

The Truth About Christmas

By Ralph F. Becker

“Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry” (I Cor. 10:14).

“Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (I John 5:21).

Dear Reader---These words of the Holy Spirit should interest you greatly if you are a Christian. They are very searching, very alarming words. And they are words of Holy condemnation. These words show us that whatever is very popular with men is not of God. They teach us, that without a question whatever ungodly men esteem highly, is abominable to the Lord. And sad as it is, they reveal that Christ's own children can be deceived into the sin of idolatry. Holidays are highly esteemed among men. And no holiday is more highly regarded than Christmas. No date on the calendar is more looked forward to. The ungodly who spend their short lives only in pursuit of money, pleasure, fame and power unite as one to celebrate Christmas. World-wide no one date is so wholly given over to revelry, sin and idolatry as December 25th is Christmas the world celebrates is not of God. It is abominable to Him. It is not honoring to His Son, Jesus Christ. It is only a false misrepresentation of Him. It is not of the Holy Spirit. It is only a grievous mockery to Him. Christmas is not a time of spiritual upbuilding in the Church. It is an evil that plagues that body of true believers.

It is no season of holiness when the heart is lifted up in thankfulness to God. This flood of revelry called Christmas is only a depressing, unprofitable and polluting time for anyone taught by God's Spirit. And as we stand and see this sinister cloud of evil, annually

descend in a smothering pall of idolatry, on the inhabitants of the earth, we can only say like the Apostle John, **“I wondered with great admiration”** (Rev. 17:6).

All Christmas celebrating is founded on the superstitious Pagan idolatry of Babylon woven shrewdly unto the ritual of the Roman Catholic Church. There is plenty of proof existing today that places this fact beyond doubt. The celebrating we now witness every December 25 is a Roman Catholic copy of the festivities held long before Christ, when all Babylon reveled in honor of the birth of the son of their Queen of heaven.

Faithful men of old fought against the mingling of idolatry and the name of Christ. Very vigorously did they oppose the entry of Christmas among believers. But in spite of their efforts the lukewarm Church, with the exception of a small remnant was overcome by the Romish paganism.

Now it is freely admitted by all learned and honest writers of old that the date of Christ's birth cannot be known.

How then did the Roman Catholic Church fix December 25 as Christmas day?

Long centuries before the time of Christ a great heathen feast was celebrated at that precise time of the year in the Chaldean city of Babylon. Now this pagan revelry was in honor of the birth of Tammuz of Bel, or Bacchus, who was the son of Semaramis, or Cybele or Rhea, the Chaldean's Queen of heaven.

The Romish way of converting pagans and making them adherents of the Catholic Church has always been to absorb them, along with

their idolatrous observances. Down through the centuries, Rome, following this procedure, incorporated much pagan image worship into her ritual. Thus the heathen could observe and enjoy their own idolatries, in the Church of Rome realizing that these celebrations belonged to them originally.

And so has it been with Christmas, according to reliable historians.

Nearly every known form of Paganism that has descended from Babylon centers its worship with different variations on---a mother and the birth of her child. So in pretence of honoring the birth of our Saviour, the Roman Catholic Church has taken the idolatry of Babylon, in the worship of Semaramis and her son, Tammuz, incorporated it into her "Mass" and given it the name of Christ. The result is the universal observance of Christ-mass.

Are you startled Reader? Are you angry that someone should write such things about the Christmas you have celebrated all these years? Then do not throw down this article in disgust but allow me to furnish proof of these statements. For remember **"Many false prophets are gone out into the world"** (I John 4:1). **"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light"** (II Cor. 11:14).

Following are some brief quotations from our own standards of authority, as to the origin of Christmas.

In *Webster's Students' Dictionary for Upper School Levels*---page 145 (a Catholic dictionary used in our schools today) we read---

"Christmas.---Christ + Mass. A church festival, December 25. Christmas day commemorating the birth of Christ."

In the *Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia*, 1903, Vol. 2, Page 987-
--we read---

“Christmas.---Christmas properly begins with the evening of December 24. . . .and continues until Epiphany, January 6, the whole period called Christmastide. In the Roman, Greek, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches Christmas is observed as a religious festival with special services. Its celebration was formerly forbidden by the Puritans.”

In the *Encyclopedia Brittanica*, 9th Edition, Vol. 5; Page 611---we read---

“Christmas Day.---there is however difficulty in accepting this (December 25th), as the date of the Nativity, December being the height of the rainy season when neither flocks or shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem. By the fifth century, however, whether from influence of some tradition or from the desire to supplant heathen festivals of the period of the year such as Saturnalia, the 25th of December had been generally agreed upon.”

The *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1942 Edition, Vol. 6; Page 623,
reads thus---

“Christmas.---It was according to many authorities not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. A feast was established in memory of the birth of the Saviour in the Fourth Century. In the Fifth Century the Western Church (Roman Catholic) ordered it to be celebrated forever on the day of the Old Roman Feast of the birth of Sol.

The holly, the mistletoe, the Yule log and the wassail bowl are of pre-Christian times.

The Christmas tree has been traced back to the Romans. It went from Germany to Great Britain."

Any thinking person will have no difficulty in understanding from these historical authorities that Christmas itself has no connection with the birth of Christ. It did not appear until the fourth century, then under the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church it came forth as a pagan festival.

Now let us notice a few of the original Christmas customs according to the Encyclopedias.

In the new *Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1900, Vol. IX, Page 5236, we read---

"Saturn.---An ancient Italian god. . . Saturnalis, this is the great "Festival of Saturn," celebrated on the 19th, but after Casear's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December. Augustus decreed that the 17th and 18th should be sacred to Saturn and the 19th and 20th to Opalia the festivals of Ops.

Caligula added a fifth day, "The Day of Youth," December 25th, lasted seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festival schools were closed. . .

Gambling and dice at other times illegal was now practiced. All classes exchanged gifts, the commonest being tapers and clay dolls. These dolls were especially given to children. Varro

thought that these dolls represented original sacrifices of human beings to the Infernal God."

The new *Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica*, Edition of 1899, Vol. XI; Page 404, has this---

"Beffena.---A corruption of the word 'epinhania' (Epiphany) is the name of an old female character in Italian folklore, who was so busily engaged in housecleaning, when three wise men of the East passed by on their way to offer their treasures to the Infant Saviour, that she excused herself for not going out to see them thinking she would have the opportunity of doing so when they returned. Not knowing that they went home by another road she has been ever since watching for them. She, like the Dutch Santa Claus, is supposed to take great interest in children, who in Italy are put to bed early on the "twelfth night" a stocking of each being hung up before the fire. Soon the cry "Eccole Beffena" is raised when the children jump up and seize their stockings, each of which contains a present bearing value in proportion to the conduct of the child during the year. One whose behavior has been particularly bad finds his stocking filled with ashes in token of Beffena's displeasure.

The custom of carrying an effigy called the Beffena on the "Twelfth Night" in a procession through the streets is probably a relic of one of the "Mysteries of the Middle ages."

The *New International Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition, Vol. 3, Page 27, tells us this—

"Epiphany. --- A festival held on the 6th of January by the Roman Catholic, Eastern and Anglican churches in commemoration of the manifestations of Christ. Three different

events are included in this celebration. As early as the third century at least, it was observed as the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ. . . Later in the east it was taken to commemorate the manifestations of divine power in Christ's first miracle at Cana in Galilee. . . In the fourth century the birth of Christ was also connected with it by some writers. Many special observances are to have been connected with the day which under the name 'Twelfth Day,' 'Twelfth Night' was a time of special merry making in England and closed the Christmas festivities."

Thus we see that not only is Christmas of pagan origin but its customs all came from the heathen as well. And for centuries it has been highly esteemed by the Roman Church and the ungodly in all nations. Yet during these same generations the truly faithful have shunned Christmas festivities and denounced them as the Romish Pagan celebrations they are. And Reader---if you are faithful to Christ you will NOT keep Christmas. For since Rome is truly "Babylon the Great (Rev. 17) and the virgin in her sanctuaries is actually the Babylonish queen of heaven, how one ought to tremble at the very thought of taking any part in her wicked idolatry. And though the sin of idolatry may appear light to some, our God does not consider it so. For he has attached the greatest of all threatenings to that Commandment –

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:5).

And if we awake suddenly to find the heavy judgments of God bearing down relentlessly upon our people and nation, can we not discern His hand in fulfilling this Scripture for the national sin of Romish idolatry?

“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).

Let us now consider some practical points about this pagan Christmas.

1. The name of Christmas---This very name is an abomination of the Holy Lord God. The reason for this is that this word Christmas is an unholy combination of the two words “Christ” and “Mass.” Christ died once for our sins (Heb. 9:26). And by that one offering He has perfected forever every believer (Heb. 10:14).

But in the Roman Catholic Mass Satan himself has introduced to the untaught ignorant soul the horrible blasphemy that Christ is sacrificed over and over countless times at the will of a sinful priest. Yes, the priest of Rome even claims that the “Mass” adds to and improves upon Christ’s atonement made at Calvary!

Christ is the divine title of our wonderful Lord. “Mas” is from shortening the Roman Catholic word, “Mass” or “Missa” which means simply “to dismiss.” Christ is the head of the True and Living church. The Roman Catholic Church, under the leadership of the Pope is the false harlot church. She is spoken of in the Word of God as the **“Mother of Harlots”** (Rev. 17:5). Nothing in the natural realm will stir one to anger quicker than for someone else to connect his wife’s or his mother’s name with the name of a harlot. Then Christian, how can you blend the Holy Name of Jesus Christ with the foul “Mass” of the harlot Church?

2. Now the Christmas Tree---Traveling any part of America today during the weeks of Christmas festivities one feels like Paul did while he waited at Athens once. "His spirit was stirred within him as he beheld the city FULL of idols" (Acts 17:16).

In ancient paganism whenever the sun was worshipped it was not venerated as the orb of light, but as God incarnate in Babylon's system of idol worship the sun was called "Baal" the one and only God. So when Tammuz the son of the queen of heaven was worshipped as God he was also revered as Baal.

Now that Christmas idol, the evergreen tree which is so universal in twentieth century heathen worship, was just as common in Pagan Rome and Pagan Egypt long before Christ. In Egypt a palm tree was worshipped as "Baal-Tamar," the Pagan Messiah, who after being killed, was restored to life by the great serpent god, Aesculapius. The Christmas tree in Pagan Rome was a fir tree, which symbolized the same new-born god as, "Baal-Berith." A feast was observed in Rome in honor of him on December 25th and it was called the "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun."

Thus in the spangled evergreen tree, as well as the other Christmas celebrations the Roman Catholic Church has brought the pagan worship of Baal down through the ages to us. And whether it be public or privately erected this seasonal Christmas tree is a glaring evidence of Baal worship. And so in keeping with Rome's usual order of worship, while millions suppose they honor Christ with a Christmas tree, they are actually commemorating a pagan festival in honor of Baal (I Kings 18) also read (Judges 8:33). How well spoke Jeremiah when he said, **"For the customs of the peoples 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” (Jer. 10:3-5).

3. Remembering Christ's Birth ---Nowhere in the Bible are we told to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians are commanded to remember the death of Christ both by the Lord Jesus Himself in Luke 22:18-19 and the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-26. Surely the heart must be far from right with God that can enjoy itself in doing exactly the opposite of what He commands. Yet we see many who profess faith in Christ join with the hilarious ungodly in celebrating a carnal pagan Christmas. But who that has been taught by God's Holy Spirit, could countenance for one moment a celebration that is not only a pagan tradition, but also a Romish abomination?

I have noticed that those who make most of Christmas are those who make least of the death and resurrection of Christ and the day He has told us to remember Him on---the Lord's Day. People who willingly desecrate that day by secular work, open business houses, ungodly amusements and sports, will forfeit all these to attend a Christmas program in a church or a school house. Then back they go to their ungodly desecration of the Lord's Day until next Christmas. Christian can you take part in their sins? Can you, like Judas, betray Him Who died for you, by joining hands with those who hate Him, yet falsely pretend to honor Him in a festival of sin? Can you go halfway with the pagans in crucifying Christ afresh and putting Him to an open shame? Remember the words of I John 2:15: **“If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”**

“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Rev. 18:4).

4. Date of Christ's Birth---There is not one Scripture to prove that December 25th is the birthday of Christ. Neither is there a word about

the time of the year He was born. Not one Scripture mentions Christmas. No one knows the date of His birth. There is absolutely no authority except from the false Roman Catholic Church to connect His birth with December 25th. God in His wisdom has chosen to hide the time of His Beloved Son's birth into this world of sin. The Bible is the inspired Word of that same Holy God. His dear Son is the central figure in it from Genesis to Revelation. He has revealed many wonderful things to us about Christ in that Word. But one thing God has hidden completely from man. It is the precise date of the birth of Jesus.

In Bible accounts where celebrating and gift giving was done at someone's birthday party sin and evil prevailed and murder followed. In Genesis on Pharaoh's birthday the chief baker was hanged and beheaded. During Herod's birthday party John the Baptist was beheaded for preaching against sin. In Revelation 11 we read how wicked people celebrated the slaying of God's two faithful witnesses by making merry and sending gifts to one another. The Holy Spirit by the mouth of Paul once said, **"Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years, I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain"** (Gal. 4: 10-11).

5. Giving of Gifts---I believe that gifts can be great blessings. But a gift is of no value whatever unless it is given in love. But those who give in order to receive as much again do not give in love. They only give in covetousness in hope of receiving. Those who give only at a time of a Roman Catholic celebration of idolatry certainly are only doing so to the abhorrence of the Almighty. How much more then are they mocking God and making themselves abominable to him, who send gifts to one another at such a time in a pretence of honoring the birth of His Son?

The godly wise men from the East gave their gifts to the Child Jesus Himself---not to one another. They gave to Him from hearts moved by the Holy Spirit. Their gifts were a part of their worship of the

Messiah. Their gifts were no common trinkets but presents of great value showing their heart's true love for their Lord. And they did not bring Christ presents, that they might receive from Him in return. O how far removed from those first gifts to the Child Jesus is the modern cheap knick-knack giving of the fickle throng of Christmas revelers who give only that they may receive as much again!

6. The World and Christmas---There is one thing, which if it were entirely alone, would prove to me that Christmas celebrating is not of God. It is this; the world which hates Christ and His blood atonement for sin, responds as one man at that time to revel and feast.

If in reality December 25th was a date, set by God to remember the birth of Jesus, the world would not have anything to do with it. There would be absolutely no response by the rank and file of mankind. Witness how the world does not regard the Lord's Day which is of God. But the world DOES regard and love Christmas, therefore it is not of God. For **"the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God"** (I Cor. 2: 14). Then how can an obedient Child of God, or a church, or a gathering of Christians, follow Pagan Rome and the drugged and reeling world in their abominable idolatry and sin of Christ-Mass festivities?

Everyone knows well that Christmas time is a time of social and fleshly enjoyment. -- It is not a time when Christians draw near to God. Rather they turn away from Him to serve Rome's idols. Many of those who profess faith in Christ remind me of Jehu who cried, **"Come see my zeal for the Lord!"** Then he turned and went away to serve Jeroboam's idols.

Those who despise the Gospel of God's grace will go to any length to celebrate a false tradition about His son's birth. Those who hate the doctrine of forgiveness through Jesus' Blood alone, are filled with great

zeal to promote programs, to play Santa Claus, to adorn their dwellings with wreaths and trees and say "Merry Christmas" to everyone they meet! Proud sinners, self-righteous sinners, immoral sinners with a character black as midnight, morally virtuous sinners with hard impenitent hearts, refined and educated sinners knowing everything and everyone but Christ, religious sinners with a lofty heady profession---all, all with one accord join hands in the gay hilarity of Christmas following the Old Mother Harlot, ignorantly imagining they are doing honor to a Saviour they neither love or know or care to know.

During Christmastide men and women become foully drunk on "Christmas present" whiskey and perpetuate every kind of social vice, animal lewdness and criminal debauchery. In wild "Christmas parties" young men and women willingly sell their bodies to evil and their souls to Hell around the be-ribboned and wreathed "Christmas gifts" of champagne, brandy, wine and beer. And thousands, who would not get drunk commit the abominable sin of gluttony like some gorging carnivorous animal. And in all this the name of Christ is used in vile cursing, vulgarity and blasphemy by men and women, boys and girls who lie deliberately about "St. Nick" and "Santa Claus" and love a "Merry Christmas." Dear Christian, can you help to betray Christ to these pagans by going with them to their religious riots? Can you sell Christ to the ungodly world for a pagan Christmas, like Judas did for 30 pieces of silver?

7. Christmas Programs and Literature---Please read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 2, then Luke, Chapter 2. By doing so with care any thoughtful reader can see at once that Christmas songs, books, cards and programs are not Scriptural. For in most of these we find in one way or another, ignorant misrepresentations about the shepherds, the wise men, the star, the Child, the stable, etc.

Let us begin this problem by stating that nowhere in God's Word are we informed how many wise men there were. Neither does Scripture state that they followed a star to Jerusalem. Most certainly they knew the way there. Being wise men they knew how the prophets foretold that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. When they came to Herod to learn the whereabouts of the new-born Christ it was sometime after His birth. No one in Jerusalem seemed to know where the Child was. So the same star they had seen before at the time of His birth, now appeared and led them to where the Child was. When the wise men found the Lord Jesus He was no longer a tiny babe but a child living in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary had already returned from taking him to Jerusalem, which took place when Jesus was 41 days old (Lev. 12). Therefore the wise men never saw the Saviour until He had been brought back to Nazareth from the temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:39). They could not possibly have seen the Christ-Child before, because immediately after their departure, when they had seen the Saviour, Joseph and Mary fled into Egypt with Him and remained there till Herod was dead (Matt. 2:14-15).

It was not the wise men but the shepherds who came to visit the Babe Jesus in His manger cradle in Bethlehem. They followed no star either as they did not even see one. They were informed of the birth of their Messiah by the angel of the Lord (Luke 2:10).

Today the land abounds at Christmas time with all sorts of literature, cards, books and programs of celebrations, which utterly confuse the facts written in God's Word about the birth of Jesus. Shepherds and wise men, angels and stars, stable and inn, manger and house are misrepresented. The visit of the shepherds and the visit of the wise men are confused, so that the whole story of the birth of Christ is a jumbled mass of ignorant untruth.

Long ago King David said to a carnal generation like ours, **“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”** (Ps. 2:1).

8. God’s Judgment---One more point we dare not overlook concerning Christmas. The very source of Christmas equipment condemns the tradition. Until World War II nearly all Christmas goods were stamped “Made in Germany” or “Made in Japan.” Thus these very goods, used by England and the United States to pollute the worship of God and make whole nations to sin, came from the very countries God used in bringing His judgment of war upon us. How did such poor nations finance so great a war? By selling us the fruit of their cheap labor among which Christmas goods played a major role. Ought we to regard this as a mere coincidence? Ought we not rather to see the threatening of God in it? NO COUNTRY IN ALL HISTORY HAS TURNED TO IDOLS AND THEN PROSPERED FOR LONG. The national unrest, the ominous rumblings in the World Councils, the low standard of morality, the universality of open sin, the wickedness of idolatry all point to one great event we may soon see come to pass, the fall of this nation. If the sin of Roman pagan idolatry is not nationally recognized and confessed and forsaken we can only look for national doom. If it is increased and developed and the nation goes on with her open idolatry, her legalized gambling, her mountainous liquor corruption, her disregard for the Truth of the Bible, her desecrating of the Lord’s Day and the maintenance of pagan festivals we may be sure of one thing, “The Lord’s anger will not be turned away, His hand will be stretched out still” (Isa. 9:17).

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

“Pride goeth before destruction” (Prov. 16:18).

“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Ex. 23:2).

Perhaps some well meaning untaught Christian will say, “We only keep Christmas to give the children a good time.”

Let me give you some questions to consider.

1. How can you, if you are a Christian, allow your own dear little ones to worship Baal-Berith in their childhood ignorance?

2. Do you want them to grow up in servitude to the Roman Catholic Church’s observances and celebrations?

3. How can you have the brazen boldness before God, to teach your children paganism and the Word of God at the same time?

4. Why combine the story of our adorable Saviour with the Roman heathen idol, the Christmas tree or Baal-Berith?

5. Why try and mingle your children’s pleasure with a wicked heathen tradition?

6. How can you expect your children to believe you, that they must worship Christ alone if they see you indulge in Paganism?

7. How can you expect your child to believe your witnessing to him about Christ when he finds out you have been lying to him about Santa Claus and his reindeer?

8. Can you expect your children to be honest and truthful when they find out you have been lying to them?

9. Do you believe that a festive season that not only came to us through Rome from Babylon, but in itself is a system of perpetual lying to little children is of God?

10. Can you teach your children to honor the Lord and the Lord's Day and then help them engage in honoring a heathen god, Ball-Berith, a Christmas tree?

11. How can you tell your children you are a child of God yourself when they annually watch you celebrate a Romish Pagan Christmas like a child of the devil?

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20).

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

It may be you have saved up money to buy Christmas gifts and cards and decorations, etc. Be sure this is not pleasing to God, fellow Christian. Let me suggest to you what should be done if this is the case with you.

Do not spend what God has given you on carnal gifts. Do not contribute to the "good cause" of supporting a Romish Christmas entertainment. Do not buy an expensive tree or ornaments and decorations or wreaths, like the Christ-hating world does.

Instead of all this, take what God has given you and send it as a gift to the Lord to some needy missionary in a dark and foreign land. Think awhile on those poor of the earth, those thousands of souls that

have never heard the glad tidings of Christ, for the lack of support to real Christian missionaries. Can you, use what the good Lord has given you, to celebrate like the idolatrous heathen, instead of giving that these heathen in awful darkness, might hear and be saved?

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matt. 25:40).

I have no desire to discourage one honest soul. But I have witnessed this pagan festival of sin creeping as a deadly thing, coiling its slimy yet glittering idolatries around the feeble Baptist Churches, to strangle the true worship that remains. And I have found most who know Christ as Saviour and Lord totally ignorant of the truth about Christmas. And scarcely a voice have I heard raised in protest of this paganism, for the honor of Jesus Christ.

Therefore I have revealed to you the truth as God has shown me by His Word and by history and existing facts. May He make it a word in season to you. It is my hope and prayer that every Christian who discovers he has erred so exceedingly as to partake of Rome's Christmas, will turn again to the God of all grace and in contrition, utterly and forever forsake all that pertains to this Christ dishonoring sin of Babylon. It is my desire to see, not only the souls of men saved, but the children of God walking in obedience to Him. The Apostle John said, **“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”** (III John 4).

Christians are commanded to be holy (I Pet. 1:15-16). They are to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1). They are to utterly forsake idolatry (Ex. 20:5). They are told to walk in the Spirit, and not fulfill the fleshly desires (Gal. 5:16). They are told to stand fast in the liberty of Christ (Gal. 5:1). They are commanded to grieve not the Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30). The Apostle said we believers ought to walk as Jesus walked (I

John 2:6). Christ Himself said we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is (Matt. 5:48). Jesus told us to set our affections on things above where He is (Col. 3:2). In Christ we are new creations (II Cor. 5:17). By His grace we have come from the hole of the pit (Isa. 51:1) to Mount Zion, the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, into the Church of the Firstborn whose names are written in Heaven (Heb. 12:22-23). By God's grace we have been brought from the terrible darkness of death (Eph. 2:1) to the light of Life (John 14:6; 8:12). We have been saved from eternal death by the blood of His dear Son (Rom. 5:9). We have been bought with a price most precious (I Pet. 1:19). We are not our own any more but His (I Cor. 6:20). And now in Christ we are temples of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16).

Reader do you now see why faithful John said, **“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”** (I John 5:21)?

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