
Seasonal Scam Alert!

The Real Reason for the Season

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

We are warned to beware lest people spoil you, have you, possess you, your family, your possessions, all that you are, through the philosophies, traditions and elements of the world. These spoilers, these thieves are cheating people out of their livelihood and more.

Scam artists are especially on the rise this time of year. It has been reported that there is evidence of another scam and it has come to our attention that it is not just something locally operative, but globally, and that it has been operative for some time.

As is the case with most crimes of this nature, the crime is not committed in open sight or recognizably so. After all, doesn't the Scriptures tell us in ***Proverbs 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.***

This particular scam involves the stealing of the time, money, among other things, from other people, and in the process, sells those same people into slavery. The worst part of it is that those who fall prey to these frauds end up promoting their scam and most don't even realize, believe, or care they are doing it, yet, still suffer the effects of slavery, often not knowing what the scam is, where it comes from, and thus, get no deliverance or freedom from it and eventually die from it.

The way this rip-off works is that the kingpin of the whole operation has come up with a con-game that makes the bait so pleasing to the flesh, appealing to the eye, seductive to the ear, so pleasant to the smell, so tantalizing to the tastebuds, and so popular with the masses, that it charms across all people and cultures, that the person being swindled is actually having so much fun that he doesn't realize, believe,

or care if he is being taken to the slave market and then to the slaughterhouse.

Another strategy of his is to call those who seek to reveal the truth as party-poopers, legalists, and so forth,...to scare them away and those who are inquisitive are afraid to know the truth lest they be, in turn, ridiculed like these people, and so go back and get lost in the festivities again.

You may say, this is awful, these people are going to be slaves, we have to do something! That is exactly what we propose to do, by God's help.

All of God's people realize that all such deceptions are the result of sin. Sin deceives, enslaves, and kills. God's Word is the DNA detector, the fingerprint matcher, to reveal the perpetrators involved. Satan's DNA and fingerprints are all over this scam, but he has covered his tracks very cleverly.

Upon considering *Seasonal Scam Alert!*, we will examine first, *The Evidence of the Scam*; second, *The Identity of the Scam*; third, *The Origins of the Scam*; and fourth, and finally, *The Escape from the Scam*.

I. The Evidence of the Scam

- A. The largest piece of evidence is linked to the rampant idolatry against God. Every sin has idolatry in it somewhere. Idolatry is strictly and clearly forbidden in the very first commandment, ***Thou shalt have no other gods before Me—Exodus 20:3.***
- B. This is further evidenced by violations against the second commandment in ***Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,...***one case in point: idols of shepherds, wise men, supposed representations of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus scattered around during this time of year, and yet, it is presented as acceptable, even admirable, in some cases.
- C. This, at first glance, seems irrelevant to the scams against people, but because God's commandments are for our good, anything

contrary to His commandments are bad for us. As Creator, He is the only One Who really knows this, in part, because He knows us, as Creator. Any sin against God, is a sin against ourselves, and others.

- D.* Have you noticed that there are a lot of people walking around, spending money they don't have.
- E.* No one is holding a gun to them, but they are willingly, as if by some unseen influence, putting themselves into debt as if they are obligated to give these credit card companies their money.
- F.* They even camp out in front of the stores, and trample upon each other, fight with each other for things that they will only use in this short life.
- G.* There is another odd thing going on at this same time of year, and we believe there is a connection. Multitudes of people are buying evergreen trees, even ones which have been cut down, with no apparent protest from the tree huggers. Very strange, indeed!
- H.* These same trees and other items are put in homes, businesses, even some government offices, with lights all over them.
- I.* Businesses are advertising at a maddening pace, with certain music that is played only at this time of year, decorating, and raking in the money that comprises over 50% of their annual earnings!
- J.* Then, there are these guys with red suits and white beards all claiming to be the same person from the North Pole with elves and reindeer working for him. The odd thing about is that everyone seems to be okay with his well-known false impersonations and wild tales of flying reindeer all over the world in one night to deliver toys to all the children all over the world, and forgeries of letters left at many homes.

- K.** There is an unusual increase of drunkenness, drug abuse, sexual immorality, marital infidelity, murders, suicide, and overall crime during this time of year.
- L.** Another interesting phenomenon in this is public displays of religion proclaiming joy, peace, and good will towards all. Sounds like a possible attraction of distraction to mask the real perpetrator.
- M.** Just recently, there was the misuse of federal funds, our tax dollars to fund, an illegal alien invasion which most people don't want.
- N.** There is much more, but what we have mentioned all adds up to somebody making out like a bandit and using all the tricks of the trade to manipulate the masses to steal their time, money and enslave them and eventually kill them.

II. The Identity of the Scam

- A.** The fact that this scam has gone under different names over time and across people and cultures makes it difficult to trace down and identify the culprit.
- B.** It doesn't matter what name is used, as long as the people are deceived.
- C.** There are some witnesses that testify that we need to look more closely at the kingpin himself and not be ignorant of his devices.
- D.** We have the witness of Jeremiah the prophet who says in ***Jeremiah 10:1-10 ¶ Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: 2 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. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of***

the hands of the workman, with the axe. 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. 5 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. 6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. 7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. 8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. 9 Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men. 10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

- E.* This identifies the scam, among other things mentioned beforehand, to be none other than the mass celebrated on December 25th.

III. The Origins of the Scam

- A.* As Jeremiah indicates and our text, the origins can be traced to false religion, which can be traced to man, and ultimately to Satan the Great Deceiver.
- B.* According to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, the Roman Catholic Christmas links to the Roman Festival of Saturnalia. It was celebrated by Romans from 17th to 25th of December,

which had no traits of Christian custom, but actually celebrates the festival of Saturnus. Roman History also cited that during this period, Roman courts were closed and no one could be punished for damaging property or injuring people, according to the research of William Ramsay, M.A. of University of Glasgow. This implies that some Romans can deliberately do crimes during the period, as if the law and justice also had their holidays. This manner perhaps made transition in our times where crime rates are at its peak during the same season.

- C.* There never was a Christmas before the middle of the fourth century, even in Rome. In Jerusalem, it was first observed in the fifth century, and then we are told it caused rioting in the streets.
- D.* The world's leading reference works on the subject and they all agree that no one knew the date of Christ's birth, and some of them say we cannot be sure as to the actual year in which He was born. But, in order for the Catholic Church to have a big feast day, it was necessary for some date to be set for His birthday. The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia says that in order for the shepherds to have been out that night with their flocks it would have been necessary for His birth to have occurred sometime between March and September. The Catholic Church, however, could not celebrate Christmas at that time of the year as we shall see later. It must be in December whether there were any shepherds and sheep out that night or not.
- E.* First, however, let us consider some of the things which were put into Christmas to make it so universally loved. In Babylon, that great heathen Chaldean city, pagan religion reached

its peak so far as ancient history was concerned. Here in Babylon the queen of heaven and her son had their beginnings in the persons of Semeramis and her son, Tammuz. When Belshazzar was slain (Daniel 5:30) and the Chaldeans defeated by Dailus, the Mede, it seems the capital of the pagan religious world was moved from Babylon to Pergamos. Later, at the death of Attalus III, Phrygia was given to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C. The Babylonian pagan worship was then removed to Rome where Semeramis and Tammuz became Fortuna and Jupiter. This queen of heaven and her son became the very heart of pagan, or idol worship throughout the world. They were called by different names in different countries. In Egypt they were Isis and Osiris, in India they were Isi and Iswara, in other parts of Asia they were Cybele and Plutus, but they were all the same queen of heaven and her son. All of these were dumped into Christmas under the new name of Mary and Jesus. This new name did not affect the pagan people of the world too much, for no matter what you call a dish of flesh-pleasing sin, it still attracts sinners.

- F.* As Catholicism rationalized, we just changed the names, so did they with Nimrod, Semiaramis when they went from Babylon, to Egypt, to Greece, to ancient Rome, to Vatican Rome, to the New World Religion.
- G.* Just because East Germany in days gone by called themselves the DDR, Deutsche Demokratish Republik, doesn't mean they went from Communist to a German Democratic Republic by changing the name. It was still Communist.
- H.* Why Christmas must be in December. Even back in ancient Babylon the birth of Tammuz

was celebrated in our December. The heathen sun worshipers throughout the northern hemisphere all celebrated the rebirth of the sun at the time of its turning back toward the North, that is about December 25. Tammuz, Oriris, Iswara, Deoius, Plutus and Jupiter were all representatives of the sun in their respective countries. These heathen people had been brought into the Catholic Church, mainly through the efforts of Constantine the great. They were still just as heathen as they were before they were incorporated into the Catholic Church, and they were going to continue celebrating this great feast at this same time. It did not matter too much what their god was called. It was still a representative of their sacred god, the sun. But the time of their feast could not be changed, because the sun starts on his return toward the North at only one time of the year. Even old Satan, with the help of all his able efficient coworkers, could not change that time. Therefore, Christmas had to be December 25, whether the shepherds were out that night with their flocks or not.

I. As much as the head of the Catholic Church likes to boast of his God-like power and authority, this was one time when he was completely helpless. He had absolutely no choice in the matter. His problem was clear. If he wanted to make good Catholics out of his host of heathens he must give their queen of heaven and their god a Christian name. So Mary and Jesus had to be the name and December 25 had to be the date.

J. The Jesus of Holy Scripture is not the reason for the season and there is no such thing as "Putting Christ back in Christmas," If we read Jeremiah 5:30-31 in our everyday language it

says, the preachers preach false things and the priests run things their own way, and my people love to have it so.

- K.* Certainly it is not the Spirit of Christ that gives us all that freedom at Christmas time, but rather it is the spirit of Saturnalia. In ancient pagan Rome a week of feasting and merry-making was observed in the latter part of December. During this feast everyone, even the slaves, were permitted to do just as they pleased. Things like gambling, etc., which were prohibited at other times, were winked at during Saturnalia. This feast was brought over from ancient pagan Rome by modern pagan Rome and dumped into Christmas to give it that tangy flavor and make people look forward to it with great anticipation.
- L.* In Jeremiah 7:18 I found that even in his day, some 600 years before Christ was born of the virgin Mary, the children gathered wood, and the men kindled the fire, and women made cakes to the queen of heaven, to provoke God to wrath. In Jeremiah 10:3-5 I learned that the customs of the people in his day were vain because they went out in the woods with an ax, cut down a tree, took a hammer and nails to fasten it upright, and then decorated it with silver and gold. God said it was a vain custom, and vanity is one thing He hates.
- M.* Under the heading of commandments of men, and Jesus did not sound too complimentary in Matthew 15:9 when He said, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."
- N.* The celebration of Christmas is a mixture of pagan Babylon's "mystery" idolatry in its purest form, imported through Pergamos (Rev. 2:13) into Rome, and there incorporated into her pagan religious ritual, and from thence

introduced into the world by the Roman Catholic Church as a commemoration of Christ's birth. A wealth of proof can easily be produced today to put this fact beyond question.

- O.* First, we must remember that Satan's chief object has always been to claim the honor and worship due to the most High God. For it is written in Isaiah: "How art thou cut down to the ground. who didst lay low the nations. For thou hast said in thine heart. I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:12, 13, 14).
- P.* In keeping with these words of Isaiah long centuries before the time of Christ, Satan in his bid for the worship due to God, instituted a great pagan feast which was celebrated at that exact time of the year in the Chaldean city of Babylon. This heathen celebration was in honor of the birth of Tammuz or Bel or Bacchus who was the son of Semeramis, or Cybele or Rhea, the Chaldeans queen of heaven.
- Q.* Now in Babylon where the sun was worshiped, it was not worshiped as merely a light giving divinity, but as the Incarnate God. And one essential in this Chaldean worship was, that Baal was that same God. So when Tammuz was worshiped as God incarnate the implication was that he was an incarnation of the sun, or Baal.
- R.* When Belshazzar was slain (Dan. 5:30) and the Chaldeans defeated by Darius the Mede, those with authority and power to continue Babylon's idolatrous "mystery" worship, fled to the city of Pergamos, where afterward a Christian Church was founded (Rev. 2:13). There for many

centuries Satan himself brought about the worship of Aesculapius, the child of the "incarnate sun." This worship was celebrated in frantic excesses of evil as Babylon's "mystery" idolatries were perpetuated in their exile. Then in the course of time, at the death of Attalus III when Phrygia was given to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C., the worship of pagan Babylon was removed from Pergamos and its wicked course renewed in the city of Rome on the Tiber.

S. Now nearly every recorded form of pagan worship which has descended from the Babylonian "mysteries" focuses the attention of its deluded worshipers on a mother god and the birth of her child. In Egypt the mother and child were Isis and Osiris. In India they were Isi and Iswara. In Asia the mother was Cybele and the son Deoious. In Greece we find Ceres and her son Plutus, Even in Tibet and China the mother was Shing Moo, and her son was devoutly worshipped with her. Lastly, we have many records of the mother Fortuna and her son Jupiter in pagan Rome. In the worship of all these false gods there has been more or less departure from the original Babylonish form. Only in the Roman Catholic Church can we find today the pure idolatry of the ancient Chaldean "mysteries." From that source has emanated the greatest "mystery" idolatry of all ages. For Rome has given to the world this mother and child worship of wicked Babylon of old, concealed beneath the Satanic disguise of a commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

T. How did this come to pass? In the third century when the Apostolic Church was in its infancy, grievous wolves entered among the flock of God speaking perverse and evil doctrines. Slowly and cautiously at first (Acts 20:29), they began

to bring Rome's pagan worship among the believers Constantine's false conversion and his edict making Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire, rapidly developed the imported paganism in the worship of the fast decaying Church of Rome.

U. Now Rome's way of converting the other pagans to her style of worship has always been to absorb them gradually, along with their idolatrous observances. So about the 4th century the Roman Church brought the worship of Semeramis the Babylonish queen of heaven and her son Tammuz into her ritual, disguised as the worship of Mary and her son Jesus. Then followed the December 25th commemoration of the birth of Christ, and the evil institution of the "mass" for Christ, and behold!--the iniquity of Christmas was launched forth! Thus the pagans in the now apostate Church could worship the queen of heaven and observe the birth of her son Tammuz while the untaught unsuspecting believers thought they were honoring Christ in the same ritual, Behold the trail of Satan's Christmas festive ritual of counterfeit! From Babylon on the Euphrates, to Pergamos once the capital of Asia, to Rome upon the Tiber and thence into the apostate Church there, finally to emerge through the Roman Catholic Church a flood of lying pagan wonders, covering the earth!

V. Now since the Roman Catholic Church is truly the "Mystery, Babylon the Great" of Rev. 17, and the virgin in her sanctuaries is the real and actual Chaldean queen of heaven, and her blasphemous representation of the birth of Christ is, in fearful reality, a form of devil worship, how we should shrink from having any part in her heaven defying wickedness. For

though some may consider the sin of idolatry a light thing, our God does not, no indeed, for the Almighty has attached the greatest of all threatening to the commandment forbidding false worship.

- W.* The so-called nativity scene: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God. visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:4, 5).
- X.* And shall we, who have been saved by the great grace of God through the atoning blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who enjoy the liberties of a government founded by our Baptist and Puritan fathers who themselves fled from Roman Catholic persecution shall we join hands with that same false and bloody Rome which is daily adding to the fearful list of over 50 million martyrs of Jesus? Shall we embrace and love and celebrate with Babylon the Great, her festivals of iniquity, and shall we do so any longer with our eyes wide open. knowing that her Christ-mass is, after all, just Satan's pagan mockery of the birth of our only Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ?
- Y.* In Alexander Hislops famous book "The Two Babylons" the following quotation concerning the birth of Christ is on page 91 . . . "There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of His birth, or the time of the year He was born."
- Z.* In Webster's Student Dictionary for Upper School Levels, page 145 (a Catholic dictionary used in our schools today) we read . . .

"Christmas. -- Christ + mass. A church festival, December 25. Christmas day commemorating the birth of Christ."

AA. In the Encyclopedia Brittanica, 9th Edition, Vol. 5; page 611 -- we read . . . "Christmas Day, -- There is however difficulty in accepting this (December 25th) as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season when neither flocks nor shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. By the fifth century, however, whether from influence of some tradition or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of the period of the year such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon.

BB. The Encyclopedia Americana, 1942 Edition, Vol. 6, page 623 reads thus . . . "Christmas. -- It was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the fourth century. In the fifth century the western church (Roman Catholic) ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol."

CC. In the new Americanized Encyclopedia Brittanica, 1900, Vol. IX, page 5236, we read . . . "Saturn. -- An ancient Italian god . . . Saturnalias, this is the great 'Festival of Saturn,' celebrated on the 19th, but after Caesar's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December. Augustus decreed that the 17th and the 18th should be sacred to Saturn and the 19th and 20th to Opalia the festivals of Ops. Caligula added a fifth day, 'The Day of Youth,' December 25th lasting seven days. The time was one of

general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed . . . "Gambling and dice at other times illegal was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro thought that these dolls represented original sacrifice of human beings to the Infernal God."

DD. In the "History of the Christian Church" by Fisher on page 65, it is recorded . . . "About the end of this period (3rd century) two new festivals came in. One was Epiphany originating in the East -- the other was Christmas, a festival of Roman origin taking the place of the heathen festival in honor of the sun or of the deity bearing that name, which was celebrated at the winter solstice or on the 25th of December the time erroneously assigned for the solstice in the Julian Calendar."

EE. And as we watch parents, who loudly proclaim the necessity of truthfulness in children, who advocate the need of so many social reformations and who bemoan the juvenile delinquency which prevails, deliberately teach their unsuspecting little ones the monstrous Santa Claus lie.

FF. The name Christmas. This very name is an abomination to our Holy God. The reason for this is that this word Christmas is an unholy and pagan combination of the two words "Christ" and "Mass." Christ died once for our sins (Heb. 9:26). By that ONE offering He has perfected forever every believer (Heb. 10:14).

I. Christ is the divine title of our wonderful Lord and Saviour. "Mas" is just the shortening of the blasphemous "mass" of

Rome. Christ is the head of the true and living Church which He bought with His own blood.

2. The Roman Catholic Church under the headship of the Pope is verily the synagogue of Satan, the false church. She is spoken of in God's Word as "The Mother of Harlots and abomination of the earth" (Rev. 17:5).

GG. The Christmas Tree. During the weeks of Christmas festivities one is met everywhere with these dead evergreen trees arrayed in their glitter and tinsel, reminding us of the lifeless pagan gods of old.

1. The first decorating of an evergreen tree was done by pagans in honor of their god Adonis, who after being slain was brought to life by the serpent Aesculapius. The representation of this slain god was a dead stump of a tree. Around this stump coiled the snake Aesculapius symbol of life restoring. And lo -- from the roots of the dead tree comes forth another and different tree -- an evergreen tree symbolic to pagans of a god who cannot die! In Egypt this god was worshiped in a palm tree as Baal-Tamar. The fir tree was worshiped in Rome as the same new born god as Baal-Berith, who was restored to life by the same serpent, and a feast was held in honor of him on December 25th called the "Birthday of the unconquered Sun."
2. Now in Babylon's "Mystery" system of idol worship the sun was called "Baal," the one and only god. So when Tammuz the son of the queen of heaven was

worshiped as God he was also revered by the name of Baal.

3. Thus we can see how, in the annual custom of erecting and decorating evergreen trees, the Roman Catholic Church has brought down through the ages to us, the paganism of Baal or the worship of the sun, mingled with the worship of Aesculapius the serpent. Whether erected in public or private, a tinsel and spangled evergreen tree is just a glaring symbol of the worship of this false god. So in keeping with the policy of Rome for centuries, while she keeps millions vainly supposing they do honor to Jesus Christ with a Christmas tree, they are actually even if unwittingly commemorating a pagan festival in honor of Baal, which thing our God hates (I Kings 18; Judges 8:33).

4. "For the customs of the peoples are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest. the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne. because they cannot go" (Jer. 10:3, 4, 5).

HH. The date of the birth of Christ. There is not one Scripture in the Word of God which indicates that December 25th is the anniversary of the day on which Christ was born. Neither do we find in that Word anything to prove what time of the year He was born. There is not a verse in the Bible in which can be found the word "Christmas." No one knows the date of the birth of Jesus. There is no reason to connect His birth

with December 25th, except for the purpose of using His name to hide the commemoration of a pagan festival as the Church of Rome has so successfully done.

1. God in His wisdom has chosen to hide the time of His Beloved Son's incarnation. The Bible is the inspired Word of the same Holy God who inhabits Eternity. His dear Son is the central figure in that Word from Genesis to Revelation.
2. Nowhere in the Word of God are we told to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians are commanded to remember His death, both by the Lord Himself in Luke 22:18, 19 and by the Apostle Paul in I Cor. 11:23 to 26. Another thing I have noticed, those who make the most of Christmas day are those who care the least about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the day on which Christ told us to remember His death, the first day of the week -- the Lord's Day.

II. The Holy Spirit by the mouth of Paul once said, "Ye observe days. and months, and times. and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:10,11).

1. I believe that gifts can be great blessings. But a gift is of no value whatever unless it is given in love. Today the common custom seems to be to give a gift at Christmas as a part of a bargain to receive one. How much more then are they mocking God and making themselves abominable to Him, who send gifts to one another at such a time in a pretense of honoring the birth of His Son? And what account shall those Christians give to our God in the day of

judgment, who have annually spent hundreds and even thousands of dollars upon Christmas presents out of their abundance and yet have given little or nothing to support gospel work in our land or in the needy mission fields?

2. The godly wise men from the East gave their gifts to the child Jesus Himself -- not to one another or to their friends. They gave to Him from hearts moved by the Holy Spirit. Their gifts were a part of their worship of the new found Messiah. Neither were their gifts common trinkets but presents of great value showing their heart's true love for their Lord. They did not bring to the Christ child presents that they might receive from Him something in return.

JJ. Please read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 2, then Luke, Chapter 2. For in most of the plays we find in one way or another, misrepresentations about the shepherds, the wise men, the star, the child, the stable, etc.

1. Let us begin to solve this problem by stating that nowhere in God's Word are we informed how many wise men there were. Neither does Scripture state that they followed a star to Jerusalem. Most certainly they knew the way there. Being wise men they knew how the Prophets foretold that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem, When they came to Herod to learn the whereabouts of the new born Christ, it was sometime after His birth. So the same star they had seen before at the time of His birth, now appeared and led them to where the Child was. When the wise men found the Lord Jesus He was

no longer a tiny babe but a child living in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had already returned from taking Him up to Jerusalem, which took place when Jesus was 41 days old (Lev. 12:1-4). Therefore the wise men never saw the Saviour until He had been brought back to Nazareth from the temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:39). They could not possibly have seen Him before, because immediately after their departure, when they had seen the Saviour, Joseph and Mary fled into Egypt with Him and remained there till Herod was dead (Matt. 2:14, 15).

2. It was not the wise men but the shepherds who came to visit the babe Jesus in His manger cradle in Bethlehem. They followed no star either as they did not even see one. They were informed of the birth of their Messiah by the angel of the Lord (Luke 2:10). The visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men are confused, so that the whole story of the birth of Christ becomes a distorted combination of truth and error.

IV. The Escape from the Scam

- A. You've been informed, flee idolatry, keep yourselves from idols.
- B. Maybe you have realized that your religion is a scam, you've been deceived by the great deceiver, Satan, you've deceived yourself, and you've been deceived by others.
- C. The Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ can save you from your sins, your idolatry, your enslavement thereto and the impending doom and death that awaits every sinner without Christ.

- D. Christ was born, yes, of a virgin, yes, but He lived a perfect, sinless life, died as the sacrifice for sin and for sinners, in the place of sinners, to grant them escape and deliverance from their sins and the wrath to come upon sinners.
- E. Jesus did that by taking on the punishment for sin for all who would turn from their sins and trust in Him and Him alone to save them from their sins.
- F. ***"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).***
- G. ***"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).***
- H. Perhaps some well-meaning but untaught Christian will say, "We only keep Christmas to give the children a good time."

Someone may say, "I don't celebrate the mass during this time". Satan doesn't care what you call it, call it Christ-mass, x-mas, winter holiday...as long as you support it, commit idolatry and compromise the truth.

The Pilgrims outlawed the celebration of the mass on December 25th. In fact, no Baptists in America ever celebrated it until the 1800's.

Understand, for those who would hurl insults and false accusations of legalism, this has nothing to do with salvation, but sanctification for starters. I was a bit taken aback at disparaging remarks along these lines that Alistair Begg made towards those who are merely trying to obey the Lord in this matter.

Legalism is primarily a position where one believes that you do certain religious works to gain salvation for your sins. All Arminians are legalists, in a sense, they believe in salvation by works.

Legalism, secondarily, refers to the gaining of higher levels of holiness and sanctification by various religious exercises.

The problem with both forms of legalism is that it is all of grace not of works. Properly following the Holy Scriptures is

not legalism as antinomians attest. Those who give license to sin, religious liberals who are popular in a sin-loving culture, are spoken of in the Bible.

We are not a bunch of frowning Scrooges like the world tries to make us out to be, sorry, but we have joy without all the paganism, our joy is in Christ Jesus alone.

You know, first, they ignore you and shun you, but if you can't do that, and you can't beat 'em, ridicule them, is the tactic of the world. If that doesn't work, make false accusations, frame them, persecute, and kill them. That is what Calvin and Luther are reported to have done to the what were incorrectly called Anabaptists. Don't be surprised when such happens today by professing believers.

But, rejoice, my brethren, so persecuted they the prophets before us, our forefathers after that.

Rejoice that the Father has chosen to reveal such truth to such children, such babes, and not to the doctors, and hi-fluting and soon fleeting titles of men.

There is a day coming when the Fall of Mystery Babylon which the Catholic church is identified with, when the world will grieve over her fall and the saints shall rejoice in her fall. The merchants made so much money off of her, this time of year where more than 50% of her profits came from. See ***Revelation 18:1-24*** **1 ¶ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.**

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9 ¶ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

We don't need a pagan holiday to win people to Christ, I mean do we believe in God's sovereignty or not?

By the grace of God, refuse to be scammed anymore and may the truth make you free, the Truth of Christ, the Truth of the Holy Scriptures.

For our Sovereign Grace friends who have high regard for Spurgeon:

"We have no superstitious regard for times and seasons. Certainly we do not believe in the present ecclesiastical arrangement called Christmas. First because we do not believe in any mass at all, but abhor it, whether it be sung in Latin or in English: Secondly, because we find no scriptural warrant whatever for observing any day as the birthday of the Savior; and consequently, its observance is a superstition, because not of divine authority. Superstition has fixed most positively the day of our Savior's birth, although there is no possibility of discovering when it occurred. It was not till the middle of the third century that any part of the Church celebrated the birth of our Lord; and it was not till long after the western Church had set the example, that the eastern adopted it. Because the day is not known. Probably the fact is that the "holy" days were arranged to fit in with the heathen festivals. We venture to assert that if there be any day in the year of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which our Savior was born it is the 25th of December. Regarding not the day, let us give God thanks for the gift of His dear Son.

How absurd to think we could do it in the spirit of the world, with a Jack Frost clown, a deceptive worldly Santa Claus, and a mixed program of sacred truth with fun, deception and fiction. If it be possible to honor Christ in the giving of gifts, I cannot see how while the gift, giver, and recipient are all in the spirit of the world. The Catholics and high Church Episcopalians may have their Christmas one day in 365 but we have a Christ gift the entire year". C. H. Spurgeon Dec. 24, 1871

"Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostasy went on. till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant was submerged under pagan superstition. That Christmas is a pagan festival is beyond all

doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is celebrated, prove its origin".

"Those who follow the custom of observing Christmas, follow not the Bible, but pagan ceremonies".

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

"That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Even the saints of Christ are often, even if unwittingly, led through man's traditions into idolatry, which thing God hates.

➤ *By: A.C. Proctor; Lord's Day A.M., December 20th in the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2015 A.D.—Rural Hall, NC*