

# Why Celebrate Christmas?



Do you celebrate Christmas; put up decorations; exchange cards and gifts? Are you a rational person, who does these things for your own good reasons, or do you just blindly follow the multitude, without even knowing who is leading you?

## **EXCHANGING GIFTS**

Spontaneous giving, is not what people do on December 25. Instead, the calendar date makes them feel obligated to exchange gifts. But does this tradition really make sense? Instead of receiving gifts from others, if you spent the same money for yourself, wouldn't you often buy something other than what is given to you? It is easier to know what you want, than trying to guess what the other person might want! Have you ever delayed buying something you need or want, just in case you might happen to receive it as a gift? And why do stores have to exchange merchandise the week after Christmas?

Exchanging gifts certainly is not the most efficient way for people to have the things they really want. If you would like for a friend or relative to have what they really want, then why not just give them some money and let them buy it. Exchanging money, instead of gifts, would actually be one step closer to the ideal.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?**

Some think it would be cruel to deprive children of Christmas. Surely there is nothing wrong with giving toys and things to children, but young children who have not yet been contaminated by

tradition, have no special appreciation for toys on December 25, any more than on any other calendar date; nor is there any reason why they should! The Christmas tradition actually teaches children that someone owes them something; or that they have a right to expect gifts, just because of a calendar date. This really does not teach the child true values, or promote the building of quality character.

Wouldn't it be better to sometimes go shopping with your children, and to learn what they really want, and why they want it? In this way you could help teach your child the relative value of things, and of money; and your child could appreciate a gift from you, instead of, "for Christmas." This would promote true family togetherness. Also children should be allowed to earn and save money by doing suitable work or household chores, thereby developing self reliance, and learning that they are not entirely dependent on a parent for purchasing things that they may want.

And what about teaching children the moral value of truth? Can you really have a quality trusting relationship with a child while lying about Santa Clause? Wouldn't our society be better off unburdened by such irrational customs? Shouldn't you be an example to your children by not participating in these things? Or will you instead do your part to pass these problematic traditions on to their generation?

Family togetherness is important, but something is very wrong if you can't have quality relationships, and a wholesome, happy and loving family, without practicing the irrational customs of Christmas!

You will please note that religion is not involved in the above discussion. The foregoing legitimate concepts apply equally to everyone, and are valid separate and apart from anyone's religion.

## RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

If you are one who thinks Christianity is *not* true, then why would you promote something false, by celebrating what is said to be Jesus' birthday? On the other hand, if you think he is the Messiah, or a worthy teacher, then you have no choice but to also admit the existence of Yahweh<sup>1</sup> and the vaildity of the Torah and the prophets.<sup>2</sup>

We don't know the date of the Messiah's birth. The Bible gives no command or example of its annual celebration, nor did the earliest Christians ever do so. But long before his birth, pagans kept a sun god festival, called Sol Invictus, which in Rome, occurred on December 25, the same date on which (coincidentally?) the Nativity was later celebrated. Evergreens and gift exchanging, customs from the Roman Saturnalia, were adapted and re-named to become Christmas traditions.<sup>3</sup>

But Yahweh forbids those customs related to the serving of pagan gods:

**Deut 12:30:** *"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, ... and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise."*

**Jer 10:2-5:** *"Thus saith Yahweh, Learn not the way of the heathen... 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 an 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."*

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<sup>1</sup> To learn who Yahweh is, consult a good dictionary, or get our tract, The Creator Knows You By Name.

<sup>2</sup> See our tract, Was Jesus an Enlightened Teacher?

<sup>3</sup> Merry Christmas, A history of the holiday, by Stevens; The Trouble With Christmas, by Flynn; 4000 Years of Christmas, by Count; Christian Feasts and Customs, by Weiser; and Christmas, and Epiphany, by Gunstone. Also see the subjects, Christmas, Sol Invictus and Saturnalia, in libraries and encyclopedias.

*Be not afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.*"

Yes, the value of a Christmas tree is just plain zero, but people are so married to these pagan customs that they go right on spending time and money on such things as if their life depended on it!

And did you know that Pope Gregory's calendar is actually pagan; and is not endorsed by Yahweh? Yahweh has His own festivals, and His own calendar.<sup>4</sup> By celebrating Christmas, or any other Gregorian calendar festival, you are in fact, ignoring Yahweh, and conforming to a pagan calendar which Catholicism wants to impose on the entire world.<sup>5</sup>

Are you truly free to think and act for yourself, or are you a willing slave to social customs? Is your life controlled by pagan traditions and by expectations of others, more than by rational logic and truth? Are you really content to just blindly follow an ignorant crowd, without even knowing who is leading you?

The truth can set you free. Just order some of these tracts from the address below, and give one to each of those who expect you to celebrate Christmas with them. Assure them that you value their relationship, and that it is nothing personal, but that you have simply decided to not participate in these pagan customs. It will make your own life simpler, and you will do your friends a favor by relieving them of their annual obligation to buy you a gift.

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<sup>4</sup> See Ex 12:2, Lev 23:4-44, and our articles, [Which Month is Abib?](#) & [The Months begin with the Visible Crescent.](#)

<sup>5</sup> And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws... ([Daniel 7:25](#))