

THE CHRISTMAS QUESTION

PRESENT YOURSELVES APPROVED TO GOD

We have felt it necessary to write this booklet to answer the many questions that have been asked concerning our not taking part in the festivities of the "CHRISTMAS SEASON."

Let us begin by stating that it is not our aim or goal to judge or place condemnation on anyone for not being persuaded of our beliefs concerning the keeping of this or any other so-called "*Christian holiday*."

However, we are concerned that so few believers have ever given their time and energy to carefully and open-mindedly search out the origin of just such rituals, traditions, and dogmas of the present day religious systems. We must be made aware that if our lack of knowledge is a result of an inadequate love for the reality of truth, the end of the matter will be deception that brings us into the bondage of believing a lie. It is just such an enslavement that can keep us from attaining to the "*right wiseness*" of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Hos. 4:6; Isa. 5:13; M't. 5:20; 2Th. 2:7-12; 2Ti. 2:15-19; Rom. 6: 13; 2Pe. 1: 13-16).

Therefore, we would like to challenge each one of you to search out for yourselves concerning the origin of this and any other so-called Christ centered holiday or "HOLY DAY" (Webster's Dictionary). Then after diligent and open-minded study and sincere prayer, "*let everyone be fully persuaded in his own mind*" as to the eating of meat offered to idols and the esteeming of one day above another. (Rom. 14:1-10).

As for me and my house, the Holy Spirit has convinced grown-up and child alike that the call of God in this hour is to come out of the world and its carnal, man-made religious systems, becoming totally separated to the lord. This parting out of Babylonish ways is necessary in order that we might come into the fullness of sonship, being made conformable to the image of Jesus Christ. (Joh. 16:7-15; Rom. 8:21-23, 29-30, 12:1-2; Gal. 5:1, 13; Rev. 18:4-5).

HE THAT HATH AN EAR TO HEAR!

The Spirit of God is being poured out upon all flesh in this great hour of restoration. Moreover, to those that have an ear to hear, he has become the Teacher of truth and reality. Yes, the Spirit reveals the mysteries of God. Furthermore, he makes us aware of the philosophy and empty seduction that has crept into so much of Christianity through the blindness of human traditions. These rituals are in harmony with the knowledge of the world and not in accordance with the worship of our God in spirit and truth (John 4:21-24; Acts 17:24-29; 2Co. 3: 17-18; 5:16).

We are also persuaded that all of the promises of God, which have to do with participating in the kingdom age, have been made to those that OVERCOME or CONQUER the present orderly arrangement. Therefore, we press ever upward, toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Seeking to come to the place of not being conformed to this age. Genuinely becoming transformed by the exchanging of our thinking for the glorious mind of Christ. That is, to no longer focus on things that are of the earth-earthy. Yet, learning to compare spiritual things with spiritual things. Until we are brought to the place of experientially knowing the Father and the Son. No longer walking after the things of the flesh as we did in times past, but learning to walk in the Spirit and in the reality of truth (Rom. 8: 1-10, 12:1-2, 16:20; 1Co. 2:9-16; 2Co. 5:14-18; Ph'l. 3:4-14; Heb. 2:6-11; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5-6, 12-13, 21-22, 21:7).

WILL NOT COME UNDER THE POWER!

The Apostle Paul taught ALL THINGS WERE LAWFUL, yet he did not find all things to be EXPEDIENT, USEFUL or BENEFICIAL. That is, not everything results in righteousness. So he simply would NOT COME UNDER THE POWER OF ANYTHING that did not produce a godly relationship in Spirit. (1Co. 6:12-20).

Many in this hour are saying that they are totally free to "*eat the meat offered to idols*." Maybe, this is your own belief or conviction. However, we would ask you to give consideration to a few things having to do with this YULETIDE MEAT OF IDOLATRY! (Acts 15:20, 29, 21:25; Rom. 14:16-23, 10:17; 1Co. 8: 1-13, 10:11-33; Gal. 5:5-6, 6:14-15; 1Jo. 5:20; Rev. 2:14, 20).

First, what are some of the FACTS concerning the Christmas season that every believer should be aware of in order to show himself diligent in the things of righteousness? (1Ti. 2:15-18 NASB).

FACT NUMBER ONE

DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH IS NOT THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH!

It is openly acknowledged by ALL the authorities that the EXACT DATE of Jesus' birth is completely unknown.

In fact, any encyclopedia or commentary will go as far as tell you that Christ was NOT born on December Twenty-fifth. Neither does the word of God say anything as to the day of Jesus' birth. This lack of scriptural reference should in itself be significant in declaring God's feelings toward the keeping of His Son's birthday (Deut. 12:29-32; Heb. 13:7-9; Jam. 1:16-17).

If it had been intended by our Lord that his followers were to celebrate his birthday, he surely would have told us when it was! It is quite evident that if Christ's birthday was among the SOLEMN FEASTS appointed by God, he would not have hidden it so well that no one has been able to find the exact date or prescribed pattern for keeping it. After all, every feast that the Lord intended this nation of Israel to keep was fully described and THE EXACT DATES WERE GIVEN so that they could be remembered throughout all generations.

The FACT is, we will discover that THE BIRTH OF JESUS MUST HAVE TAKEN PLACE SOMETIME BEFORE OCTOBER FIFTEENTH. That is, if we are not afraid of searching out the truth and having Christmas exposed as something that is based on tradition and falsehood.

Looking into the scripture, we find that when the Christ-child was born, "*there were in the SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD, and keeping watch over their flock BY NIGHT*" (Lu. 2:7-11). The custom in Israel was to send their sheep into the fields in early spring and there the shepherds would keep them day and night until the coming of the FIRST WINTER RAIN, which began in mid-October. At that time, the sheep were brought back into the corrals no later than October fifteen in order to protect them from the freezing cold rains that followed that date.

It is also seen that at the time of Jesus' birth, men, women, and children were traveling to their home towns to be taxed. Joseph took Mary, who was great with child, and made the long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, about seventy-five miles (Lu. 1:3-5). Now this would have never taken place during the winter month of December, as the cold wet winters of the region were much too severe for the people to be exposed out of doors for any long period of time. Even Jesus said that men should pray their journey would not come during the winter season (M't. 24:20). Of course, we are aware of the spiritual significance of this scripture. However, we can also see the practical side of such a statement when we consider the intense winter cold in this region.

Now, while we cannot know the exact date of our Lord's birth, there is a Scriptural way to figure out the approximate time of this glorious event. We know by God's word that John the Baptist was born about six months earlier than Jesus. Thus, by comparing the two births, we can at least determine two possible seasons in which the Christ-child could have been born (Lu. 1:31-38).

Zacharias, John's father, was a priest in the temple at Jerusalem. In those days each priest had a definite period of time in which he would serve the temple. These time periods were called "*courses*." There were twenty four courses a year and each course lasted one week. These sessions began in the early spring with the first month of Jewish sacred calendar. This first month of this calendar called Nisan, also known as Abib. This shows us that every priest served the temple two times during the year for a week at a time. Or one week every six months. Also all the priests served together in the temple during the annual feast seasons of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. (Ex. 12:3 Marg.; Deut. 16:1; 1Chr. 24:7-19, 27:1-2; Esther 3:7).

Let us notice that Zacharias served in the COURSE OF ABIB, which is ABIJAH in the Hebrew language. That is, he served in the eighth order of these divisions. Thus, his course would fall into our calendar in approximately the first week of June, if it was his first week of service in the year. Otherwise, if it was his second week of service, it would be about December. After this time of service, we are told that he went home to his wife, who was barren, and she conceived. Now by adding nine months to June or December, we find that John was born in either March or September. (1Chr. 24:10; Lu. 1:5-13, 23-24).

Since Jesus was six months younger than John, we simply add the six months to March or September, (this once again shows us that God has hidden the exactness of even the season). We now come up with just the reversal, September or March, for the birth month of Jesus. That is, Jesus was born in the early part of the fall, before the winter rains. Or he was born in the early spring, after the winter rains were passed. This again indicates that our Lord could not have been born December twenty-fifth, as is commonly taught. (Lu. 1:26, 36).

Thus, we already see a number of factors that should convince us that to keep this particular day as a HOLY DAY having to do with the birth of Jesus Christ, would be a FALSEHOOD. First, God has never revealed to us the EXACT DATE, nor has he ever given us a commandment to keep his Son's birthday. Second, the winters of the region were much too cold for extensive travel by the people during the month of December. Third, the shepherds never kept

their flocks in the field at night after October fifteenth. Then finally, all the authorities, Christian and non-Christian alike, positively agree that December twenty-fifth is NOT THE DATE of Jesus' birth. These facts should prick us in our hearts to begin searching out the truth. What is the actual origin and reasoning behind just such a HOAX within the Christian faith?

FACT NUMBER TWO

MUCH OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS TWISTED & UNSCRIPTURAL!

By this we mean that many of the traditions and events surrounding the actual birth of Jesus, as they are commonly known and taught today, are largely twisted and untrue representations of the FACTS that are held forth in the Bible.

It is said that "*Jesus was born in a manger,*" when in FACT He was born in a stable and laid in a manger (Lu. 2:7). It is taught that THREE WISE MEN came to THE STABLE on the night of Jesus' birth and brought Him BIRTHDAY GIFTS. The FACT is the Bible does not tell us how many wise men actually came to visit him. However, it does tell us that they went to the HOUSE of Joseph and Mary, not the stable in Bethlehem. (M't. 2:7-16; Lu. 2:21-24, 39). It is also a FACT that these gifts which they brought were not "*birthday presents,*" nor were they "*Christmas presents.*" It was a custom of those of the Far East to bring gifts to present when they came before a king. The wise men were looking for the KING OF THE JEWS and because they recognized Jesus as a king, they brought Him gifts. (M't. 2:1-2). Again, it is pictured and taught that the star appeared over the manger in Bethlehem. Yet, the Bible declares that the star was found over the house of Joseph and Mary, who lived in Nazareth. (M't. 2:9-13; Lu. 2:21-22, 39-40; Rev. 12:2-4).

Children are told and the world left to believe that JESUS WAS BORN ON THE FIRST CHRISTMAS. Every year the churches put on Christmas programs, while preachers loudly proclaim this to be the GOSPEL TRUTH to multitudes. Yet, there is little truth to be found in their programs and sermons which are mixed with such great UNGODLINESS and FALSEHOOD!

WHO PUT THE CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS?

The word Christmas means MASS OF CHRIST. It was known in the Old English as "*Christes Maesse,*" or CHRIST'S MASS. Then about the sixteenth century the spelling became changed to "*Christmas.*" So you see, when Jesus was born there was no Christ-Mass. The FACT is that there was not a Christ-Mass until the third or fourth century. This is when the apostate Roman Church brought this particular Catholic Mass into being. If the first Christmas did not begin with the birth of Jesus? If December is definitely not the time of Jesus' birth? Why is it then that December twenty-fifth has specifically been chosen to commemorate the birth of our Lord?

The answer to this question can be found in most any encyclopedia. History itself holds the answer to this mystery of iniquity. On this day, during the season of the solstice of the sun, for centuries before the birth of Jesus, THE WORLD CELEBRATED THE REBIRTH OF THE SUN GOD! The FACT being that this day of festivity dates all the way back to the times of ancient Babylon. Babylonians called this day the "*nativity.*" It was celebrated in honor of the birth of Tammuz, the son of Nimrod. Tammuz had been conceived through an incestuous relationship which Nimrod had with his mother. Nimrod's mother and wife, Semiramis, was the Babylonian Queen of Heaven. As this celebration spread, it became an established custom throughout the entirety of the heathen world. Although Tammuz was supposed to be the reincarnation of the sun god, Nimrod, he became known by many different names. Names such as: Osiris, Horus, Hercules, Bacchus, Adonis, Jupiter, and many more.

In ancient Rome, this mid-winter festival became known as Saturnalia. Saturn being just another name for Nimrod and Tammuz. This was the most disgraceful, vile, and immoral feast of pagan Rome. During this time all the restraints of the law were laid aside. It became a time of licentiousness, drunkenness, and debauchery. In compromise with the pagan practices of this season, the Roman Catholic Church adopted the winter festival of Saturnalia with all of its practices. They did this in order to conciliate the heathen and swell the number of adherents to the persuasion of the Roman Church.

The very name "*Yule Day,*" by which Christmas is known also confirms its pagan and Babylonish origin. Yule is the Chaldee name, or word, for an "*infant*" or "*little child.*" Moreover, the twenty-fifth of December was referred to as YULE DAY among many nations long before there was any kind of Christian influence in the world. This should more than sufficiently reveal to us the true character and origin of this so-called Christian holy day.

FACT NUMBER THREE

CONSIDER THE TRADITIONS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

As always, the leaders of this apostate church looked to find as many similarities as possible between the pagan customs and the teachings of Christianity in order to make the merger less noticeable.

For instance, THE CHRISTMAS TREE was said to represent the tree upon which Jesus died. Moreover, the “green” was said to symbolize the “*life that He so freely gave.*” The FACT is that “green” trees have been a part of the Yule season for many centuries before the birth and death of Jesus.

In Babylon, Semiramis, the mother of Tammuz, claimed that overnight an “evergreen” tree sprang up from a dead tree stump. The dead stump symbolized her dead husband, Nimrod. While the new evergreen represented Nimrod come to life again in the person of Tammuz. Tammuz, was also known as: “*The Sin Bearer,*” “*Savior of the World,*” “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords,*” “*Judge of the Dead,*” “*Branch of God,*” “*Shining One,*” and many, many more antichrist titles.

In Scandinavia it was believed that their god, Woden or Odin, would bestow special gifts at Yuletide to those who would honor him by APPROACHING HIS SACRED FIR TREE. In the Bible we are told numerous times that the green tree is associated with idolatry and false worship (Deut. 12:2; 1Ki. 14:23; 2Ki. 16:4, 17: 10; Isa. 57:5; Ez. 6: 13).

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD!

“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. ONE CUTS DOWN A TREE OUT OF THE FOREST, the work of the hands of the workman, WITH THE AXE. THEY DECK IT WITH SILVER AND GOLD. THEN FASTEN IT WITH HAMMER AND NAILS, THAT IT MOVE NOT. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not. They must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good” (Jer. 10:1-5).

As I read this passage of Scripture, I am reminded of the present day custom of the Christmas Tree. Of course, I realize that people of this day and hour do not put up Christmas trees in their homes, businesses, and churches for the purpose of worshiping them. However, the word of God says, THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE ARE VAIN. That is, they are worthless and empty, adding no power to true worship. Furthermore, we comprehend that standing before a Christmas tree to admire its beauty makes no difference to God. It might be compared to finding beauty within the art work of any pagan idol, shrine, or artifact. Yet, the Scriptures declare that all such idols, shrines, and artifacts are an abominable stench before the living God of the whole earth.

Then there is THE YULE LOG which represents the dead stock of Nimrod cut down by his enemies. It was believed by the Babylonians that the slain god came to life again, in the blaze of the Yule Log fire which is like the light of the sun.

Even the tradition of KISSING UNDER THE MISTLETOE came to us from a Druidic superstition which was derived from Babylon. The mistletoe bough represented Nimrod as the “*Messiah,*” “*The Man, The Branch.*” It was regarded as a divine branch that came out of heaven and grew upon a tree that sprang forth out of the earth. Thus, by the engrafting of the celestial branch into the earthy tree, heaven and earth had been joined together and sin severed. By this the mistletoe became the token of the divine reconciliation to man. Remember. The kiss is a well known token of pardon and reconciliation.

Even the CHRISTMAS HAM had its origin with paganism. The sacrifice of the boar was an important part of the season throughout all heathen nations. In Rome the boar was the most prominent article at the feast of Saturn. It was believed that the “*boar would make you a good Saturnalia.*” Today in England at Christmas dinner, the boar is still served with its head intact as was the custom of their ancient ancestors, the Druids. Yet the reason behind the tradition has long been forgotten.

Among many nations The CHRISTMAS GOOSE and the YULE CAKE were essential articles in the worship of the Babylonian Messiah. It was believed that the goose could not be eaten except in the depth of winter. In Rome, the offering of a goose and a thin cake was believed to be the only way to pacify the god, Osiris, if he had been offended. The exchanging of Christmas gifts, the wreath, the holly, and Santa Claus are all equally unscriptural and clearly identifiable with Babylonian traditions.

WHAT AN ABOMINABLE MIXTURE!

In none of this have we meant to imply that anyone is worshiping idols or serving false gods. However, we do trust that you can see the tremendous mixture of godless pagan practices associated with this season. We also hope you can see the iniquitous lie that has been handed down to us from an apostate church.

Moreover, we are guilty of not searching the word of God to see if these things were so. It is import to seek out and find if there be any truth within such a dogma of religious ritual. Many became enslaved to the greed and godless commercialism that proceeded out from the hearts of carnal profiteers, because they did not search out these things. (Prov. 1:10-19, 15:26-27; Acts 17:10-11; Rom. 13:8, 8:8-14; Eph. 4:17-20; 2Th. 3:16-17).

Now, we know the truth about this day that we esteem above another. Also, we now understand its customs, or meats, are a result of pagan practices. Therefore, let us ask ourselves a few very important questions concerning the liberty we have found in Christ Jesus, our Lord to eat the meat offered to idols. After all, we are no longer under the law which dictates, "*thou shalt*" or "*thou shalt not.*" We now walk by the law of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus. This is where we begin to learn to discern both that which is worthless and that which is worthwhile, expedient, or profitable. (Rom. 8:2; 1Co. 6:12; Gal. 5:1, 13; Heb. 5:13-14).

IS IT EXPEDIENCE OR PROFITABLENESS?

Is the Christmas season beneficial for producing a worship of God that is in the reality of spirit and truth? For God is seeking such to worship him. Jesus clearly told us that the hour is coming, and already is, when TRUE WORSHIPERS will worship the Father in Spirit reality. (John 4:23-24; Ph¹. 3:1-3).

Is there anything about Christmas that is truly EXPEDIENT or PROFITABLE in ones walk with God? Jesus came to redeem us out of the unprofitable life of sin and death. Paul tells us we are to find out what is acceptable to the Lord. He also tells us to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (Eph. 5:10-12).

What advantage is there to following along with Babylon? Now all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. However God says, he would teach us to profit in ALL GODLINESS. Thus, we must come forth out of Babylon. Moreover, it is necessary to separate from all of her religious falsehood and idolatry. This is so we do not become partakers of her judgments, even as we have participated in her sins. There is absolutely nothing to be profited by attempting to satisfy our fleshly, soulish nature, or by gaining and possessing the entire world in its orderly arrangement of things. We can never come to the full knowledge of truth by observing carnal customs and religious traditions. Remember. The word of the Lord is Spirit and it is life which can only be heard and adhered to through the Spirit of truth. (Isa. 48:16-22; Jer. 2:11; M^t. 16:24-26; 2Co. 6:14-7:1; Rev. 18:4-5; 1Ti. 4:8; Tit 3:8).

So as you received Christ Jesus, LET US WALK IN HIM, rooted and built up and established by the faith. Moreover, abound in the faith with thanksgiving. Remember. It is obedience and godliness that shall profit you in all things. BEWARE and see to it lest anyone spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONS OF MEN, ACCORDING TO THE RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST (Col. 2:6-12, 20-23; Gal. 3: 1-3; 4:8-11; 1Ti. 4:7-9; 6:6).

ARE WE CAUSING SOME TO STUMBLE?

Next, we must ask ourselves what kind of a testimony are we giving by adhering to the Christmas season? Clearly, the keeping of the traditions of Christmas is not spiritually profitable. So are we causing our younger brethren to excel in the things that pertain to God by keeping this festival? Or would we be accusable of becoming a stumbling block to the young of the flock? Have we lead some into the blindness and weakness of earthly carnality, indebtedness and pagan practice? (Rom. 14:17-23; M^t. 5:19, 23:13).

HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?

We must also ask ourselves, what does God have to say about his people mixing worship to Him with the traditional religious practices of the heathen? The word is very clear on this issue. It says that we are not to walk in the manner or customs of the nations because God abhors them. It also declares that we are to separate ourselves from all that has to do with Babylon so that we will not become partakers of her sins and her judgments. Therefore brethren, hear this word of the Lord and come out from among them and divorce yourselves from all of her blasphemous ways. (Jer. 10:1-5; 2Co. 6:14, 7:1; Rev. 18:1-5, 20:22-24).

Some would say that they are no longer under law. They are correct. FOR IF WE ARE IN CHRIST, we are not UNDER LAW, because we are FULFILLING THE LAW and thereby have come ABOVE LAW! Hallelujah! An example of

this is when you are traveling on the freeways of our nation at fifty six miles an hour or more, you are breaking the law. Thus, one becomes subject to the law and its penalties. Therefore, such a person is also UNDER THE LAW. However, if you drive a constant fifty five miles an hour, or a little less, you are fulfilling the law and it no longer holds any power or penalty for you.

However, we must also realize that the law is always there, even when we fulfill it. Knowing this, the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient. Thus, to fall back into the fifty six mile an hour realm brings us to a place where we become answerable to the law. The law of God will not pass away until the present heaven and earth becomes fully dissolved with fire. Thus, the only way of not being under the law is to be abiding fully in Christ. That is, living in the dimension of faith that works by LOVE. (M't. 5:17-20; Gal. 3:21, 4:6, 8-11, 5:6, 22-26; 1Ti. 1:8-11; 1Jo. 2:6).

WHAT IS TRUE LIBERTY???

You must also ask yourselves if you have really found LIBERTY to keep the festivities of the Christmas season? Or are you actually UNDER THE POWER OF CHRISTMAS? In other words, has it become so habitual with you that it does not really matter what the truth is about this festive season. Is it necessary to keep the holiday, with all of its trimmings in order to have peace with yourself, family, friends, and brethren? If this is so, then continue to take part in it and any other so called Christ centered holy day. No one will ever think any less of you. However, if for one season you begin to declare the truth about this feast of pagan origin, you will find that the carnal, religious world will withstand you. Moreover, they will speak against you even as the Lord said they would. Remember. Jesus said, *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love her own. However, because you are not of the world, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, the world abhors you."* (M't. 10:34-42; M'r. 13:9-13; Lu. 14:25-33; Joh. 15:18-27, 17:13-17; 1Co. 6:12).

IT IS NOW BETWEEN YOU AND GOD!

In summary, let us restate, the things written herein are not meant to bring anyone into the bondage of a law which would say you cannot keep Christmas with the rest of the world and be a child of God. This simply would be as untrue a statement as the holiday itself. However, we do believe that each one must consider the truth concerning these things. Then they must decide for themselves how much mixture and pollution is acceptable before God. (Ez. 20:39). As for our family, we are convinced that the word is clear when it says, *"COME YE OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE YE SEPARATE."* We are convinced that this is referring to all things that have to do with ungodliness. Therefore, we no longer participate in this godless attempt to mix CHRIST with IDOLATRY!

FINAL ARGUMENTS!

Many will say, *"but this is one of the few times during the year that all men are caused to think of Jesus!"* Yet, we would declare, it is not the Christ of Spirit and reality that they are seeing. It is truly ZEUS of the spirit of antichrist. Some will say, *"but the spirit of giving that men have at this season is surely a godly thing!"* Again we submit to your consideration: if it is a godly thing, why do men only get into the "mood" for giving once a year? The nature of the one we have come to know is to give continually of all that you accumulate. Again, you can learn for yourself how much of this "Yuletide gift" exchange is done out of godly love and not get. Just cease to participate for one Christmas season and see how few cards and gifts come in the following year.

The joy and merriment of the season, we have found to be counterfeit and we thank God for the revelation of its falsehood. People find that the joy and gladness mount with the expectation of the season, until the morning of the twenty-fifth, when the last gift is opened. Then with an immediate let-down and depression, men, women, and children look at what they wanted and did not get instead of rejoicing in their OVER ABUNDANCE. How can we look at this season and for one moment declare it to be of the Spirit of the living God when we have found it to be based upon so great a falsehood and idolatry?

IN CONCLUSION

I will close this writing by quoting, the late, Bill Britton, *"No, we are not celebrating the Mass for Christ or any other pagan 'holy day' or holiday. KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS? CERTAINLY NOT! What for, I'd like to know? What fellowship has Christ with the liquor-drinking crowd that celebrates the birth of the pagan god? What does He have in common with the funny old, fat man with the red suit and white beard, the lies told to little children, the commercialized 'greed season'? Enjoy the school vacation, the time off from work, the visit with the folks, BUT KEEP CHRIST OUT OF THAT PAGAN REVELRY CELEBRATED BY THE WORLD WITH ITS POMP AND CEREMONY. Birthday of Jesus?"*

He was not born in December. Keep Christ in your heart, in your life, every day of the year, BUT KEEP HIM OUT OF THE RIOTOUS REVELRY KNOWN AS CHRIST'S MASS.

I respect the deep affections and sentiments shown by sending out gifts and cards to friends, but forgive me if I don't seem to 'care enough to send the best.' I do love you, and here it is 3:00 a.m., with me still working trying to get this paper finished in time to get it in the mail before the Christmas rush. I want to bless you, to help and share with you. I don't have any real hang-up about the holiday thing, but it is about time we get weaned away from Babylon's practices and become a separated people with a real testimony as to why we are separated.” (Voice of the Overcomer, December 5970). SO BE IT!!!

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And gross darkness the people:
But the Lord shall arise upon thee,
And His glory shall be seen upon thee.”
Isaiah 60:1-2

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