

Christians and Holidays

By Will Robinson

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A good, common sense, rule of life is that we should never ask a question unless we are willing to hear the answer. Until the question is asked, we need never consider the answer, however, once we ask, we must consider the answer and then either accept or reject it. Of course, we could ask only questions to which we already have answers which are acceptable to us and never put ourselves into a position requiring a difficult decision. Sadly enough, many do just that.

For the one who would live the Christian life, however, not asking questions can cause spiritual growth to stop. This results in the individual concerned spending his life as an infant, never to enjoy the blessings of spiritual maturity. While this is indeed a deplorable condition for anyone who claims to be a Christian, asking a question and then refusing to accept the answer is much worse. Once an answer is rejected, the source of the answer must also be rejected. If the answer comes from the Bible, rejecting the answer requires that God also be rejected for if His word is denied, He is denied also.

We might be tempted to sidestep the issue by questioning an interpretation but we are then obligated to search out the truth until all doubt is removed.

Once a question is asked, the only proper conclusion to the matter is the changing of our lives and habits as required by the answer we have received.

Examine yourself carefully, Dear Reader, and if there is the slightest doubt of your convictions about living as God's word dictates --STOP-- read no further for we are about to ask some very difficult questions and the answers will require you to make one of the most difficult decisions of your life.

Let me remind you again that once a question is asked and the answer given, it is too late to stop. A decision must be made to either accept the answer and act accordingly or reject the answer and Him who gives it.

FIRST QUESTION:

Do you celebrate Christmas as a memorial of the birth of Christ? If so, what facet of our Lord's birth do colored lights, decorated trees, Yule logs, eggnog,

exchanging gifts, sugar cookies, fruit cake, reindeer with red noses, a fat old man in a red suit, holly wreaths, mistletoe, Frosty the snowman, December 25 and parades commemorate?

SECOND QUESTION:

Do you celebrate Easter as a memorial of the resurrection of Christ? If so, what facet of our Lord's resurrection do rabbits, colored eggs, flowers, parades, new dresses, gaudy hats and observing the sun rise commemorate?

We should also ask what scripture reference directs your participation in these memorial services. (You may use a concordance to assist you in answering this question.)

Xmas (the modern way of writing Christmas) is more correct in indicating the origin of this festival. The "X" which is one way of writing the letter "T" or sacred "Tau" represents Tammuz indicating a feast to the sun god held at the time of the winter solstice, December 23. In fact, all traditions of Christmas with the possible exception of the modern additions such as Rudolph the red nosed reindeer can be traced back to some pagan religious ritual of Babylon, Egypt, Greece, or Rome. For example, burning the Yule log comes from a ceremony honoring Thor, another name for Baal, the god of fire and the hearth. Check Jeremiah 10:3-5 and see whether the Xmas tree bears a striking resemblance to the god here referenced. With a little research at your local library, you can readily trace the origin of all Xmas traditions.

The origin of Easter is equally interesting. In fact, Easter is just the English version of Ishtar, the goddess of fertility, and her spring festival. Let's face it -- eggs and rabbits are symbols of sex, fertility and reproduction -- not the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. While you are at the library looking up Xmas, look up Easter too!

But, you say, the Bible actually mentions Easter. That is true and the Bible also mentions Adam and Eve's transgression but we do not try to make a ceremony out of it. In fact, if the reader will check the meaning of the Greek word "Pascha" which is here translated "Easter" (the only place in the Bible where Easter is used) he will find that it should be translated "Passover." Common sense, alone, should tell us that Jews who refused to accept Christ would certainly not be involved in a ceremony honoring His resurrection.

From the preceding and any additional research the reader cares to do, it can readily be seen that Xmas and Easter are not in any way connected with Christ. They are pagan religious ceremonies which originated many years before the Lord Jesus Christ was even born.

If all this is true, how can these holidays be considered “Christian” and celebrated as such? This is a logical and a reasonable question and the answer is fairly simple.

We find repeated warnings of doctrinal perversion throughout the New Testament. Less we be tempted, however, to think that the subject at hand does not fall into the category of doctrinal perversion and can therefore be ignored, both church and secular history prove it does. Probably one of the most significant eras of doctrinal perversion occurred when Constantine became emperor of Rome. History records that he made “Christianity” the official state religion of Rome and was responsible for the “Christianizing” of many pagan beliefs and traditions in order to make the state religion acceptable to all. We also find the church of Rome doing this during the period known as the Dark or Middle Ages.

OK! So these holidays were once pagan but now they are Christian. Why shouldn't we celebrate them? Regardless of what they were -- we use them to honor Christ. The only answer to these questions which we should be willing to accept is “never-the-less, what sayeth the scriptures.”

In Leviticus 10:1, 2, the two sons of Aaron are killed by the Lord when they offer incense to him on the altar. They were in the act of worshipping the Lord when He sent out fire and consumed them. While it may be difficult to comprehend this act of the Lord, a close examination of the text will solve the problem. While their performance was an act of worship, it was a direct violation of the command God had given concerning such worship. So, while they appeared to be worshipping, they were actually disobedient and an act of disobedience can never be at the same time an act of proper worship in the eyes of God.

In Numbers 33:51-56, we find another of God's commands to his people, Israel. Here He spells out what is to be done with the religions, customs, traditions, possessions and people of the land He has given them and what to expect should they disobey. Throughout the first and second books of Kings we find the record of disobedience to this command and the results of that

disobedience.

In 1 Samuel 15, we find a specific example of how God regards our efforts to convert forbidden things to his worship. Here King Saul saves some animals which he should have killed to use as a sacrifice to the Lord and loses his kingdom because of it. If God punishes his chosen people for wanting to sacrifice some Amalekite cattle to Him, can we honestly expect his favor upon us as we purport to honor Him with pagan rituals adopted from idolatrous religions? NO! We certainly cannot!

The only memorial service of any kind prescribed for the observance of the Body of Christ is found in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Here, Paul, instituting the Lord's Supper as a memorial service for the Body of Christ, tells us exactly what we are to do, how we are to do it and how often and how long we are to do it. To perform any other act can only be regarded in the same manner as the offering of incense by the sons of Aaron and the attempted sacrifice of King Saul.

It should now be perfectly clear, Dear Reader, that God expressly prohibits our participation in these pagan festivities, Xmas and Easter, and if you would obey God, you will gladly abstain from such participation.

As we stated in the beginning of this discussion, now that the question has been asked and an answer received, you must make a decision!

Therefore, choose you this day whom you will follow -- God and his word or Baal and world tradition.