

One of the things that strikes me, while perusing friends posts on FB, is well intended statements of ignorance. I don't mean uneducated people posting. I'm talking about well educated, well meaning folks who have inherited lies. Don't get me wrong, I was just like that for most of my life, walking in error, knowing something didn't quite add up but so many others were in agreement with the error it MUST be true, right? WRONG.

Here's what I'm referring to. A woman I went to HS with had a family friend pass away and I see this post, partially copied:

"I can just imagine her and \_\_\_\_\_ putting on the children's Christmas program in heaven. It will be spectacular."

You might say, "What's wrong with that?" To the true Bible believer, I would say "You are not studying to show yourself approved." (Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Ti 2:15)

There are a few things wrong with it, but I will point to the most egregious error and the most commonly held one, to boot. Christmas is a pagan holiday adopted from Babylonian sun-god worship with a whitewash veneer of Christian themes.

"WHAT!?" you say? Yes. Pagan. Not like the pagan nature worship you think of by today's definition, but pagan as in Biblical terms. Jeremiah 10 describes Christmas tree decorating. Further, Easter is fully referenced in Ezekiel 8:13, 14 reference the practice of Lent (weeping for Tammuz was a 40 day sacrifice of 1 worldly pleasure as a donation to Tammuz, the sun god) Ezekiel 8:15, 16 references the sunrise service for the sun god, and Jer. 7:18 references hot cross buns in honor of Astarte (Easter), the bare breasted fertility goddess and the ONLY reference to "the queen of heaven," a title the pagans came up with, not our Heavenly Father.

You'll notice all those scriptures are in the OLD testament, and written LONG before our Savior and King was born in a manger.

There are PLENTY of resources on the internet that prove this if one is truly interested in worshipping our Heavenly Father in Spirit and in TRUTH. So

I'm not going to give you a history lesson in this note. But the historical record proves this out. If you want a quick primer on it, there are a few resources that come to mind:

"Truth or Tradition: Should Christians Celebrate Christmas and Easter" by Passion for Truth ministries on YT.

[https://youtu.be/VGgt\\_dsdLWs](https://youtu.be/VGgt_dsdLWs)

"Sunburned" by 119 Ministries on their website: [testeverything.net](http://testeverything.net)

<http://119ministries.com/sunburned-part-1>

<http://119ministries.com/sunburned-part-2>

or if you prefer reading, "Time is the Ally of Deceit" and "Too Long in the Sun" by Richard Rives

[http://www.amazon.com/Time-Ally-Deceit-Richard-Rives/dp/0982284403/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1432122798&sr=8-1&keywords=time+is+the+ally+of+deceit](http://www.amazon.com/Time-Ally-Deceit-Richard-Rives/dp/0982284403/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1432122798&sr=8-1&keywords=time+is+the+ally+of+deceit)

These all document the corrupting of the church from the earliest of days. Further exposure of the derailing of the faith delivered to us by the Apostles can be found (also on YT) and is by far the most concise record of where and why the church derailed as early as 100 years after the resurrection. This is one of my favorite resources because of it's historical timeline which documents the actual people who had a hand in the derailment:

[https://www.youtube.com/user/7HouseofDavid/videos?spfreload=10?&ab\\_channel=7HouseofDavid](https://www.youtube.com/user/7HouseofDavid/videos?spfreload=10?&ab_channel=7HouseofDavid)

Back to the FB post. While you may be saying, "but that's not what Christmas and Easter mean to me!" To this I say, will that be a good argument at the judgment seat when you are being questioned for violating Deuteronomy 12:28-32 where we are SPECIFICALLY told not to take pagan practices and worship our Heavenly Father with them?

Let's read it: "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do [what is] good and right in the sight of the LORD your God. When the

LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

You see, when we take pagan practices and apply them to our Heavenly Father, it reminds Him of the horrendous slaughtering of the children and human sacrifices made to those false gods! Like bringing a set of kitchen knives as a gift to a grieving mother who's child committed suicide by slitting their wrists. WHO WOULD DO THAT? But we do it every time we "worship" Him with pagan traditions.

"He knows my heart," you say? Yes, He does! And that's why He warns us, "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:9, 10

If you are worshipping the Father with pagan ways, the very thing that Israel was rebuked for all throughout the Old Testament, why do you think it's ok for YOU to do so today? In Malachi chapter 3 He warns us, "For I [am] the LORD, I change not;" And in James chapter 1 we read of Him, "with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Have you ever heard the expression, "the way of Cain?" (Jude 1:11) That's doing "God" things YOUR own way! Cain offered a grain offering when an animal sacrifice was called for and he was rebuked by the Heavenly Father Himself. Instead of repenting, he fostered jealousy to the point of murdering his brother who had obeyed and found favor.

Let us remind ourselves who we belong to. And if we truly DO belong to Him, then we should want to please Him and honor HIS wishes, not our own warm fuzzies of family traditions and churchianity. The time to repent

and make ourselves ready for the Bridegroom is already here and the hour is late. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth." John 4:23, 24

I'll leave you on this Scripture, 1 John 5:1-3 "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

May we be counted worthy to escape those things to come. (Lk. 21:36)

Shalom.