

Is Jesus Any Part Of Your Holiday?

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Since Mike's release from the hospital several weeks ago the Holy Spirit has prompted us to update some of our materials that we first wrote over two decades ago. We realize that He wants us to revise these because 20 years ago the truths we shared were "informational", revealing truths which many followers of Jesus were at that time unfamiliar with. But in those intervening decades the moral and spiritual decline in this nation, as well as the ever-increasing blatant demonic seduction, have escalated. Even more grievous is that every corner of Christianity has been affected by this onslaught. Most Christians don't even recognize the extent to which their lives and morals have been impacted by the media and the society around them — and the impact is far more than the Person of Jesus affecting their values, goals and decisions. This reality saddens us for those who are straddling religious fences while compromising with the world's ways — and believing that our Father doesn't mind if they compromise.

We've updated our workbook, ***Demolishing Strongholds*** and are still in the process of updating ***The Gospel of the New Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation***. We've added "new" to the title because too many in Christianity have been kept away from the fullness of what our Father offers us in the New Covenant through our Lord Jesus. This isn't just a side issue in your spiritual life. If religious teachers today would just confess the deceit of anti-Semitic theology in the gospels and creeds they purport, the ***Gospel of the New Covenant*** Father offers would produce millions of His children who would be burdened daily to do His will to His glory.

"Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all My being. They have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them" (Isaiah 1:14).

By these words God was making plain His perspective on all the religious celebrations the Israelites were carrying out. His chosen people had blatantly been worshipping pagan entities alongside Him, and had shamelessly incorporated pagan practices into their worship of God. Through His prophet Isaiah God was letting them know that He had had enough. We've asked this question several times in the past, and we hope that you have the courage to ask it of yourself: ***Would Jesus celebrate Christmas, a holiday of pagan origin which assimilated pagan practices and was then declared "Christian" by ecclesiastic hierarchy?*** The celebrations of both Christmas and Easter were adaptations of pagan religious practices. And when we look at our society today it appears that all-out paganism as well as self-obsession are once again ruling this holiday.

To be more blunt:

We believe that the upcoming chastisement on this nation is directly related to luke-warm clergy who neither insist on repentance in their congregations nor object to mixing the incarnation of Jesus with paganism. Both in our society at large and in much of Christianity too, this upcoming holiday is far more *Santamas* than *Christmas*. If you ask just about any family in your faith community, you'll find that the focus on gifts and parties far surpasses any consideration of why Jesus came: that only

He Who is both the Son of God and the Son of man could atone for our sins through His death. That's why He came — not for His followers to join in what others are doing to indulge themselves! Far better that those who claim to belong to Jesus would leave Him totally out of the pagan holiday celebrations of Christmas than allow Santa and greed to be mixed with the holy Lord of lords, Jesus.

(For more insight into the pagan origins of Christmas (and Easter), before the holiday arrives please read: Teaching E-mail 58. ***Do You Dare Ask Yourself?*** <[https://restorationministries.org/download/58.dec26-2011%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/58.dec26-2011%20(1).pdf)>).

Our Father describes with sorrow the spiritually lukewarm of ancient Israel whose pattern is being repeated today by many Christians. Rather than loving and trusting solely in the one true God, *“Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples, Ephraim is a pancake not turned over”* (Hosea 7:8). The Israelites worshipped pagan entities of the nations around them alongside the true God. They even brought paganism into the Temple of God. We realize we may sound like grinchies in writing this. But our love for our Lord Jesus and the pain we feel when He is brought down to the level of Santa and his elves in children's minds is too much to bear. Jesus's birth becomes another story alongside all the other “myths” children eventually discard as fantasy.

Our Lord is still warning the “half-baked pancakes” in Christianity:

“The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Head of God's creation, says these things: ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth’” (Revelation 3:14-16).

***“Share with the Lord's people who are in need.
Practice hospitality”*** (Romans 12:13).

It's not just the pagan origin of Christmas which is so grievous. It's also the flagrant selfishness so many Christians practice during this season. We're talking about **“there's no room at the inn” Christians**. During the years in which Mike counseled clergy, December was the most difficult month for them, so they turned to him for help. People in their congregations who were alone became more downhearted during this season and would come to their pastor for consolation in their depression. Most of these men and women had no family near them — and no one in their faith community would invite them to share in the holiday celebration. The fact that no one showed they cared by including them compounded their depression, and with some, the desire to die. Certainly the love of Jesus wasn't being lived out in their midst!

Please, before you sin through violating God's Word during this season by your lack of love for someone outside your household, read Matthew 25:31-46. In particular, take seriously our Lord's condition for determining who will go to hell: *“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes*

and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me” (Matthew 25:41-43). Jesus then adds, *“Inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me”* (25:45). Our Lord is requiring a verification of your faith that is seen in your actions done in love for those in need.

Again, our Lord Jesus warns us what not to do and then reveals what He would have us do to “the least of these”:

“When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:12-14).

Examine yourself. If you don’t want anything to interfere with the warm fuzzy-wuzzies of having only your family around you, your mind will create all kinds of reasons to not invite people who can’t return the favor. If you’re one of the **“there’s no room at the inn” Christians** we want to warn you that demonic influences in your soul may be prompting you to sin by keeping you from obeying our Lord Jesus’ command in how you treat the lonely and less fortunate. Keep in mind this reality:

“Once a person/family/faith community is deceived, they do not recognize that they’re deceived, because they are deceived!”

We’ve discussed in previous materials and most extensively in our workbook, **Demolishing Strongholds** that “The battlefield between the Holy Spirit and the demonic spirits is being fought in the arena of your soul, that is, your mind, will, and emotions. A stronghold is a demonic fortress of thoughts in your soul housing evil spirits which:

- (1) control, dictate, and influence your attitudes and behavior;
- (2) oppress and discourage you;
- (3) filter and color how you view or react to situations, circumstances, or people.

When we've given the **list of various strongholds** to families or faith communities, they discovered that they all have the same prevailing stronghold or strongholds. This means that because each person is under the influence of the same demonic spirit, the identifying factor in their relationships and conversational topics comes from Satan and the world’s perspective and not from Lord Jesus. No one who is dominated by the inner voices of Satan’s demonic spirits even considers what it is to be fully and wholly available to love and obey Jesus as Lord of their life. This is why it’s so important that a family and/or faith community become free of demonic strongholds together.

We’ve attached the list of various strongholds to this email to help you experience a time together with family or faith family that’s free of demonic influence. If you do go through it yourself, **DON’T FIDDLE FADDLE UNTIL ALL OF YOU ARE FREE!** From decades of past experience we can assure you, your family, or faith family that once the demons know that you will turn to the authority of Jesus’ Name to evict them, they will do all they can to deter you. The following anecdote describes what happens when people choose to fiddle faddle instead of take action together:

One Saturday in November several decades back we conducted a Demolishing Strongholds seminar at a congregation in Florida. About one-third of the congregation attended. During the service the next day the pastor told the congregation that in January they were going to have the entire congregation go through Demolishing Strongholds. After the service Mike asked to speak with the pastor and the other elders, telling them, “You’ll never make it to January! Your announcement this morning has caused all the other demons in this city to descend on your congregation and harass and agitate everyone who hasn’t demolished their strongholds.” By late December the congregation experienced so much disagreement and tension that they split: two thirds arrayed themselves against the one third — the third who had become free through the authority of Jesus. In January the Holy Spirit had us return to meet with the one third, who were now meeting in someone’s home. They were emotionally bruised but a lot wiser.

Again: **DON’T FIDDLE FADDLE UNTIL ALL OF YOU ARE FREE!**

When you are free of demonic strongholds as a family or faith family, be resolute to help each other take your thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ (2Corinthians 10:5). If you all don’t keep taking your thoughts captive, you’ll find yourselves once again developing the demonic strongholds you once demolished. And as Jesus warns, your condition will be worse (Luke 11:23-26).

We’ve lost many relationships over the years with relatives and other close friends who either fiddle faddled about demolishing their strongholds or fiddle faddled about taking their thoughts captive and making them obedient to Jesus. It hurts to lose them. And it hurts even more that they gave way to spiritual darkness instead of trusting what our Lord Jesus would do for them to hold onto their freedom in Him. We consider Chapter 5 of ***Demolishing Strongholds*** to be the most important chapter in the workbook. (Find Chapter 5 in the Table of Contents and scroll down to it.) *Do This After You’ve Demolished The Strongholds* is too often overlooked by those who freed themselves of strongholds in the name of Jesus. They fiddle faddle about taking seriously that they need to diligently stay free.

Finally, we aren’t teachers. We’re only two people whom our heavenly Father recruited to help you prepare for the forthcoming chastisement. In each generation there is a remnant who are ***called, chosen*** and ***found faithful***. Today there is a remnant who have “ears to hear,” who embrace grace with purpose and are taking a closer look at their own Christian walk. Please be one of these! If you have previously lived with a theological lie, that doesn’t mean you have to die believing it.

Please pass this email along to everyone you care about who considers themselves “Christian”. It’s time that we discard the old ways in which the world’s views and demonic influence have had us view other people. Jesus has given His own the responsibility to respond to them as He would, according to His commands. We each need to see people through the eyes of Jesus.

Mike & Sue