

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Is there anything stronger than the Word of God? In some of the churches I've been in, these would be fightin' words... "Bless God, there aint nothin' stronger than the Word of God!" As bold and noble as this might sound, it disagrees with the very Word it tries to uphold...

"Making the Word of God of NONE EFFECT ('powerless')
(how?) BY YOUR TRADITION."
(Mark 7:13 K.J.V.)

Tradition is stronger than the Word of God. Anything that can render an adversary powerless is stronger than that adversary. Webster's Dictionary has a most interesting definition of "tradition": "the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction." Notice: "WITHOUT WRITTEN INSTRUCTION". Well, the Word of YahWeH IS written instruction. Now why would the unwritten thing - by definition subject to colouring, enhancement, social change, memory defect, and vested interest - be able to render the written thing (with no window for change) powerless? Because of the delivery system. What do I mean by that? We learn our traditional mind influencing from those we trust the most: parents, grandparent, Pastors, Priests, and community stalwarts. The traditional beliefs and values taught by your dear old Granny are beyond question. And that's precisely why tradition is never questioned. It makes us feel warm and safe, just like the people who pass it on to us.

Normally I would never single-out a single tradition to expose a cherished lie common to all tradition. But in this case the target is so widely trusted and practiced, and so perfectly captures the magnetism of deception, that it is, I believe, a safe flagship to focus on. Also, if a reader is brave enough to abandon this traditional practice, he'd be well positioned to take on any other dangerous one.

When I was a boy there was one magic event, which although it passed in one day, it filled an entire season... Christmas! From early November I knew how many days were left until Santa came. I made a paper chain, and tore one ring off each day until the dune of presents could be attacked. My mother dutifully reminded us that the only important thing about the day was that it was "jesus' birthday". It could have been Popeye's birthday for all I cared. My head wasn't filled with lowing cattle and heralding angels; just the waiting treasure under the bedecked tree.

As an odd aside, Christmas was also a strangely sad time for me. The old men wandering the streets downtown made me sad. My friends who got very little for Christmas made me sad. And this polarity - ecstatic joy, and eerie sadness - truly troubled me each year. The great letdown when Christmas was over also troubled me. It was because of this emotional war, which only grew as time went on, that I first decided to examine this tradition to see if I may find some resolution. Perhaps what I learned then, and since, might help a

serious seeker of truth. Remember, this is not about Christmas per se, but about obedience vs. preference, about written instruction vs. tradition, about spotting the malignancy beneath the benign. Further, Christmas is only one of man's so called holy days, invented festivals which are actually an abomination to the One they supposedly honour. But more about this later.

Churchianity always has their canned answer for protestors. They will admit that the "commercialization" of Christmas is wrong (when it's probably the least wrong thing about it). They will grudgingly acknowledge those who say that December 25th is not the birthdate of the Messiah, and respond with, "That's not the important thing." And they'll even say, "There is no Santa." But this is the question I was asked when I first decided to not observe this tradition, years ago... "What could possibly be wrong with sincere people who love God, and truly want to honour His Son, celebrating His birth sharing their love with family and friends?" You've got to admit, that's a tough one to have as your starting point. I mean, look at it; it's got everything good: love, honour, family, friends... the lot! How could this be an abomination to Almighty YaHWeH? Let's see.

There's a most interesting account in the Book of Joshua in the Bible. You may recall the story of how the Israelites, under Joshua's leadership, brought down the walls of Jericho. It was a miraculous victory for Israel over their Pagan enemy. Shortly thereafter, Joshua led his army against the city of Ai; a small weak city... a military piece of cake. But the Israelites were soundly defeated. Joshua and the elders were in shock. This was not possible. What could have gone wrong? Joshua went to YaHWeH to inquire, and this is what the Almighty told him...

"And (YaHWeH) said unto Joshua... Israel hath sinned...
for they have even taken of THE ACCURSED THING...
Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before
their enemies... because they were accursed: NEITHER
WILL I BE WITH YOU ANY MORE, EXCEPT YE DESTROY THE
ACCURSED FROM AMONG YOU."
(Joshua 7:10-12 K.J.V.)

Wow! What's that all about? Unbeknown to Joshua (or anyone), when the army of Israel destroyed Jericho, one man, Achan by name, took a piece of clothing, some silver coins, and a small piece of gold from Jericho, and brought it back to the Israelite camp, and hid the items under his tent. And because of this one act, YaHWeH was ready to pack it in with Joshua, the elders, and all Israel. Now remember, Joshua and the elders knew nothing about what Achan had done. So why such a fuss? After all, it's not like the people of Jericho had any use for the stuff; they were all dead. Here's the problem, and it's a big one to the Almighty. Jericho was an evil city; and a known centre for occult worship and ritual. YaHWeH had given His plan to Joshua for the taking of Jericho. Joshua commanded his army to do precisely what God instructed. On the seventh march around the city walls, this is what Joshua said to the army...

"And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests

with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people; Shout; for (YahWeH) hath given you the city. AND THE CITY SHALL BE ACCURSED, IT, AND ALL THAT ARE THEREIN, TO (YahWeH)... AND YE, IN ANY WISE KEEP YOURSELVES FROM THE ACCURSED THING; LEST YE MAKE YOURSELVES ACCURSED, WHEN YE TAKE OF THE ACCURSED THING, AND MAKE THE CAMP OF ISRAEL A CURSE, AND TROUBLE IT."
(Joshua 6:16-18 K.J.V.)

We need to read this properly. There's a spiritual law revealed here. The word "accursed" is the Hebrew word "charam" (Strong's #2763). It means "to devote or consecrate to God for destruction". The destruction of Jericho took on the semblance of a religious ceremony. Jericho was consecrated to God for destruction. Why? It practiced Pagan ritual. Once that happens, the city, or person becomes a target for destruction. And when a child of God touches what is in YahWeH's crosshairs, that curse transfers to him. To "touch" does not mean an inadvertant touch. As we'll see later, it means "to embrace", or "to attach one's self to", or "to participate in". Achan had full warning. He took these accursed items for himself, and into the camp of Israel. But here's an important key...

"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so
THE CURSE CAUSELESS SHALL NOT COME."
(Proverbs 26:2 K.J.V.)

"The curse causeless"... what's that mean? In order for the accused thing to curse you, there has to be a cause - a magnet, if you will. All the Israelites were clearly warned not to "take of the accursed thing". They knew that Jericho, and all within it, was consecrated, or handed over to YahWeH for destruction. Disobedience to God's command is the curse "magnet", the cause necessary for the curse to stick. But let me put a finer point on it. You see, the Law was given by the Almighty only to His chosen family on the earth. The Law is to and for Israel (who Israel really is, is dealt with in another study). And Israel has a built-in "guilt" response when they disobey their Father. That's why they have the ability to blush. It is actually this, the guilt, which acts like a magnet to the curse. Achan had that guilt response to what he did. That's why he told no one, and hid the items, rather than show everyone the bonus he got. And this also displays the fact that the offspring of YahWeH ARE their brother's keeper. Achan's act of disobedience magnetized the whole of the camp. That is not to say that your actions will have such a direct affect on every child of God on the planet; but it will affect your spouse and children. In reality, the ripples will impact the entire pond... we don't arrive until the last one chosen is perfected; but this too is another study. The point to be gleaned here is that we dare not touch what YahWeH has cursed, and expect to escape the terrible consequences.

For those who use the "Well that's the Old Testament" card, yes it is in the Old Testament...

"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, TOUCH NO
UNCLEAN THING, go ye out from the midst of her; be ye clean..."
(Isaiah 52:11 K.J.V.)

But the very same warning is in the New Testament as well...

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith (YaHWeH), AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; and I will receive you."
(II Corinthians 6:17 K.J.V.)

YaHWeH never changes folks. To touch what He has cursed will cause Him to leave you high and dry as much today, as it did in Joshua's day.

Well, Achan, his family, and his animals were killed. Their bodies, along with their possessions and the accursed articles from Jericho were burned in a pile, then covered with stones. This was to serve as a clear reminder to all the people of the dangers of touching what God has cursed. Again, don't be afraid if you have literally "touched" with your finger, or brushed up against something that might have been involved in Paganism in some way. We can see what is meant if we look at the word "touch" in the Scripture above. It is the Greek word "haptomai" (Strong's #680), and means "to attach one's self to"; with the stated implication "to embrace", or "to participate in". Having said that; there have been cases where an article (a trinket, a garment, a carving, etc.), usually from a nation which practiced Voodoo, or some other form of Pagan ritual and worship, has brought great trouble into a home or family. And when it is removed, the trouble ceases. I add this just to raise a flag if you suspect this potential.

Here's another Bible example. King Solomon was the son of the late King David and ruled the nation of Israel. YaHWeH had blessed Solomon with great wisdom and wealth; more than any man before or since. He's probably best known for writing the Proverbs in our Bible... a mighty man of God. But this great man ended his days having the kingdom taken away, and suffering rejection by the Almighty. What could have happened to bring this about? Solomon "touched the unclean thing"; he married wives from Pagan nations; and, he allowed them to practice their Pagan rituals in Israel. The accursed thing came upon him; causing the most blessed man on the planet to become a rejected man. King Saul is another example of this same fact... YaHWeH has a "zero tolerance" policy regarding anything which has touched "the unclean thing". It doesn't matter if you are Joshua, King Solomon, King Saul, or the lowliest child of the House of Israel out there. You keep yourself clean from anything remotely idolatrous, or you will be cursed, and rejected by YaHWeH.

It was when I fully realized this, that I saw my examination of the Christmas dilemma greatly streamlined. How so? Well, all other problems aside, if I could find the answer to this question, I'd know whether to give it thumbs up or down. The question is... Does our so-called "Christian" celebration of Christmas, with its incumbent traditional rituals, touch the unclean thing... Pagan idolatry? If it doesn't, then have a merry Christmas. If it does, especially to a high degree, then we dare not embrace it, participate in it, or further it. Would you agree? Well if you seek first YaHWeH's truth and His righteousness, you certainly will agree. So that's the task. Let's take an unbiased look at "the best day of the year" to see what, if anything, we can find, and hopefully draw a conclusion.

First, I'd like to tell you about the date thing. I wish I had a dollar for every time I've been told that the real date of the Messiah's birth in a body of flesh doesn't matter, as long as we celebrate the same day each year. My problem with that line of reasoning is this. It's not that we picked a wrong day, but WHICH wrong day. What's that supposed to mean? Simply that we celebrate "the best day of the year" on "the worst day of the year"; and it is by no accident, whatsoever. For millenia, all Pagan sects celebrate the birth of their prime diety, the sun-god, on December 25th. There are literally dozens upon dozens of Pagan gods. They all have different names. They are represented in images of stone and gold all over the planet. But the chief god in every sect is the sun; the giver of warmth and light. In different parts of the world, and at different times, the sun-god is given different names, but every one is representative of the big bright ball in the sky. From the earliest times it was observed that the sun appeared to die on the winter soltice, the shortest sun-time day of the year. This is December 21/22. But by December 25th, it came to life again, it resurrected. The sun-time began to noticeably lengthen on the 25th... a ressuaction on "the third day".. For offering of praise to the sun-god, all Pagans hold their most important annual rituals on this day. If you take the time to study this, you'll find no exceptions: the Chaldeans, the Babylonians, the Eastern Arab Pagans, the Saxons, the Druids, even the Pagan sects in China, Japan, Indonesia, and across Africa. They all claim the birth of their messiah, the "saviour-sun" is December 25th. And the rituals celebrating his birth are filled with debauchery of the highest degree. Now do you not find it a little more than blind coincidence that churchianity chose the same day for their celebration? How do you think it happened?

It was orchestrated by Constantine the first. He was the Roman Emperor in the fourth century A.D. He claims to have converted to Christianity. His motive for this claim was purely political. Since he was supposedly a "Christian", he officially declared Christianity as the State religion across the Roman Empire. Actually it was satan who orchestrated this, using Constantine to make it happen, in conjunction with the Church of Rome, cited in the Book of Revelation as the "whore". That ("anti-)christ"ian church was prophesied, thus has to be. And the Roman Empire at the time was Pagan from one end to the other. So Constantine had a challenge on his hands. To add to his problem, these were not like the old days of Rome, where the Emperor was a god, and to question his command meant sure death, in an exemplary painful way. By the 4th century, Rome was a mere shadow of its former self. The State coffers had dwindled, the army was poorly trained, and weak, and life in general was one of poverty and drudgery for the people. Constantine had to tread very softly to replace Paganism with Christianity. So he opted not to "replace" what the people were used to; rather, to "blend" the new religion with it. It was the only way to prevent public revolt, even rioting. And one of the things most cherished by the people, was the punctuated relief from their misery which came during their many Pagan festivals. There was no T.V. remember; no hobbies, no sports events, no movies, no computer games... nothing but hard work to provide bread. So the blast they got from the wild revelry and feasting, the Emperor dare not take away. So in 384 A.D. the "Christian" Emperor, Constantine I, decreed five new festivals (which he invented with the Pope's help) to passively infuse the new religion with the old.

The five concocted "holy" days were: "the revels of Christ's Mass" (we shorten it to "Christmas"), "Lady Day" (Catholics know this as "the Annunciaion of Mary"), "Easter", "the nativity of St. John", and "the Assumption of Mary". Each of these new kids on the block was artfully paired with an existing Pagan festival. This assured that the new religion of Rome would be completely non-threatening to the masses across the Empire.

Back to the date chosen for the Messiah's birth... If Christ was going to be the new Saviour, rather than the sun-god, the Emperor and the Pope had to introduce Him through the back door very carefully. Vatican records show that the date which was known to be the true date of the birth of Christ (within a few days) was officially changed by the Emperor in 384. It was changed to (you guessed it) December 25th. So the revels of Chrit's Mass was on the day that everyone was celebrating the birth of the sun-god. Consequently, our Messiah, the Lamb of God, was considered to be the sun-god (just with a new name) by millions in the Roman Empire for a very long time.

It is interesting that in recent years the true date has been determined with the help of various discoveries; and it is within the few-day window known by the Emperor when he changed it to December 25th. Records from the office of the Governor of Judea at that time have been found, and they acknowledge the date which the "Kings from the East" claimed they saw "the star" in the night sky. Computer data has pinpointed celestial events at the time of the death of King Herod, and the birth date could be determined by this. And even the Great Pyramid of Gizah, which the prophet Isaiah speaks of (in 19:19) as "a sign unto God", has been encoded with many world changing dates, reveals the date of the Messiah's coming to earth. All these point to "ten Tishri" in the Hebrew calendar. This is September 29 on the Julian/Gregorian calendar (ours). Well, the date which was recorded in Rome until it was officially changed was the latter part of the last week of September. We need to remember that the prophet Daniel gave us notice that one player in the antichrist system would "think to change times and laws", for the furthering of satan's kingdom on earth. The date of our Saviour's birth is just a minute part of what has been craftilly changed. To those who doggedly insist that the real date doesn't matter, as long as your heart's in the right place, let me assure you that the wrong date we chose certainly DOES matter to YahWeH Almighty.

There was a time when believers had the guts to take a stand on this. In the 16th century, the Church of England outlawed any celebration, or even recognition of Christmas. They declared it to be "satanic ritual", thus punishable in the Courts. And in the original Thirteen Colonies in the now United States, the celebration of Christmas was declared to be "Pagan", and was thus illegal. Today, it's practically illegal not to celebrate it.

A brief snapshot of the revels of Christ's Mass in Rome... It was a twelve-day event (hence, "the twelve days of Christmas"). The Church of Rome would appoint officials in each jurisdiction of the Empire to oversee this celebration. The head men were titled, "Lords of the Revels of Christ's Mass". They would in turn appoint many "Lords of Misrule". It would be their duty to see that only three things would be given the green light during these twelve days. Let me explain. The people were allowed to engage in three activities at this

time (12 days) which at other times were illegal. The overseers of "misrule" made sure that no other crimes slipped by unpunished. The three things given a pass were: public gluttony, public drunkenness, and public sexual intercourse. Now you know why the miserable masses would not look kindly on the removal of their Pagan festivals.

Now one could argue that no sincere Christian today would ever engage in anything like this. True enough; but consider this: neither would Joshua or the elders participate in what Achan did, yet YahWeH said He'd drop them all because of the touch with the unclean thing. You can never present a loophole to God big enough to crawl through. The "I'd never do that" argument won't hold water.

As I studied all the elements of our Christmas tradition and practice, I saw that every single part of it was a direct take from pure Pagan ritual: the evergreen tree, the yule log, the roasted fowl, the boar's head (still popular in Britain), the yule cakes, the wassailing bowl, the plum pudding, the draped garland, the mistletoe, the wrapped surprise gifts under the tree, and on and on it goes... everything. When I first wrote about this I addressed each of these items. But it became a tedious read. So I have decided to pick one element only, and show you how we got it. I only pick this because of the part it plays in our Christmas; but I could have chosen any one of them.

What is the central focus, the thing that says "Christmas" more than anything else in your home? In mine it was the "tree". As a child it was pure magic. The selecting of the perfect tree; bringing it home on the roof of the car; erecting it; placing the ornaments and garland; stringing the lights; placing the wrapped gifts under it; and just sitting and looking at it before I went to bed... pure magic. I almost cried each time my Dad would drag it to the roadside for garbage collection, and I would sweep up the dried needles. Now who would have thought up doing all this with a tree? Glad you asked.

All Pagan rituals on the 25th of December messianic birth celebrations began with the burning of a "yule log" on the evening of the 24th. This was done in a clearing in a grove of trees. The high priest of the group would erect an evergreen tree in the midst of the ashes from the burned log, early in the morning of the 25th. As he set up the tree, a circle of elders would chant "Nimrod has resurrected". Nimrod was the King of ancient Babel (the site of the tower to reach heaven). He was assassinated as a young man, and his wife Isis (later known as the Queen of Heaven) devised this annual ritual to establish her late husband as the sun-god, capable of resurrection. That's why the tree had to be "ever green", and why it appeared from the ashes of death (the burned yule log). Candles were secured to the branches of the tree (a fir tree was used in climates where they grew; in hot climates a palm tree was used) to represent Nimrod's light as the sun. For a price, the priests would light a candle for you, assuring you of a divine blessing. The price was normally a gift placed under the tree for a priest. The giver's name would be written on a tag. If the gift was acceptable to the intended priest, he'd light a candle for the giver. But he had the option of returning the gift, and demanding sexual intercourse with the giver instead. It was customary for young virgins seeking devine help in finding a husband to seek a

lighted candle on the resurrection tree. It was also customary for the priest to exercise his option in such cases. And when this happened, the girl was still considered a virgin when she married. Boy, they thought of everything, didn't they? The Roman church soon learned the financial benefit of lighting candles to have prayers answered.

It was the Druids who added the mistletoe. A mistletoe bough was lashed to the top of the evergreen tree in the Druidic ceremony. The priest stood under the spot where it overhung. A kiss from a virgin to the priest "under the mistletoe", would grant her forgiveness of one sin. You can imagine what the priest would exact as the price for forgiveness of many, many sins. So it is in all the Pagan sects over many millenia. The evergreen tree was the centre-piece of the December 25th rituals commemorating the birth, and annual resurrection of the sun-god. "Nimrod" was his original name, but many other names have been used for him since.

Pick any other element of our traditional Christmas, and I'll show you the same direct pluck from Paganism... not even any effort to veil the connection; just a bold, in-your-face, bending of the knee. I heard a Muslim man say once that he couldn't believe how blind Chrisitans have become; especially in their celebration of Christmas and Easter. Every devout Muslim knows the Pagan practice. Yes, folks, I said "Easter" too. Every bit as Pagan as Christmas, but that's another study. Well hang on just a minute... "Easter" is even mentioned in the Bible. How could it be Pagan? I've read Acts 12:4, and guess what? "Easter" is NOT in the Bible. Oh yes it it! Actually, it's not. Don't embarrass yourself. The word translated in this King James scripture as "Easter" is the Greek word "pascha" (Strong's #3957). "Pascha" appears 28 times in the original text. In 27 of those instances it is correctly translated as "Passover" (what it means). Passover is the commanded feast, one of three that YahWeH has commanded us to keep. It commemorates the passing over of the houses of true Israelites in Egyptian captivity, by the death angel of YahWeH, so their first-born sons would not be killed, as the Egyptians firstborn were. It reveals the salvation power of the blood of the Lamb of God. So put on your thinking cap. How do you suppose that this one time "pascha" was falsely translated "Easter"? Maybe a new translator on duty that day? Not on your life. Satan saw to it that this Pagan invention was given Biblical credibilty. All five of the Roman invented "holy" days are purely Pagan, and to be avoided like the plague by every serious child of YahWeH. But look at what satan accomplished through these. The "god of this world" will never settle for bad, if he can possibly get double-bad. What do I mean by that? Simply this... If we merely added five Pagan festivals to our celebration of the three commanded feasts of YahWeH (i.e. The Feast of Passover, The Feast of Pentecost, and The Feast of Tabernacles), that would be bad, very bad. But what have we done? We have thrown out completely the ones YahWeH commanded, and embraced the Pagan ones. That folks is "double bad"... well done satan! And this is in the face of the Bible's command that YahWeH's family is to "KEEP MY HOLY DAYS", "FOREVER", "THROUGHOUT ALL YOUR GENERATIONS", "AS A PERPETUAL COVENANT", "UNTO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS". The examinations of YahWeH's holy days is another study; but each is a reminder of our past, a shadow of what's to come, and points to our Saviour-Messiah.

Years ago I had to drive through a tiny town on my daily commute. Each Christmas a giant billboard was erected and illuminated in the front yard of a particular house, close to the highway edge. The billboard read "jesus is the reason for the season". This catch-phrase is quite popular in church-ianity. And it highlights the very core of this paper, in a tidy nutshell. This declaration to the passing motorists displays perfectly the "two hands" of life. What do I mean, "two hands"? On the one hand of life we see human effort to be righteous. This billboard is the product of that hand: it is filled with warmth, sincerity, and emotion; it is meant to redirect our focus to the righteous side; it is an evangelical nudge; it took muscle power and time to erect; it is motivated by love. Look at all these righteous things the human hand can do. The other hand of life is the will of YahWeH hand. Let's look at this billboard from this hand. From YahWeH's perspective, it declares the false name, the one a man will soon come in - "his own name" - "and him ye shall receive"; it tells a lie - the reason for the season was orchestrated to pay homage to the Pagan sun-god; it is literally saturated in idolatrous ritual; it is an abomination to the Almighty; it will bring His rejection ("touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you"). The two hands of life... man's righteousness attempted, and YahWeH's righteousness demanded. Which hand will you be led by?

This Christmas, my mother received a most cherished gift indeed. It was a book - a book which fairly drips the love-gushes of what it calls "the true meaning of Christmas". It tells us all about the baby jesus and the wise men; and it stresses the absolute necessity of indoctrinating your little children with this "truth", so they will keep Christmas properly when they grow up. Satan plies his trade with consummate skill, doesn't he?

So I have a question for every reader who truly means business about their spiritual growth... now that you've read this paper thus far, and provided you believe I have written the truth of what I've discovered from serious study, are you convinced in your heart that your traditional celebration of "Christmas" is clean in the eyes of God; that it does not touch idolatry? If you are sure it's perfectly clean now, you will be sure of it forever; that, you could put money on. But for any who have doubts; or the few who might be convinced it does touch the unclean thing... what are you going to do about it? This is none of my business; I only ask it because you really need to address it. When you aren't aware of a truth, you stand in different shoes from those you stand in after you do know the truth. Perhaps I can offer some help for you. The needed course of action can be a very difficult one; much more so today than it once would have been. Why do I say that? When I was a kid, the father was the head of the home in most families. If my Dad had said that we weren't going to be observing Christmas next year, as painful as that would be for me, it would have happened; and happened with no family warring. It's a horse of a different colour today. Families now vote on what will be done. There is no head of the home (except possibly the kids). And if this is family reality for you, and you believe you need to stop your annual celebration, you are faced with a tough call. What you need to do is go to your Heavenly Father and plead your case. He is a tough God indeed to all His disobedient children; but He's a tender loving Father to all

His children who strive to obey Him. I've seen countless "impossible" holes to climb out of which have had a stairway form by His mighty hand. If you are determined to obey His Word, and go to Him in faith for help to do it, He will pilot you through this difficult strait.

To turn your back on this Pagan ritual will test your metal like few other things. I have had to change many things in my life which displease my Father. Most of them have been private things; no one saw what I was guilty of, or how I battled to correct it. But forsaking Christmas is like burning the flag in your front yard at rush-hour. There will be a cost. You will become the family fanatic, a nut-case. You may well get a sour-faced Pastoral visit (if you haven't forsaken the Baal-box yet); and you will become public enemy number one to your kids. But this is what my paper is all about: subordinating your preference to the command of YahWeH Almighty. But the higher the cost of obedience, the greater the reward for accomplishment. I recently went through the darkest tunnel of my life; but I determined to do what was right before YahWeH. He not only brought me through it miraculously; but He has changed me, to the core, as a man. It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do, but the reward from my loving Father is more precious than rubies. You will NEVER bow the knee to Him, without standing again much taller. We are not here for a party. This planet is called the veil of tears, and a hostile land for a reason. We have one purpose...

"Fear (YahWeH), and keep His commandments: FOR THIS
IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN."
(Ecclesiastes 12:13 K.J.V.)

To participate in, embrace, and further anything that has to do with Paganism, is as dangerous a platform to stand on as they get. I'm sure that most who read this paper will have not known the truth about Christmas. But now you do. As one final example of the danger of the unclean touch, this one was news to me until very recently. I didn't make this Scriptural discovery myself; I heard it from another. But it hit me like a ton of bricks, and I must pass it on to you. This goes back to the very beginning of YahWeH's family on the earth. If you have been churched, and maybe even if you haven't, you'll be familiar with the account of the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had two boys: Cain and Abel. At the appropriate time, the two brought their first sacrifice to God. Abel brought an animal sacrifice, a "blood" sacrifice. It was pleasing to YahWeH. But what did Cain bring?...

"And in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought
OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND an offering unto (YahWeH)."
(Genesis 4:3 K.J.V.)

Cain was "a tiller of the soil", a farmer. He brought an offering of what he had grown. Where was it grown?... in the "ground". Well, whose ground was it? It was Adam's ground. And what's the problem with Adam's ground?...

"And unto Adam He (YahWeH) said, Because thou hast hearkened
unto the voice of thy wife... CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR THY SAKE..."
(Genesis 3:17 K.J.V.)

Adam's ground was cursed by the Almighty. Therefore, Cain's offering had "touched the unclean thing"... the fruit was grown in accursed soil. And from day-one, YaHWeH will not receive anything accursed. False gods, idolatry, Pagan ritual... these reside at the summit of Mount Accursed. When we think we are offering up love, praise, or worship to God by practicing the Roman Pagan-steeped ritual of Christmas, we are deceiving ourselves to the highest degree possible. Don't ever assume that your human emotion of love can trump YaHWeH's command.

Again, this is just one example of a broad principle. When you go to the supermarket to buy apples, what do you do with them after you unpack your groceries? You WASH them. Why? Because you don't know what they might have touched, and you want them to be CLEAN. When you do the same with all the important things of life, your Father says, "I will receive you".

Thank you for taking the time to read this paper. I pray that a life will be improved because of it.