



The Full Gospel Church

CELEBRATING CHRIST'S BIRTH

This Christmas season we need to remember the reason why we are celebrating Christmas in the first place. The world would have you believe that Santa Claus or something else is the reason for Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

There are some who would argue that Jesus was not born on December 25, and we are really celebrating the winter solstice. This argument is true, but the Christian Church during the Catholic Father era decided to go halfway with the pagan religions celebrating the same holidays that they already celebrated. This led to many rituals that are found today concerning Christmas.

There are many sites on the Internet that compare the Christmas and pagan rituals. These include the Christmas tree, Santa Claus, Christmas lights, mistletoe, holly, along with all of the other rituals.¹ These sites are not all Christian and some are pagan. The point is that they are all stating the same thing. For a real treatise on the Christmas holiday and tradition read "The Two Babylons" by Rev. Alexander Hislop.

"The Christmas festival was probably the Christian transformation of a series of kindred heathen festivals — the Saturnalia, Sigillaria, Juvenalia, and Brumalia — which were kept in Rome in the month of December, in commemoration of the golden age of universal freedom and equality, and in honor of the unconquered sun, and which were great holidays, especially for slaves and children. This connection accounts for many customs of the Christmas season, like the giving of presents to children

and to the poor, the lighting of wax tapers, perhaps also the erection of Christmas trees and gives them a Christian import; while it also betrays the origin of the many excesses in which the unbelieving world at this season, in wanton perversion of the true Christmas mirth, but which, of course, no more forbid right use, than the abuses of the Bible or any other gift of God."²

The most important thing to remember is that when we celebrate Christmas, we are to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name

2 Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. III Nicene and Post-Nicene Christianity A.D. 311-600, (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Mich. 1910) p. 396.

1 <http://www.hope-of-israel.org/christ~2.htm>

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Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Though the history of the Christmas season has its roots in paganism, as Christians we need to remember the birth of the one who has saved us from the pits of fire and brimstone.

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