

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)  
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### THE OBSERVING OF CHRISTMAS (PART III)

"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. 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 ax.. 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. Be not afraid of them for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good." (Jeremiah 10:1-5).

### HISTORY OF PAGAN CUSTOMS

Origan Of The Christmas Tree: "It is generally believed that the first Xmas trees were of German origin dating from Boniface, English missionary to Germany in the 8th century, who replaced the sacrifices of Odin's sacred Oak by a fir tree adorned in tribute to the Christ Child." (Ency. Britt.)

"From many ancient writings, considerable is learned of this man. (Nimrod) He was so evil it is said he married his own mother whose name was Semeramis. After Nimrod's untimely death his so called mother wife, Semeramis, propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. She claimed a full grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump which symbolized the springing forth unto a new life of the dead Nimrod." On each anniversary of his birth she claimed Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it. Dec. 25th was the birthday of Nimrod. This was the real origan of the Xmas tree." (The Xmas Myth)

Holly: "Even before Christianity

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#### ORDER OF SERVICES

the Romans sent gifts of holly\*  
 This was sent to friends to mark the\*Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship \*  
 December celebration of the festival\* 7:00 p.m. Worship \*  
 of Saturn. The superstitious Druids \*Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study\*  
 kept holly in their dwellings as an \*\*\*\*\*  
 invitation to the spirits to enter and seek shelter from the winter cold and winds. The early Germans used holly in an observance which marked the return of the sun from its southward pilgrimage." (Newspaper Hammond Times, "Holly Legend")

The Yule Log: "The early pagans of Scandinavian countries held yule festivals near the end of each year. After Christianity spread into Europe, these festivals became Christian celebrations. The early Norsemen honored Thor, their god of war, by burning a yule log during the yule season. This custom has become part of the present celebration of Christmas." (World Book Ency.)

Mistletoe: "Among the ancient pagans the mistletoe was used at this festival of the winter solstace because of its supposed miraculous healing power. The pagan custom of kissing under the mistletoe was used as an early step in the night of revelry and drunken debauchery celebrating the death of the old sun and the birth of the new at the winter solstace." (Idib)

FOR SHAME!!! The Daily Oklahoman in NEWS & NOTES: We are made to rejoice 1962 carried the foll- in that sister Rhoden owing under a picture of two small confessed sin and was restored to children which was superimposed the fellowship of the saints here! over a picture of the "Nativity Scene". "THINKING OF CHRISTMAS are and of Tipton Home. Children at the home are taught from infancy the true meaning of Christmas--the birthday of Christ. This home is supported by the Churches of Christ."

## "BLESSING THE DANCE"

One social function that is invariably held is the "Christmas" dance and, shameful to say, many Christians go right along to it and mix with the worldliness, apparently as naive about being excused for it as the Negro man praying in Irwin Russel's poem from Christmas Night In The Quarters. Here are some lines:

O Master! let this gathering find a blessing in your sight!  
Don't judge us hard for what we do--you know its Christmas night  
And all the balance of the year we do as right we can  
If dancing's wrong, O Master, let the time excuse the sin!  
Remember, Master, mind this now, the sinfulness of sin  
Is depending upon the spirit that we go and do it in;  
It seems to me, indeed it does, I maybe might be wrong  
That people really ought to dance, when Christmas comes along  
Yes, bless us, please sir, even if we're doing wrong tonight.  
Cause then we'll need the blessing more than if we're doing right  
(Wow!!! Please note these Scriptures: Job 21:7,11; Ps. 9:8 "spirit we do it in"--Matt. 14:9; Heb. 11:25, Rom. 6:1,2; Ex. 23:2 below)

"THOU SHALT NOT FOLLOW A MULTITUDE TO DO EVIL"

Santa Clause: It is no secret that this is a corruption of the name Saint Nicholas who was a Catholic bishop of Myra in the 4th century who was noted for his bringing gifts to children. But most of the actions and symbols associated with him did not originate with him. Santa Clause is simply an out growth of a hodge-podge of ancient superstitions and heathenistic practices which have

### WHO IS IT?

--"He sees you when you are sleeping" (Is this a characteristic of Deity or are we to assign this falsely to another? see Matt. 6:4)  
--"He knows when you are awake, he knows if you have been bad or good." (see Ps. 139:1-5)  
--"He flies through the air, above the roof tops.." (see Acts 1:9 II Kings 2:1,11)

been adopted by enlightened generations. It is a singular fact that a number of Catholic symbols and practices, as well as a host of other evils, are associated with the blackness of night. Yet they go about practicing their debauchery in the guise of children of light. "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14)

## "THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH GIVING"

A great many times when a person begins an excuse by saying that there is "nothing wrong" then there is something wrong. Of course there is nothing wrong with giving, just as there is nothing wrong with eating the Lord's Supper. But who would dare to eat the Lord's Supper on "Good Friday" or "Ash Wednesday" (The same folks who give gifts and show so much "love" on Dec. 25th RES) Then why wait for a Catholic holiday to do your giving? Incidentally, how much of that giving done at that season is to the Christ, who is supposed to be the One honored? There is nothing wrong with wearing a black suit with a white collar that fastens behind or a long flowing black skirt and a white bonnet--except the association with evil. There is nothing wrong with abstaining from meat if we do not feel like eating it, but must we do it only during a Catholic season called "Lent"? One Catholic holiday is as good (or bad) as another. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess 5)

Friends, the Lord does not tolerate fraternization with the wicked. God told Moses to say to the children of Israel: "After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do; and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, ye shall not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God." (Lev. 18:1-4) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord..." (II Cor. 6:14)