

# Keeping Christmas – does it matter?

## (Assuming we plan to worship God in our Christmas, that is)

*Philip Shields sermons*

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[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

*All scriptures are NKJV unless otherwise noted.*

*Note: I often refer to God as YHVH; to Jesus as Yeshua.*

**Summary:** *It's Christmas season again. Most of you who come to this site realize Christmas has very pagan roots, long before Christ was born. But is it OK with God for us to observe Christmas with its pagan roots, as long as we do it unto Christ, and in our hearts know we're worshiping HIM, and not the pagan gods? What does YHVH say about that? What did Paul and Yeshua teach about that? And how should we deal with all the issues that come up in this season - the issue of gift giving, Christmas parties and so on.*

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Hello, members of the Household of God in the Highest, and may you receive the peace that comes from Yeshua -- shalom everyone. Welcome to all of you from around the world who are hearing or reading our messages on this site, which we record from Florida. All of this is free; we don't charge anyone.

*(To get maximum benefit from this message, I recommend you hear the audio while you follow along with the printed "transcript", that you print out ahead of time.)*

**Has this happened to you already this year?** I'm working away out in the garden and I find **my mind is playing Christmas tunes**. I had stepped in some stores earlier where the music was non-stop Christmas songs and they stuck in my head. I found myself following the beat of Little Drummer Boy – rum tu-tum tum---and then The First Noel... and then wondered out loud why I had those songs in my head. No one can deny that Christmas tunes in particular are very, very beautiful and they're catchy. Even "Feliz Navidad" is catchy. Plus:

- Silent Night,
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing...
- I'll be Home for Christmas...
- I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
- Oh Come all Ye Faithful

Let's admit it; they're all great tunes!

And who can deny the wonder of brightly lit homes. Some go all out. One of our neighbors has a veritable theme park of lights (describe). It IS interesting to see.

But then there's another side of me that says, "Come out of her, my people (Rev. 18:4)" – and since I know that our Savior wasn't born Dec 25, but someone else was – who was an enemy of God thousands of years ago – and that all that's happened is a re-labeling of something very ancient, sinister and ungodly..... I pause, and realize this is not something I'm a part of.

One of the songs I heard out there was saying over and over that “on this day Jesus was born”. But is that anywhere close to being true? And does it even MATTER?

*As many of you know, more and more believers in the Word don't keep Christmas. We can't. I didn't attend the Christmas parties at work – even when they changed the name to Holiday party. I didn't attend the Christmas tree lightings, or the Christmas dinners. Neither did we buy or exchange Christmas gifts or send out Christmas cards – to anyone. We just don't, we haven't, and don't plan to!*

***But would there be anything wrong if I did participate, as long as I did it to the true God, and not to its pagan origins? That's the point of this message today.***

**Oh, don't mistake what I mean here. I LOVE the fact that God the Father so loved us all, everyone, that He sent His one and only, His SON, to live and then die and then be resurrected for us. I love that! I CHERISH that! I marvel at the story of the miraculous birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, and how the angelic choir sang hosannas to the lowest and poorest class of people at that time – the shepherds who were still outside with their flocks. I LOVE the fact they presented the story of the babe in a manger – not to the doctors of theology, not to the High Priest, not to the other priests or to the Pharisees – but to lowly shepherds!**

**But here's the problem:** none of that happened in December and certainly not on Dec 25, the day when the unconquerable sun was being worshiped in pagan Rome during wild Saturnalia festivities in honor of their pagan god Saturn. This went on as well, at many other places around the world! I've given sermons before about the TRUE story of Jesus' birth and how the Christmas Story as we have it is simply a re-labeling of old pagan stories harking back to ancient Babylon.

Check out my sermons given

- in **December 2012 – Paganism in Christianity**
- **December 2009** – The True Story of Jesus' Birth. Much can also be found by a simple Google search.

**Another believer and teacher – Jim Staley – has a very good video (DVD) you can order called “Truth or Tradition”,** though you will have to buy it from his website. But that DVD is jam packed with good historical data showing you the roots and true origins of Santa Claus and his elves, mistletoe in Christmas, the yule log, and so much more. He even goes into all the detail of the pagan roots of the obelisks, steeples, the design of St Peter's in Rome, the origins of Easter and so on. We've known and believed this for 50 years but he does a particularly good job of chronicling it.

**Now here's the point of THIS sermon:** probably some-- maybe many -- of you who come to this site have already bought, or plan to buy, a Christmas tree. You see nothing wrong with being part of the spirit of Christmas with all its admittedly BEAUTIFUL songs, gift giving and you look forward to the family get-togethers. The thought of making this an issue with the rest of your friends and family – is just unbearable. We'll address that later in this message.

And then those people justify that they still keep Christmas this way – and the point of this sermon is to ask, is there anything wrong with this?

**Here's their justification for having a Christmas tree, buying and giving Christmas gifts, and generally participating in Christmas:**

***“But I*** am celebrating the birth of *Christ*, not Nimrod or Mithra or Horus or any pagan deity. I DO keep Christ in Christmas; I am NOT telling my children the lies about Santa Claus. I see nothing wrong with keeping Christmas IF AND WHEN I truly know in my heart that *I* am worshiping the true God and not some ancient pagan deity. I will go to church on Christmas Day; I will be sure to focus on the spiritual side of it and try to avoid the commercialism and the lies about Christmas. If I do that, I see nothing wrong with keeping it. After all, God looks upon the heart, does he not?”

We need to know how to answer someone who believes this.... Especially if that person believing this... is YOU.

Later in this sermon I will do a quick rundown of the pagan roots of Christmas, Easter, New Year's Day, Valentine's and Halloween – but any good Google search will bring that all up as well. In fact, most years I notice the History Channel also makes a point to bring up the pagan roots of Christmas about this time of the year.

Back to my main point in today's message: DOES IT MATTER, if you are worshiping God in your heart as you sing Christmas carols and deck your Christmas tree?

If you are new to the idea that Christmas comes from very, very pagan roots, maybe check out my Dec. 2009 sermon “The True Story behind Jesus' Birth” and the Dec 2012 sermon “Paganism in Christianity”.

### **Did the Early Christians Keep Christmas?**

Here are some things to consider:

- **IF Christmas is to be kept by Christians and believers, why are we not told the exact date of Jesus' birth?** God is VERY specific about the dates HE calls HIS holydays, so if this was to be a sacred day of worship and celebration, why is the DATE never given? In fact, why do TWO of the 4 gospels – Mark and John -- skip the stories of his birth altogether?
- IF Christmas is to be kept by Christians, why do we read NOTHING of it in Scripture? **It was made a CHRISTIAN holiday around 336 AD!** Not until then. Why is there nothing recorded about Paul saying or writing: “I must by all means be in Jerusalem for Christmas, to remember the birth of the Messiah”. Nothing. Nothing like that.
- **We read that we are to remember his DEATH – and even his RESURRECTION – but not his birth.** His resurrection is not the pagan Easter – from Ishtar or Astarte -- - but we remember his resurrection with the Day of the Wavesheaf right after Passover. Check out sermons I have on that in the spring. Some specially refined barley flour was waved/elevated up toward God to be accepted before the rest of the

harvest could continue. That was fulfilled in John 20:17 and beyond. Paul said his lifelong dream was to KNOW YESHUA (Christ) and the power of HIS resurrection! (Philippians 3:9-11). It is his LIFE after his resurrection that saves us today (Romans 5:10). His DEATH paid the penalty of our sins. But then His LIFE becomes OUR life (Col. 3:3), OUR righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30-31; Phil. 1:11), OUR covering – so THAT IS a hugely important day.

- Even the Puritans who came to America BANNED Christmas celebrations for they knew it had very pagan roots. Did you know that? Christmas only began to become more popular around the 1840's and later. It was the Coca-Cola commercial and ad that made Santa Claus and his flying reindeer popular – around 1940's – so they could sell more Coke in the winter. Look it up!

**BUT NEITHER DO WE CONDEMN *PEOPLE* who worship in this way**

Before going on, I must add this: neither do I rise up on my high horse and condemn all those who decide to keep Christmas, especially if they believe they are worshiping the true God in all of that. **Christ “came NOT into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17).** I must follow that example.

I will condemn and preach against **the pagan origins** of Christmas – yes, that I will do. But I will NOT make a point to make specific friends or other associates or family members feel like they're destined for the lake of fire or something because they have a Christmas tree. Nor do I want you to feel I'm condemning you if you bought a Christmas tree.

*But God HAS called me to be a teacher of His word, and so I have to teach the truth – lovingly, and hopefully you will see the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

Sometimes when we see some truth that is new to us, we get on our high white horse and go charging into the night shouting out this new truth to everyone. For most people, this is not helpful. A far more powerful sermon is our lives....something attractive and gracious about the way we now live, as we learn to know Christ more and more, that makes them want what we have.

So yes—I will be ready with an answer, when someone ASKS me why I don't keep Christmas, but I'll try to answer more in a way that doesn't leave them feeling condemned. *One thing I find so compelling about my Saviour is how the basest of mankind somehow were able to feel accepted in his presence... in the presence of Holy GOD himself, God who became flesh (John 1:14).*

So let me explain why I can't keep Christmas, but I will gladly visit with you and you with me – whether you are a Christmas keeper or not. In the end, I have to live by what I have been shown, and yet not judge or condemn others.

One time the disciples and Yeshua were traveling and they weren't invited to stay in a particular city (Luke 9:52-56), so the disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven, like Elijah, and consume “the adversary”. Sometimes, when we learn the truth about Christmas, we start to become overzealous and want to lash out at everyone. Look what Yeshua said about that:

**Luke 9:55-56**

But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Another time, there was the Syrian Naaman – a pagan – whom God used Elisha to heal of leprosy. It would be good to familiarize yourself with the story in 2 Kings 5 if you're unfamiliar with it. When it was all said and done, Naaman asked permission to continue going to his pagan temple, because his king needed to hang on to Naaman, to steady him as he (the king) worshipped. Notice Elisha's response. And what would YOU have said? I think many of us would have said, "Are you KIDDING me? YHWH just healed you—and you KNOW it – and you still want to enter a pagan temple, for *any* reason?"

Let's read it. And remember, Naaman would be what we'd call "new in the faith" at that time.

**2 Kings 5:17-19**

So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to YHWH. Yet in this thing may YHWH pardon your servant: *when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there*, and he leans on my hand, and **I** bow down in the temple of Rimmon — when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may YHWH please pardon your servant in this thing." [Now what would you have said to him?]

**19 Then he [Elisha] said to him, "Go in peace."** So he departed from him a short distance.

I would hope that eventually Naaman found a way out of this dilemma. I feel I have to practice what I know, as I will be held accountable for the things I do see. Look at what Yeshua (Jesus) says:

**John 9:41**

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

So once Father in heaven opens our eyes to see something, we have to act on what we know and understand – or we are more severely judged.

*But I can't and won't condemn those who don't see it yet.* God is kinder to sins of ignorance. On the cross Jesus exclaimed, "Father forgive them, for they KNOW NOT what they do".

But if you ARE starting to see that Christmas-keeping is not something true believers will engage in, this message will help you cope with the aftermath. It is sins of knowledge, when we sin and KNOW better, that He is much tougher on. Those sins we must deeply repent of.

With all that said, let's now go deeper now into WHY it's wrong to celebrate Christmas when you KNOW it is rooted in paganism – EVEN IF you dedicate it, in your mind, to the true God and to Jesus Christ, or as I call him by His Hebrew name – Yeshua the Messiah.

### Lessons from the Gold Calf

#### **Please be turning now in Scripture to Exodus 32.**

There is a very well-known story I want to relate – because most people miss a very important sentence or two in the story that is so relevant to what we're discussing today. Remember how angry God became-- the same God we worship today—when Aaron let the Israelites build a gold calf? I've talked about this before, but it's worth reminding and repeating. (Remember where your Bible says "the LORD", I use the original name of God that is recorded there – YHVH. I will do that throughout this and future sermons.)

#### **Exodus 32:1-10**

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Remember that Israel had come out of Egypt – where just about every living thing was made into a god, except, by the way a lamb. They made gods out of dung beetles, hawks, cats, falcons, crocodiles plus things like the sun and moon, the Nile itself, and on and on. So they were not used to worshipping a God whom you could not see, hold, or touch. This YHVH way of worship was all new to them. Let's pick up at Exodus 32 verse 2 now.

2 And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.

Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

Now notice, still in Ex. 32:5-6 now —the message in verse 5 that so many miss. ***When Aaron was ready to have a day of worship to the gold calf, to whom did he point their worship to? The gold calf? Let's read it.***

5 So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "**Tomorrow is a feast to YHVH.**" Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Aaron had bought into the idea that it's not so bad if we worship a pagan god, BUT dedicate that worship to the true living God. Maybe, just maybe – he reasoned -- it might be alright. But DID that make it right – or did that make God even MORE angry that they were worshipping HIM through a pagan channel? Let's continue in Exodus 32, now verse 7.

7 And YHVH said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf,

and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"

And YHWH said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

Almighty God came very close to wiping out the nation of Israel and starting over with Moses – even though they called it “YHWH worship”! Have you let that sink in?

That's what the “Christian church” - -especially the Roman Catholic Church – did as it went around the world converting pagans to Roman Catholicism: they let them keep their pagan ways and traditions, but just re-labeled them as if they were now worshiping Jesus or Mary or something. More on that later.

**So right here in Exodus 32:5 we have our answer.** Someone can claim all they want to that they are worshiping YHWH in Christmas, but if YHWH has never been in Christmas, and if it was rooted in paganism as you can quickly research yourself and find out – look out! He's not pleased with that worship. He wants to be worshiped in Spirit and truth, remember.

### **Where did “Christmas” come from?**

Christmas comes from ancient pagan rituals that worshiped the return of the sun, after the low point in daylight at the winter solstice. By Dec 25, it was very clear that “the sun had won over darkness” and was “coming back”, so there were ancient Saturnalia rites, celebrations and orgies.

You can also easily find that the ancient Semiramis of Babylon, after the death of Nimrod her husband, ends up getting pregnant and claims her new son is the reborn Nimrod – and he happens to have been born around Dec 25. The ancient Egyptians have statues I have seen, showing a seated mother nursing an infant boy at her breasts. Above the woman is the sun cradled in a crescent moon. This was the original mother and child long before Mary gave birth to baby Jesus/Yeshua.

When God scattered those in Babylon who were trying to come together as one world – in contravention to what God wanted – they took their beliefs around the world with them (the story is in Genesis 11). So those basic beliefs became a part of the Egyptian myths of Isis and Osiris and Horus ... and in Rome it became the Saturnalia and in Persia it was the festivities to Mithra.

The Roman Catholic Church in particular made a habit of making it easier for native peoples to convert. What they did was to let the pagans into “the church” – and let them keep their pagan customs and worship practices – as long as they could RE-LABEL THEM as Christian. So the Yule tree became a Christmas Tree. **ODIN from Scandinavia and Sinterklaas** in Holland became Santa Claus. Odin's 8-legged steed over time evolved into our western version: Santa Claus with 8 reindeer—then Rudolph became the 9<sup>th</sup> eventually.

**Here's what the HISTORY CHANNEL wrote:**

**Here's their link: (control-click on this)**

[http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/why-is-christmas-celebrated-on-december-25?cmpid=INT\\_Outbrain\\_HITH\\_HIS&obref=obnetwork](http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/why-is-christmas-celebrated-on-december-25?cmpid=INT_Outbrain_HITH_HIS&obref=obnetwork)

“Most Christians today probably can’t imagine Christmas on any other day than December 25, but it wasn’t always that way. **In fact, for the first three centuries of Christianity’s existence, Jesus Christ’s birth wasn’t celebrated at all.** The religion’s most significant holidays were Epiphany on January 6, which commemorated the arrival of the Magi after Jesus’ birth, and Easter, which celebrated Jesus’ resurrection. The first official mention of December 25 as a holiday honoring Jesus’ birthday appears in an early Roman calendar from 336 A.D.

**“But was Jesus really born on December 25 in the first place? Probably not. The Bible doesn’t mention his exact birthday, and the Nativity story contains conflicting clues. For instance, the presence of shepherds and their sheep suggest a spring birth. When church officials settled on December 25 at the end of the third century, they likely wanted the date to coincide with existing pagan festivals honoring Saturn (the Roman god of agriculture) and Mithra (the Persian god of light). That way, it became easier to convince Rome’s pagan subjects to accept Christianity as the empire’s official religion”** (underlines and bolded sentences, mine).

Much of our Christmas lore goes back to the Scandinavians, and old Germanic tribes, and Druids – where we get mistletoe, yule logs, Christmas or Yule trees and even Santa Claus (Sinterklaas).

St Nick – Santa Claus and his helper elves – comes from the old Scandinavian pagan mythical god Odin and his black enforcers who looked half- man and half-goat. They taught that around Dec 25 he would announce himself with “ho, ho, ho” – and he’d know if you had been bad or good. If you had been good – you received gifts, but if you had been bad – his goat-like enforcers would hurt you. Now does the song we’ve sung to children at Christmas make some sense? (I got the words mixed up in the audio version. Hey, I don’t keep this stuff!). You know – “Santa Claus is coming to Town”.

“You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not shout, I’m telling you why...Santa Claus is coming to town. He’s making a list, he’s checking it twice, he’s gonna find out who’s naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming to town.”

Then this Santa Claus is given God-like powers – and remember some of the story is tied in to Odin’s Wild Ride across the Scandinavian skies. So the song goes on:

“He sees you when you’re sleeping, he knows when you’re awake, he knows when you’ve been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake...”

WHY OH WHY are the children of the house of God participating in these lies and mixing God’s truth with pagan worship? WHY?



In the ancient story he rode on a horse with 8 legs – and later western commercial interests thought the idea would sell better in the West if he were a jollier figure but with the same Odin-like long beard, riding in a sleigh with 8 flying reindeer. Rudolph the red nose reindeer was the 9<sup>th</sup> deer that was added later in the story.

**Even Wikipedia says this about Santa Claus –**

“The modern figure of Santa Claus was derived from the [Dutch](#) figure of [Sinterklaas](#), which, in turn, was part of its basis in [hagiographical](#) tales concerning the historical figure of Christian [bishop](#) and gift giver [Saint Nicholas](#). During the [Christianization](#) of [Germanic Europe](#), this figure may have absorbed elements of the god [Odin](#), who was associated with the Germanic **pagan** midwinter event of [Yule](#) and led the [Wild Hunt](#), a ghostly procession through the sky.”

I suggest you spend your time- - if you are unconvinced – researching with Google searches – “Origin of Christmas”, “Origin of Santa Claus”, “Pagan roots of Christmas” and so on. You will read all about it with your own eyes. You will get more out of it if YOU dig it out, than just have me tell you some things that might leave you feeling skeptical.

**GOD’s COMMANDS us to worship Him in spirit and TRUTH—HIS way!**

Yeshua (Jesus) gave a very clear statement. Father in heaven wants to be worshiped in spirit and truth. In John 4:23-24, while speaking to the Samaritan woman alone at the well in Samaria, Yeshua says this:

**John 4:23-24**

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him MUST worship in spirit and truth."

It is perhaps this scripture, along with the example in Exodus 32:5 – and some others we will read like Rev. 18:4, that tell me that we believers must worship in TRUTH. There is no way we are worshiping the living God in truth when we include fairy tales and ancient pagan stories of flying men bringing gifts down chimneys, or even to say Christ was born on Dec 25. The shepherds are LONG gone from the fields by December, the rainy season in Judea. As I write this – I just Googled it – it’s raining in Jerusalem (Dec 7-8).

So let’s NOT worship God with lies about Christmas and its pagan roots – and somehow feel Almighty God is going to be happy with that! It’s important to worship Him in TRUTH. It’s important to worship God the way HE says he wants to be worshiped.

**If the date of his birth was important, we’d have been told.** It’s the FACT of his birth that counts – not the date. So I don’t get into the arguments whether he was born on Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah) or on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, as many believe, or if he was born in the spring, as some believe. If it was important to know, we’d have been told! When -- is apparently unimportant.

Be turning now to Deuteronomy 12:29-32. Here, we have instructions being given to Israel to prepare them for entering the Promised Land. Moses knew they would see lots of fun and attractive pagan rites and celebrations, and here’s what Moses told them – and

remember, these things are written down for OUR admonition (1 Cor. 10:11). Again, remember I use His given name – YHVH- when it is so stated in Scripture, rather than the mistranslation “the Lord”. He is our Everliving one, eternal one, the great ‘I am’ – Yehoweh, or YHVH.

**Deuteronomy 12:29-32**

"When YHVH your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, 30 **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.'**

**31 You shall not worship YHVH your God in that way; for every abomination to YHVH which He hates they have done to their gods;** for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

**32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**

Now, does that sound like our great living God – who changes not, who is the same yesterday, today and forever – does that sound like He suddenly is impressed with us putting HIS NAME on pagan customs that date back to the arch-enemies of the people of God? Absolutely not. He hates that! I'm referring to Nimrod and Semiramis and the pagan cultures that came out of ancient Babylon and are still extant today!

**But IS IT OK TO MIX AND MATCH truth and error, paganism with God's purity?**

For the answer, be turning next to Deuteronomy 12, the first few verses.

A few years ago I was in Rome. There they have a big church – a Catholic church today – that was built originally to all the pagan gods and goddesses around Rome. It was called the Pantheon – Pan- all; theo- gods.. ...to ALL the pagan gods. Now it's a major “Christian” – or at least Catholic – church.

Instead of claiming victory over the pagan gods and continuing to use the building, the living God would have had it burned to the ground and turned to rubble!

**Deuteronomy 12:1-4**

These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. 2 **You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods,** on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

**3 And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. 4 You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.**

Almighty God repeats this in Deut 7:4-5. He states it also in Exodus 34:12-15—destroy their places of worship, break down their sacred pillars...

Do you know what the sacred pillars were? They were the OBELISKS. They were phallic symbols of the excited male. In front of St Peter's Basilica is an ancient Egyptian obelisk full of the pagan gods of Egypt carved out on it. The real Peter would have been appalled! OF course, the real Peter of the Bible was never the first Pope anyway, but that's for another time. And the real Peter would have never worn all those ornate robes and funny looking headdresses or presided over a multi-trillion dollar empire.

Those sacred pillars are incorporated into many modern churches today – in the form of the well-recognized Steeples. These frankly were ancient sex worship of the excited male organ. Let that sink in!!! In the KJV, the FEMALE counterpart, that they worshiped, is referred to as “the groves” – the Asherah sites, to lewd female sex worship (Judges 3:7 is one example). There was Baal – meaning “the Lord” – and there was Asherah, the female consort of Baal, to whom they also had pagan idols erected, at times even right in the very temple of YHVH. There are elements of this that can be found even in Christmas celebrations and other “Christian” holidays like Easter, especially, today.

But what does the one true God say?

**Leviticus 18:1-5**

Then YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **'I am YHVH your God.**

**3 According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall NOT do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.**

4 You shall observe MY judgments and keep MY ordinances, to walk in them: I am YHVH your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: **I am YHVH.**

SO what have we done? We've learned from the pagans of ancient Holland and Scandinavia and the ancient Druids and Romans and Egyptians – and just re-labeled everything. It doesn't work with God, brethren.

How about in the New Testament? IS the teaching the same? Remember that the ONLY SCRIPTURE they had for many decades are the very books we now call “the OLD Testament”. The early believers simply knew those books as “the Scriptures”. They didn't call them Old scriptures – just “the Scriptures” – at least 18 times.

**1 Corinthians 10:18-22**

18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

**21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? **And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:**

"I will dwell in them And walk among them.

I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters",

Says the Lord Almighty.

We are NOT to mix and match their pagan ways with God's ways. But neither does "come out from among them" mean we have no interaction with your neighbors or others. Yeshua said he was sending his disciples INTO THE world, though they are NOT OF the world.

But we don't participate in their pagan ways! Christmas and Easter can both be so easily proven to have deep, deep pagan roots. Start your own Google research and find out for yourself.

**Jeremiah 10:2-4 This is probably discussing an idol – but it sure sounds like a Christmas tree as well, in principle.**

**Jer 10:2-4**

**Thus says YHVH:**

**"Do not learn the way of the Gentiles;**

Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

**3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.**

4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

**Revelation 18:4-5**

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

WE are to come OUT of Babylon. That is where all this started! We are to have NOTHING to do with it.

But neither do we condemn those who don't "see" the things we see yet. None of us measures up to the holiness of Almighty God. All of us fall short of the glory of God. All of us – me, you, all of us. So we're in no position to judge or condemn others. But WE WILL be judged by what has been revealed *to us*, as Yeshua told the Pharisees – whether we act on what we've learned or not.

## **HANDLING THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE**

### **GIFTS**

Your children do not need to be left out. Give them gifts and new things at Yah's holy days. We do it especially at the Feast of Tabernacles and the 8<sup>th</sup> day – 8 days of celebrating and

feasting. It's much nicer than Christmas. And the children really look forward to it. But no, I don't give gifts at Christmas.

Besides, the Wise men gave 3 special gifts to the Christ-child, not to each other! The idea of giving gifts to one another is yet another piece we took from the ancient pagans.

**Let your LIFE-LIGHT shine.**

Don't be a fog horn, but a warm light. And don't shine your light irritatingly into someone's eyes. Let them see our lives are changing

Do not go on a tirade against your Christmas-keeping relatives or friends.

Let's let our positively changed LIFE preach more than our words do.

That's all I will say about this topic today. I live in Florida and would be honored to meet any of you by phone or email – or someday in person. Email me: [pws2010@gmail.com](mailto:pws2010@gmail.com)

Now your next step – is your next step. May you choose and live the way you know is right, with Christ's life being lived in you.

And may our Father in heaven bless you, keep you, watch over and protect you. May His face beam with joy when he thinks of you. May he send you his many blessings, answer your prayers to be better than any of us could have ever imagined in the end, when it's all said and done. May he cause you to walk in His way, obediently, joyfully and humbly, as we invite Yeshua (Jesus) to come into our lives and hearts and to re-live HIS life in us. And may you receive HIS joy, HIS love, His righteousness and of course His SPIRIT and His peace – His shalom. And may He put HIS name on you and your family.

Until next time, this is your brother in Christ signing off.