

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### The Subject: What's So Bad About Christmas?

Luke 16:15 – that which is "highly esteemed" (elevated) among men is **abomination** in the sight of God

**abomination** - Greek: bdelugma - a detestation; idolatry; a stinking unacceptable sacrifice; abhor; unholy

I Corinthians 2:14 – The **natural** man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**natural** - Greek: psuchikos - sensitive; animate; sensual; non-spiritual

The pagan festival of the Christmass is a tradition that is "highly esteemed" among the peoples of the world. If it were of God (spiritual), the world would look upon it as foolish. The gangster, the thief, the homosexual, the prostitute and abortionist all hate the word of God when he said "Thou shalt not", yet they will party and involve themselves in the wickedest immoral acts while embracing the traditions of the Christmass. Many who attend church regularly, while refusing to live righteously, keep it as their favorite festival and holiday. The business person who is unethical and immoral in business dealings, at Christmas time, will disavow their marriage in order to have a sexual encounter at a "Christmas party" while - getting drunk, all in the name of Jesus' birth. It's a time of compromise for many who call themselves "Christian", setting aside witnessing and calling men to repentance "till January". Playboy magazine has their "Christmas issue", while liquor stores decorate with wreaths and "holiday cheer". Christians are commanded to separate from such ungodliness (II Cor. 6:14-17). Celebrants stuff and glut themselves with material things and all kinds of delectable foods, while the world is destitute and starving, physically and spiritually. Christmas is a time when true believers are expected to sit down at a family gathering passing out "free forgiveness" to unrepentant sinners as they curse and tell their off color stories. Forgiveness is never an initial act. It is always a response to repentance. Paul said that we are not to eat or communicate with brothers living in rebellion against God. We are not to partake or walk with these unfruitful works of darkness as they walk disorderly and not in the ways of God (I Cor. 5:9, 11; Eph. 5:11; II Thess. 3:6, 14). (We will be persecuted for this kind of testimony). The United States comprises approximately 4.6% of the worlds population. This minute segment of the world is partying and lulling themselves into an easy religion with no striving or wrestling over sin at the Christmas season, while the world is dying in starvation, squalor, and disease without Christ. To celebrate Christ is to honour him. To honour him is to keep his sayings (John 14:23). If we are to honour him, we will dispense with vain traditions. We will get Christ out of the mass. We will rid ourselves of this heathen festival of the mass (Christmass). We will throw out the pagan birthday of Hercules (December 25th). We will remember (celebrate) Jesus' birth everyday and never will we separate it from the resurrection. There is only one pure ritual. It is not Christmas, Easter, or Valentines. James tells us, "Pure religion (threskeia - ritual or ceremony) and undefiled (uncontaminated) is to visit the fatherless and widows "in their affliction" (the church under persecution) and keep yourselves unspotted (holy-pure-unmixed) from the world (James 1:27)." Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matt. 25:40)." This is the true ritual (religion) with which we are to celebrate Jesus daily. All the things that man esteems: position, awards, money, titles, recognition, tradition, material things, and the seeking of self is an abomination to God. The only thing that honours Christ is the seeking after a concern for others (spiritual and physical) and never self. (Philippians 2:4-5; I Cor. 10:24). The "natural" (sensual-sinful) man who loves and highly esteems the traditions of this world, always despises the atoning blood of Christ. They hold Jesus' words in contempt, refusing to live in daily repentance and submission to the commandment of God. Man will not cease from sin until God moves on his heart to live holy (pure-unmixed) before him throughout the year.

### GRACE AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

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