

Today is November 05, 2023

"Why I Don't Celebrate Christmas" Part 3

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>

Upon finding these troubling things, I started asking others why we keep this holiday, why at a pagan date with pagan customs, hoping to find some light in their answers. When I asked: "Why do we observe Christmas?" I received many answers, some even childish. I will only mention the answers that made me think and ponder.

1. It is a good thing to set a day or two apart to remember that Jesus was born to bring salvation to mankind. I was not satisfied by this answer, because I asked myself: who decides what is good for me as a Christian? God or men? I believe that God, my Father, knows better than anyone what is good and what is bad for me. He is a good Father, and wants the best for me. And he told me in the Scriptures what is good. Now, if the Bible does not tell me that we need to have a holiday honoring the birth of the Lord, this means that I do not need such a holiday for my spiritual welfare. I ask all those who tell me that it is good to have such a holiday: Do you think that God hid or refused to reveal something good for us? If Christmas is something good, and God did not tell us about it, it means that He hid something good for us. This monstrous idea is nothing but the same seed of doubt planted by Satan in Eve's heart, suggesting to her that God does not want our good completely, but keeps something good from us. If Christmas would be good or necessary, our Lord and His apostles would definitely have taught us to observe it. Apostle Paul told the elders of the church in Ephesus: "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you... For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:20, 27). But Paul does not teach anything about Christmas. Why is that? Because Christmas is not profitable to us. To deny this is to deny the apostle's sincerity, and even worse, God's sincerity.

2. "We need a special day to remember Christ's birth. It does not matter what day, and December 25th is just as good as any other day." I can't help but wonder then, if we are so honest in our desire to pay our homage to the birth of our Savior, why didn't we choose a date that is closer to the time when He was born (end of September, beginning of October)? Why was December 25th chosen, from all the days of the year, knowing that it is the most pagan of all? Is it just a coincidence? I don't think so!

3. "What is not explicitly and implicitly forbidden in the Scriptures, is allowed. The Bible neither approves nor disapproves of such a holiday, therefore it is up to us." Could we possibly understand the silence of the Scripture as being permissive in such a case? Or rather its silence is the strongest argument against observing the holiday? Let us remember that all the Christmas customs that we have today also existed in the time of Christ and the apostles: Not with the Christians, however, but with the pagans!!! The date, the celebration of the birth, the carols, the tree, the gifts, the rich tables and many other details related to the feast existed in the time our Lord walked on this earth. Did He identify Himself with any of these? Did He commission His apostles to go to the pagans and teach them that He is the Unconquered Sun celebrated by them: that the Christmas tree represents Him? The answer is an obvious and absolute NO! All the analogies between Christ and this holiday were made much later, by "Christians" who thought that they can change and improve the Bible and who were looking for excuses for their desertion from the boundaries of the Scripture!

*****Part 4 Next Week*****

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****

"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, 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, Baby Titus Massey, Kathy Johnson, Doug Johnson, Brother Gary and Sister White.

****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

"I am what God hath made me."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Corinthians 15:10

I use this verse a lot because it shows humility by the most popular Apostle that God called to that work. I do not know if the Apostle Paul had realized in his life just how much that God used him. But we in this time understand just how great he was by God's grace. I do not know if some of the great preachers in history ever thought that in the 21st century churches and Pastors would be quoting them as much as they do. Great people, whether men or women are used of God as God chooses to use them and if there is any greatness of our works, it is because of God's work of grace in us. However humbly Paul thought of himself, it would have been mere unfaithfulness to downplay his own work in the Lord. If we truly believe that we are what we are by God's grace, then we must believe that we have no personal effects on what God is doing. Paul, as great as he was, and as humbled as he was, was exactly what God ordained him to be, no greater and lesser because the ministry was God's hand of work. God reminds us in Philippians 2:13-14 *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings:"* Brother John Trapp wrote in the early 1600's these words, *"When God hath turned, and doth touch us, we must move; and while the Spirit imbreathes us, we must turn about like the mill."* This is because God's Holy Spirit is giving us the *"will and to do of his good pleasure."* We do not choose our Christian path in life, and we do not edify nor advance what God has chosen for us to do and accomplish for Him. Jesus said in, Matthew 10:20 *"For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."* Whatever we are in our Christian life it is by the hand of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that is our power and influence over our ministry and Christian walk. Remember that God reminds us in Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

A Message from Pastor Johnson, Continued

God not only chose us to salvation in Jesus Christ, called us by the power of the Holy Spirit thru the Gospel of Jesus Christ, quickened our dead spirits, caused us to hear the gospel, and led us to believe, He also works every day in our Christian life giving us *"both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* The Apostle Paul was truly what he was by God's grace, and while it does not lessen his greatness it also gives all glory to God. Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 5:32 - 33 *"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess."* Not that you possible could or that it you work hard enough, or if you are good enough, *"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you..."* Whatever you do for the Lord, never forget to be reminded that we do not fight for greatness, but rather accomplishments in doing whatever God commands. If any of us think of ourselves as anything outside of God's grace we have failed miserably.

"Church Announcements and Upcoming Events"

- Happy Anniversary to Pastor Randy and Sister Rebecca Johnson

The True Lord's Prayer.

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." John 17:1-8