"the whole world is doing it." If you, my dear reader, are serious about serving Christ, you would abandon Christmas (and every vain tradition) and observe only the things that Christ has commanded. Through faith, you would keep all of His commandments including "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy..." (Exodus 20:8-11). Would you continue to follow vain traditions for which you have no spiritual authority while you reject God's Commandments that are explicitly stated in the Bible? Christ says,

"Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). In vain they do worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9).

May you be sincere and choose to follow the revealed word of God for your salvation. Amen.

The Truth About Christmas



By: Sis. Ann-Marie Ballantyne

The TRUTH about Christmas

Those who choose not to celebrate Christmas are sometimes seen as "boring" and "deserving of pity". However, there is nothing boring and pitiful about rejecting idolatry and following the truth, even when you may be in the minority.

Many, including renowned historians, admit that December 25 was the date that the pagans celebrated the birthday of their sun-god. This celebration coincided with the winter solstice. These festivities were taking place long before the birth of Jesus. Moreover, there is no biblical evidence to show or even suggest that Jesus was born on that date. It was a Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, not God ,who decreed that Christians should keep December 25 as the birthday of Jesus Christ. History tells us that

"within the Christian church no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the third century... the choice of December 25 was made by Pope Julius 1 in the fourth century AD because this coincided with the pagan rituals of the winter solstice, or Return of the Sun." Good Old Time Religion p.3.

Winter-solstice celebration was characterized by lewd revelling, human sacrifice, orgies and drunkenness - all in honour of the pagan sun-god. Even symbols like the Christmas tree, mistletoe and santa claus can be traced back to idolatrous practices of those who worshiped creation instead of the Creator.

"In very ancient times, human sacrifice was an integral part of this celebration.

Each manifestation of the god - Osiris of Egypt, Dionysus of the Greeks, Odin and
Freya of the Scandinavians - was entreated and placated by human sacrifice... The
theme of human sacrifice (or later substitutes for it) runs through all the winter
festivals of the world. When it became inappropriate to use a human representative of the god, an animal substitute was sacrificed instead. Later still the practise
continued with effigies of various sorts. Tillin T, Somebody Cooked Your Goose, P. 8

Despite attempts made, namely by the Roman Catholic Church to 'Christianized' sun worship calling it 'Christ-mas', the real nature of the festivity is often revealed today through drunkenness, revelry, extravagance, gluttony and the very symbols used in idol-worship.

Jesus Christ has not given any command, neither directly or indirectly, that we should celebrate a particular day as His birthday. God in His divine wisdom hid the knowledge of the exact date of Christ from man. The proclamation of His birth is emphasised as significant because He is the Saviour from sin.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" Matthew 1:21

This truth, he wants us to accept and receive the spiritual change that He willingly gives to make us holy and loving every day. When we accept Jesus Christ, we would have genuine love and care for each other throughout the year whether January, February, March...or December. Through sacrificial love, we would do all that is possible by the grace of God to bring cheer to the heart of all our fellowmen-friends, family, neighbours, the poor and needy etc.

Those who are sincere in their research and their love for the truths of God would admit that Jesus is not the real reason for the Christmas season. Many of us have been taught this error from childhood and have ignorantly accepted it. Now, in this age of information where knowledge is at our finger tips, we have no excuse to continue in falsehood. Neither should we borrow the way that the heathens worshipped their false gods and say that we are worshipping Christ. God, through His servants Jeremiah and Moses warned us long ago-

"...learn not the way of the heathen (Jer.10:2)... "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. hou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods."Deut.12:30-31.

God's warning are for us today as well. He still hates idolatry of every form whether it is plain or mixed with Christian forms. He requires that our worship of Him be in spirit and in truth alone. You should no longer be satisfied to say "I am celebrating Christmas because it feels good... this is what I met my parents doing" or