72.219.6.125:81/RaulNoXmas.html>

All the encyclopedias I read showed me that the origin of the holiday is not biblical but pagan. And they told me all the books about myths and history of religions. The Greek Orthodox and the Roman Catholic sources openly confessed the pagan origins of Christmas. And so I learned that the ancient pagan nations had a great festival dedicated to the birth of the sun god, which had different names, according to the different languages. The Egyptians called him Osiris, the Babylonians Tammuz, the Persians Mythra and the Romans Saturn, and gave him the title Sol Invictis, the Unconquered Sun. It was the same god everywhere, only the names differed. All these pagan nations celebrated the birth of the sun god in the winter time, just after the solstice (December 21st), because that’s when the day starts increasing again. The romans celebrated the Saturnalia during this time, the holiday dedicated to Saturn. During this time, there was an excess of eating, drinking and all sorts of orgies, a merry time for pagans. And December 25th was the climax of pagan “spirituality.” The Christmas carols are also directly connected to this pagan holiday. The Romans called themcalendae. Groups of people went from house to house, wishing luck, happiness and fertility to their hosts. The Christmas tree is also an ancient pagan symbol. And so is the Christmas exchange of gifts, which the pagan Romans called sigillaria, during which the children were given gifts of small figurines of clay or wax.

How did we Christians come to observe a holiday not commanded by the Bible: a holiday pagan to its very core? History tells us that Christians decided to celebrate Christmas after they began to depart from the Scriptures and started giving their own laws and rules. After the time of Constantine the Great, ruler of the Roman Empire from AD 306 to 337, when Christianity became the official religion of the Empire, making a lethal compromise with the State, multitudes of pagans were “Christened,” while still devoted to their own gods. Not being able to separate them from their idols, the Church decided to keep the pagan date and customs, but give them Christian names. John Chrysostom (AD 347-407), among many others, associated the pagan holiday with the name of Christ. Says he: “But they call it the ‘Birthday of the Unconquered. Who indeed is so unconquered as Our Lord...? Or, if they say that it is the birthday of the Sun, He is the Sun of Justice.” Such was the way in which the Christenized pagans were kept satisfied. For it did not matter to them by what name their god was called, as long as they could keep their pagan worship customs. They did not worship Jesus Christ, but they worshiped the sun god, whom they could also call Jesus Christ.

*****Part 3 Next Week*****

Today is October 29, 2023

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

*“Where the Truths of God’s Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years” Since October 21, 1961*

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“Our Prayer List”

Please Pray

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son’s Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Ted O’Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family and church, Baby Titus Massey Kathy Johnson, Doug Johnson.

“Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works”

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea,
and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

****A Message From Pastor Johnson****

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you,
taking the oversight thereof..."*

1st Peter 5:2

"We need to be humble servants."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

1 Cor. 2:4 *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:"*

Humility, this word means - a modest or low view of one's own importance - Humility is a quality of being modest and respectful of oneself and others. God said of our humility, *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."* James 4:6, 10 The Apostle Paul was writing to a church with many issues, but apparently one of their problems was that they were low in understanding of God's word. Paul had a very humbled heart because God gave him a very humbled heart. Paul understood this church's issues and preached to them accordingly to their understanding. Paul understood what grace is, and he also understood what mercy is. God said in Pro. 22:4 *"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life."* We need to remember as Christians, church members, church workers, teachers, and mostly as Pastors, that our fear of God is our guide in our ministry and if we lose this fear or our reverence of God then we will fail in our service to the Lord. Serving God is an honor, and we ought not take it lightly or just as a work, but as an honor and privilege, both to God and the Lord's church. We never need to be critical of God's people not of God's churches, and we always need to remember that whatever we are, whatever our service is, it is by God's grace. Paul was very loving to this church; he was not critical of them but preached a sermon that the weakest believer could understand. As teachers we must recognize the power of God's word and understand that it is the Holy Spirit is teaching it and not us. Paul did not want to be recognized as a brilliant man of God, but he wanted God's word and powered to teach. Paul understood what all Christians need to understand, and all Ministers and Pastors need to never forget, we are nothing, we have no power, and that we are just humbled servants of God and by the power of God's Holy Spirit. I know a lot of great Ministers, teachers, and Pastors but the greatest of them all are those with the greatest humbled hearts. Let us all let Paul's example be our teacher, it was not his experience or ability that gave his ministry its power; it was the work of the Spirit of God. We must teach that other believers may learn, not for self-performance.

"We need to be humble servants." Continued

We are all teachers, instruments of God's power, understanding all accomplishments of that are of God and not of us. We must remember that we are servants of Love and every sermon, every conversation, every action, must be in love and in much mercy and grace, and by God's authority. Paul told this church in verse 3 *"And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling."* Paul was sharing in their weakness understanding that their weakness was his own weakness, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am:"* 1Co 15:10 Everything we are, as believers is by God's grace, and if we ever leave that state of mind, we are no longer humbled. Paul reminds us *"I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."* No matter how hard we work, how hard we prepare, how hard we preach, or how high we rise, we are never better than the Apostle Paul as a servant of God. Our fear and reverence of God keeps us humble, but also our dependence on the power of God keeps us humbler like Paul, never taking credit that belongs to God and always giving God the glory. As fleshly people we will never be anything on our own, everything we become, every advancement we make, every good work we perform, is God's grace working in us. *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."* 2 Corinthians 12:9 Thank you Lord God for the grace you have given us to be your humbled servants.

****Church Announcements and Upcoming Events****

Do Not Forget to Set Your Clocks Back One Hour on Nov. 5th

No Boasting About Tomorrow

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

James 4:13-17