

Today is November 12, 2023

"Why I Don't Celebrate Christmas" Part 4

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>

The feast of the Nativity cannot be dissociated from its pagan origin. The Christian's stubborn persistence in celebrating Christ's birth on December 25th, with carols, Christmas tree, gifts, a special service at the church and a festive table at home – just as the pagans celebrated their god – prove that we identified ourselves with the paganism and borrowed from it in our worship to the true God. And in this respect, the Scripture is not silent at all, but repeatedly condemns the association of true with false worship, and teaches a complete separation from idols and their worship. The identification with paganism, the borrowing of pagan gods or pagan models of worship is expressly condemned in the Bible, both in the Old and in the New Testament.

The Orthodox and the Catholic Churches openly admit their lack of concern in the fact that the holiday and its customs are pagan in origin, because they say these were made Christian and purified by the sanctifying power of the Church. In their opinion, the Church has sanctifying power, which could be extended even upon paganism, which, once "christened," can serve God. This claim is false, unbiblical and illogical. It is rejected by anyone who believes Sola Scriptura (The Scriptures as the final authority for all we believe and practice)! No one faithful to the Scriptures can allow for the arrogance of such a claim. How can we answer then to the fact that we try to dress up a pagan holiday in Christian clothes, changing only the name of the person adored? The association with paganism in worship is not at all part of those things which the Bible neither approves nor condemns, but leave to us. The Bible says: "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:16-17). This is totally true for Christmas!

4. "It is good to take advantage of the fact that the lost world is thinking about Christ and His birth in this time of year and preach Christ to them." But what kind of Christ do these people have and desire? Isn't it strange that the world hates Christ but loves Christmas? Why is that? Because they do not worship Christ! They really worship the sun god which they have become accustomed to call Jesus Christ, and whom they called by lots of names before the fifth century. But the world is not willing to accept the true Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth! Our identification with them in this holiday does not help us to show them the true Jesus Christ, but rather it strengthens their conviction that we worship the same god as them, the one they falsely call Jesus.

5. "We should not judge anyone that observes Christmas, because 'One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it'" (Romans 14:5-6). The attempt to justify the adoption of a pagan holiday with this text is childish and it shows that people love this holiday so much that they will twist the Holy Scripture in order to excuse Christmas. The text in Romans 14 does not speak about pagan holidays, but about the Old Testament feasts, which were commanded by the Lord to Israel.

*****Part 5 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

"Be careful who you allow to influence you."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

1 Thessalonians 4:1 *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."* Acts 5:29 *"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."* Galatians 1:10 *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."*

Sometimes Christian can become followers of man more than God. We must always remember that no man, no not one is not without biblical error. We must allow these men to preach to us, love them, respect them, and learn from them, but always to remember no man is without biblical error. I have had one Pastor in my life, he was a great man, teacher, and man of truth in the Lord, but I found we disagreed on a few things. We are children of God and God ordered us to *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15 Because it is God who we follow and not man. This is why as a Pastor and a Minister I sometimes say "I do not care what man thinks of me" because I do not. God did not save me to please men, churches, or anyone else, God saved me to follow and to seek to please only Him. Just because a person has a difference of thought or opinion as to what the scripture concludes is not something I can allow to affect me. If God wanted us all to be perfectly aligned with the scriptures, we would all be just that. We all differ because God has made us all different according to His will. This is why God told us to *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God"* so that you as a Christian can *"rightly dividing the word of truth."* Never allow any person, me included to influence you to disagree with what you see in the bible. We must all follow the word of God as the Holy Spirit shows us. If we did not disagree then we would be perfectly aligned with the bible and we are not. Show me a man that is in perfect alignment with the bible, and I will show you a person in error. Pastors study hard, sometimes many hours to preach one single sermon just so we can get all the scriptural proof for truth. However, if God has not shown us the absolute truth, we do not know the truth. Now, biblical disagreement does not mean there is not good fellowship. If we understand that no man, it perfect in biblical truth then we understand that we differ.

A Message from Pastor Johnson, Continued

And in understanding this we grow a tolerance level. We began to understand that we differ because the Holy Spirit doesn't teach us the same and therefore it could be one is right and the other wrong, but which is which? We will all stand before Jesus Christ is judgment and we are all responsible to Jesus for what we believe. But Jesus will also judge us on how we treated other Christians that differ. We are to love one another just as God loves us all. If we mistreat another believer because we differ on the scriptures, then we become the sinner. And the same is true if we refuse to see the truth because someone close to us disagrees. If we disagree then we talk about it, we study it together, and we reach the conclusion that God causes us to reach. But we understand that God has diversities in the way He distributes His spiritual gifts. Let us understand, we will all be perfectly aligned in heaven and while we may differ on this earth, we are still God's children, and we all believe in the same salvation in Jesus Christ. 1 John 4:7 - 8 *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."* And remember, no matter who is teaching you, it is your responsibility to study and seek the truth. We will all stand before Jesus Christ and be judged.

"Church Announcements and Upcoming Events"

- Happy Birthday to Brother Frank Reigel

Herein is our love made perfect.

1 John 4:15-19 *"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us."*