

toms and celebration? What makes People's minds think it is alright to partake of the heathen customs and associate the birth of our Saviour with it? Every year we can read in the newspapers of the paganism in it. Why do people not even know the true name of our Saviour, Yahshua? Why do they think it is alright to call Him something else? Why do they think it doesn't matter what they call Him or His Father, Yahweh? Why have they forgotten the Scriptural Sabbath, the seventh day of the week? Why do they think time has been lost and that we don't know which day of the week is the Sabbath? Why do they even think it makes no difference which day we keep; or if indeed we should cease from our labor in business, and buying and selling any day at all? Why don't they know the truth of these things? Why don't they know what the Scriptures say? Why do they not know the Word is truth? Why don't they know?

Actually, I was once caught up in this situation. As a young boy I loved the Christmas time, the pretty trees, the thrill of Santa Claus. I remember looking through the newspaper to see how many pictures of Santa Claus I

could find. It all made me feel wonderful. A lovely feeling came over me. It was what is called "the Christmas spirit." It was a delightful, joyful emotion. But where did this spirit come from? Why would partaking of paganistic practices and believing a lie give me this ecstasy?

WHY DO PEOPLE BELIEVE LIES? The Scriptures give us the answer. "For the secret of law violation does already work. Only he who now restrains will restrain, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall the lawless [one] be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and render entirely idle by the manifestation of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that PERISH, BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. AND FOR THIS CAUSE THE ALMIGHTY SHALL SEND

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THEM STONG DELUSION, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE A LIE, that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS," 2 Thes. 2:7-12.

Because they receive not THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, they believe lies. Yahshua said, "REPENT...[or]...PERISH. (Lk. 13:3) Yahweh is not willing that any should perish, but wishes that all would repent. (2 Pet. 3:9; Ez. 33:11) BUT THEY MUST REPENT ...or...PERISH. They must repent of sin (the transgression of the law—1 Jn. 3:4) and start to obey Yahweh and keep His commandments. The atonement for our sin is by the death of our Ruler, Yahshua the Messiah; and it is a free gift. (Ro. 5:11 & 15) Then they can know the truth: "If you love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may

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abide with you forever, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE IT SEEKS HIM NOT, neither knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you,” Jn. 14:15-17. “Howbeit when the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth,” Jn. 16:13. Yahshua prayed, “Separate them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth.” And He said, “If you continue in My Word, then are you My taught ones indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,” Jn. 17:17 & 8:31-32.

There came a time in my young life that my dad decided it was time I knew the truth about Santa Claus. Guess what? On X-mas eve at my maternal grandparent’s farm house with decorated tree cut by grandfather from his own land, when I was with great expectation and joy, dad took me aside and told me there was no Santa Claus. My dad was very effective in stating things in a few words at opportune times. And He saw to it that I learned Scriptural truths.

We see that those who believe lies and perish, have pleasure in unrighteousness. They do not know the truth because they do not love it. They do not seek it. If they would only love the truth, simply

because it is the truth, they could ask Yahweh and He would show them the way. He would show them the true way of healing, repentance, and salvation. Let us love every bit of the truth we learn and follow all of it, so we will not believe lies. “But we are bound to give thanks always to the Almighty One for you, brethren beloved of Him, because He has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through separateness of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Whereunto He called you by our glad tidings to the obtaining of the esteem of our Master Yahshua the Messiah. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you have been taught, whether by word, or our letter. Now our Master Yahshua the Messiah Himself, and the Almighty, even our Father, which has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through favour, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work,” 2 Thes. 2:13-17.

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Y.E.A.



The Spirit of Christmas Vs. The Spirit of Truth

The season is again upon us when the world is busily planning for a big celebration on December 25th. Gifts are exchanged, millions of greeting cards are sent, thousands of barrels of strong drink are consumed, a fat man in a red suit is glorified, and the birth of our Saviour is discussed.

Why such a big thing over this day, when we read nothing in the Scriptures concerning celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Yahshua? We read nothing of His birth on this big celebration day. Rather, the Scriptures indicate He could not have been born this time of year. Many, even knowing this, still engage in the worldly celebration. Why? Why do people do it even if they know it is a day of pagan cus-