

# SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS Pt. 1: ELF on the SHELF, ELVES, ORIGINS of CHRISTMAS

I'm excited to do an updated teaching on Christmas especially because the initial teaching did not have any videos or pictures in it. I didn't realize for about the first 5 mos. of ministry, that Scott could insert pictures and videos. We are visual and visual aids help tremendously. I'm going to take my time with this subject.

About 2013 or so God brought conviction on my heart about Santa Clause and we quickly got him off of our lives. Kennedy was about 6 when we did away with Santa Clause. She was ok with it because we were still giving her presents so he was not a big loss to her. Even having gotten him out of our celebration I didn't fully realize what he was all about and who he represented. In 2014, the first year of this ministry, right between Thanksgiving and Christmas God began to unravel Christmas for me. He got my attention again with the elf on the shelf.



The Elf on the Shelf, A Christmas Tradition By Carol V. Aebersold and Chanda A. Bell – When you buy the book you also get an elf doll. You read the story to your

child and show them the elf. The story says that the elf watches your child every day until Christmas.



You move it around the house each day, when your child isn't around to make them think it really is watching them. We hid it on the Christmas tree, on the curtain valance, on shelves in Kennedy's room, off the tv and things like this all the way up to Christmas day.

The elf reports to Santa so that Santa knows whether your child has been naughty or nice. God pressed on my heart how the whole thing is a lie. Then you are telling your child that the elf has magical powers in order to fly to Santa Clause each day to make his report. Even though you know it doesn't fly back-n-forth you are still telling all of this to your child and you are opening spiritual doors in your life and home.

When we learned the truth about Christmas, repented and got it out of our lives Kennedy told us that the story we told her about that elf was scary.



She said it was scary thinking it was watching her and moving around, that it was alive. She didn't like it.

**Matt.19:14** - But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Children are precious to God. They believe what we tell them. They depend on us and that is why Jesus said they are of the kingdom of heaven and if we want to inherit heaven we must become like them (**Matt.18:3-4**), completely dependent on God and believe what He says.

The great lie of all that is wrapped up in Christmas is not drawing your children to Christ. The focus is not on Jesus and those that say otherwise are not being honest with themselves. When I taught children's church I can tell you that every one of those little children thought Christmas was all about presents and Santa Clause. Are we training our children in God's Word? (**Proverbs 22:6**)



The new Christmas tradition of Elf on the Shelf has taken on a life of its own. It seems to be more about the grownups inventing ways to set it up around the house for entertainment.



Elf – a supernatural creature of folk tales, typically represented as a small, elusive figure in human form with pointed ears, magical powers, and a capricious nature. Synonyms: pixie, fairy, sprite, imp, brownie etc.



satan wants you to think they are just make believe. Elves are demons. Any supernatural being that is not The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit or holy angels are demons. There are different levels, ranks and powers within satan's hierarchy. Think about Spok from star track with his pointed ears. He was part alien which is a demon. Look how easily Christians are welcoming this into their homes and children's lives. I think a lot of people have just never given all of this any thought.

After that God pressed on my heart to take a closer look at what Christmas really is. Where did it come from and what is the meaning of all the things that are packed into it? Let's watch this video that really gets to the heart of the matter about what Christmas really is:

**\*\*Please play this video – \*\***

Billions of people all over the world celebrate Christmas. They bring evergreen trees into their home and decorate them with silver and gold. Sometimes they crown them with a star. Yule log in fireplace. santa clause and reindeer, mistletoe, Yule log, decorating a tree, giving gifts, 12 days of Christmas...Did Christmas observance come from the Bible or does its observance predate Jesus Christ? Christians and nonchristians alike observe the pageantry of Christmas. Cutting down evergreen trees



Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 2, 1973 Christmas - In the Roman world, the Saturnalia was a time of merrymaking and exchanging of gifts... December 25<sup>th</sup>, was also regarded as the birthdate of the Iranian mystery god, Mithra, the sun of righteousness.



Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 2, 1973 Christmas - On the Roman new year, houses were decorated with greenery and lights & gifts were given to children... To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites – food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, gifts and greetings, all commemorated different aspects of this festive season.



Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 2, 1973 – Christmas - Fires and lights, symbols of warmth and lasting life have always been associated with the winter festival, both pagan and Christian.”

How can a festival which predates Christ be Christian? Why do Christians observe a festival that predates Christ? Why are these things part of modern Christianity today and where did they really come from?

**Strange Stories, Amazing Facts  
Reader's Digest**

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Interviews on the street asking people to explain the customs of Christmas. They had no idea about the tree – just making stuff up.

Most of us never think about why we do what we do. We have not examined the origin of the customs we celebrate. The Bible makes it painfully clear that the "many" have always been outside the will of God. Practically the whole world celebrates Christmas. We were born into all sorts of traditions and customs and we grew up accepting them without question. If you are a Christian this should matter to you because God has always condemned the religious customs of paganism.

Many of the customs of Christmas come from the ancient Roman Saturnalia, a festival to honor the pagan god Saturn. There's much evidence that suggests that early in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. the worship of Sol Invictus the sun god supplanted the worship of Saturn at this time. The Saturnalia was directly connected to the winter solstice. A time in late December when days were getting shorter and shorter and many feared that the sun was dying. It was during this time that the sun seemed to be reborn when the days stopped getting shorter and the days began getting longer. It was a time of great celebration and indulgence. Saturn was worshipped as the god of seed and sowing and was honored Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Where did

we get December 25<sup>th</sup>? It was when the worship of Sol Invictus the sun god was added. Sol Invictus meaning unconquered sun had a birthdate of December 25<sup>th</sup>. December 25<sup>th</sup> had long been associated with the worship of sun gods and goddesses.

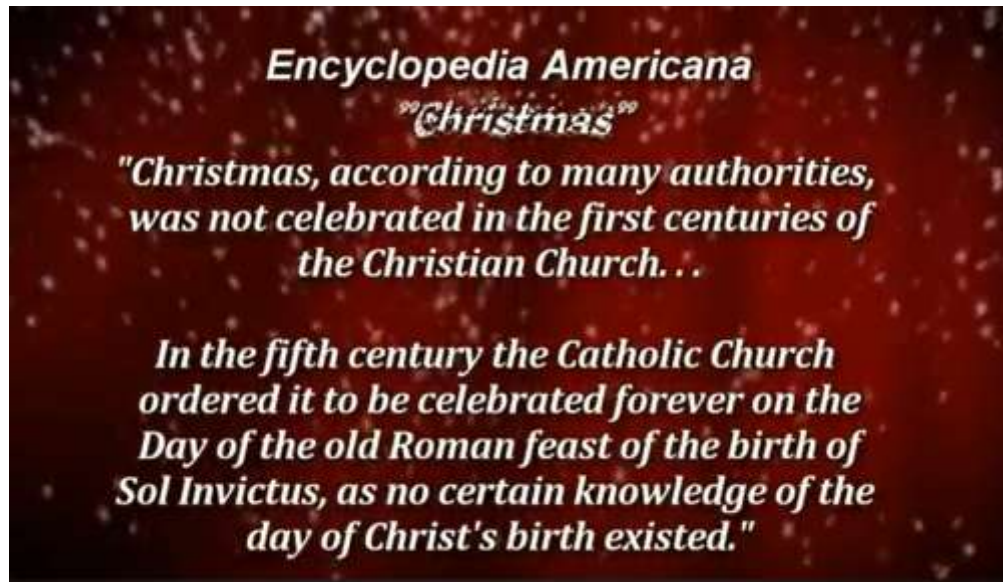


The earliest known was Tammuz of Babylon, the son of Nimrod. Both Tammuz of Babylon and Mithra of Persia were worshipped on their December 25<sup>th</sup> birthdates long before Roman sol invictus was.



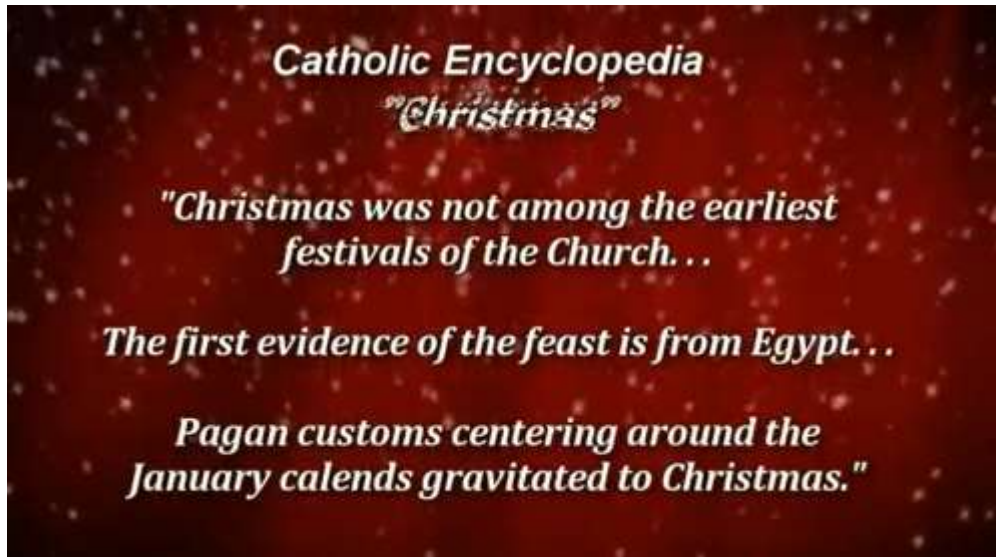
Notice the sun's rays emanating from their heads. For thousands of years December 25<sup>th</sup> has been the chief day to worship the sun. That's s-u-n, not son as in the Biblical Son of God we know as Jesus.

So how did this ancient festival and its customs come to bear the name of Christ? And how did it make its way into the church?



Encyclopedia Americana – “Christmas, according to many authorities, was not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church...In the fifth century the Catholic Church ordered it to be celebrated forever on the Day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol Invictus, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ’s birth existed.” Did you notice that historical authorities reveal that Christmas was not observed by the early church. It was not until the Roman Catholic Church ordered its observance 100’s of years after the apostolic church had been established. Since Christmas, meaning the mass of Christ is a Catholic creation, let’s see what they have to say.





Catholic Encyclopedia – “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church...The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt...Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas.”

You may ask, so what if the early church never observed Christmas? So what is the customs are from pagan worship? That’s not why we do it today. Today we do it to honor Jesus Christ. To our human minds that may sound right and good but is it really? Only God can answer the question of what is acceptable worship and what is not. Let’s take a look into the Bible, God’s Word and His instruction manual and see what He thinks about it.

Jude Verse 3 – “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly...for the FAITH which was once for all handed down to the saints.” Jude, the brother of Jesus really wanted to write the church about our common salvation but The Spirit of God moved him to exhort the church to contend for the original apostolic faith. Certain men were adding and taking away from the doctrines of the original faith.

Deuteronomy 4:2 – “You shall not ADD to the Word which I am commanding you, nor TAKE AWAY from it. ...that you may keep the commandments of The Lord your God which I command you.”

Matthew 15:3-9 – “Why do you transgress the Commandments of God for the sake of your tradition? ...You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you; ‘This

people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”

God warned His people to be careful not to add to or take away from what He had commanded. Jesus’ fiery speech in Matthew 15 was being delivered directly to Israel’s religious leaders. The traditions these men had established in the faith gave lip service to God but Jesus clearly condemned the practice of placing tradition over the commandments of God. Christmas observance is filled with customs that did not come from God but from ancient pagan traditions which God hates and calls abominations.

King Tut never saw a Christmas tree but he would have understood the tradition. The Egyptians were part of a long line of cultures that treasured and worshipped evergreens. When the winter solstice arrived they brought the green leaves into their homes to symbolize life’s triumph over death. The Romans likewise decorated their houses with greenery and lights. The druid priests of the British Isles used holly, mistletoe and evergreen branches in their pagan rituals. Isn’t it interesting that a custom can so easily be accepted into a culture. If you could time travel to America only 150 years ago you would find no Christmas observance. In fact, the observance of Christmas was illegal in early American history. Congress convened on December the 25<sup>th</sup>, schools were open and shops did business. Though the observance of Christmas eventually caught on it took a while. In 1900 only 20% of Americans celebrated the holiday and most who did were German immigrants.

Certainly Christians should understand where the custom of the Christmas tree originated and why. Veneration of the evergreen tree goes all the way back to Babylon when Semiramis gave birth to the sun god Tammuz.



Mother and Child Worship: L-R: Babylon – Semiramis and Nimrod/Tammuz, a halo or sun-disk about the head – denotes sun-god worship. Notice the “Halo” Nimbus or sun-disk, Egyptian goddess Isis and son Horus, Roman Catholic Mary and God-incarnate Jesus. \*Semiramis and Tammuz from Babylon morphed into Mary and Jesus in Christianity but the reality is that they symbolized Semiramis and Tammuz.\*

A sacred evergreen tree reportedly sprang from a dead stump on December the 25<sup>th</sup>, the day Tammuz was born. This tree was believed to possess the eternal life of Nimrod, the sworn enemy of God. The veneration of the evergreen tree not only has pagan roots but sinister roots indeed if you come from God’s point of view.

The Evergreen Tree – 2 Kings 16:4 – “GREEN TREE” is a term used for a tree which stays green all year round. It was believed to possess life. Evil King Ahaz of Judah – “Sacrificed and burned incense on the high places and on the hills UNDER every GREEN TREE.”

The Evergreen Tree – 2 Kings 17:9-10 – “The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the Lord their God...They set for themselves sacred pillars & ...on every high hill under every GREEN TREE.”

The Evergreen Tree – Deuteronomy 12:2 – “You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and UNDER every GREEN TREE.”



## The Evergreen Tree

Deuteronomy 12:30-31 – It is later in this very chapter that God warns – “do not inquire after their gods, saying, how do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise. ...You shall not behave thus toward the Lord your God, for every abominable act which the Lord hates they have done for their gods...”

The Evergreen Tree – Jeremiah chapter 10 – “Thus says the Lord, ‘Do not learn the way of the heathen; and do not be terrified by the signs of heaven, although the heathen are terrified by them...

...For the CUSTOMS of the people are delusion; for one cuts a TREE out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman with an axe. They DECK it with SILVER and GOLD; they FASTEN IT with nails and with hammers, that it move not.”

Those are very strong words indeed, concerning the use of evergreen trees in worship. Did you notice that people were worshipping their gods under evergreen trees? In Deuteronomy 12 God plainly condemned the practice. Now some might say but I’m not worshipping an evergreen tree. But let’s be honest and ask ourselves, what are we doing when we bring a tree into our home and we place it in a prominent spot? What does it mean when we decorate it with silver and gold and we crown it with a star? What are we doing when we lay gifts at its feet as if it were an idol? What are we doing when we place the name of Christ on a tree?

According to history a great man arose in Babylon after the flood. His name was Nimrod. He was called the mighty one on the earth. Nimrod was the sworn enemy of God and vowed to fight God if He ever sent another flood upon the earth. He gathered the people together against God and convinced them to build a tower that would reach heaven. The tower was to protect them against the flood and serve as a means for Nimrod to reach and attack God. God stopped the building of the tower by giving the people various languages which further infuriated Nimrod. When Nimrod died his wicked wife Semiramis was with child. A tree was cut down as a symbol of Nimrod’s life being cut short and people honored the stump as a symbol of him. She gave birth to a son, Tammuz, on December 25<sup>th</sup>. That very day an evergreen sprouted forth from a dead stump. And Semiramis declared Tammuz was the rebirth of Nimrod and was now god of the unconquered sun. Since Tammuz was believed to be the rebirth of Nimrod

which was confirmed by the sprouting of the evergreen, the evergreen tree became the symbol of Nimrod.

Nimrod had seemingly conquered death and was victorious over God. He was now the sun god and was believed to be eternal. With this knowledge it's not so difficult to understand why people brought evergreen trees into their homes during this time of year. With this knowledge doesn't it make more sense why people decorated the tree with round ornaments which symbolized the sun. Now we understand why people placed a tree in their homes and laid gifts at its feet. The tree represented Nimrod reborn as the sun god. From ancient times the winter solstice has been associated with sun worship. December 25<sup>th</sup> was celebrated as the birthday of the sun god. And the evergreen tree was his symbol of eternal life. All this was taking place long before the birth of Jesus Christ and long before the birth of Christianity.

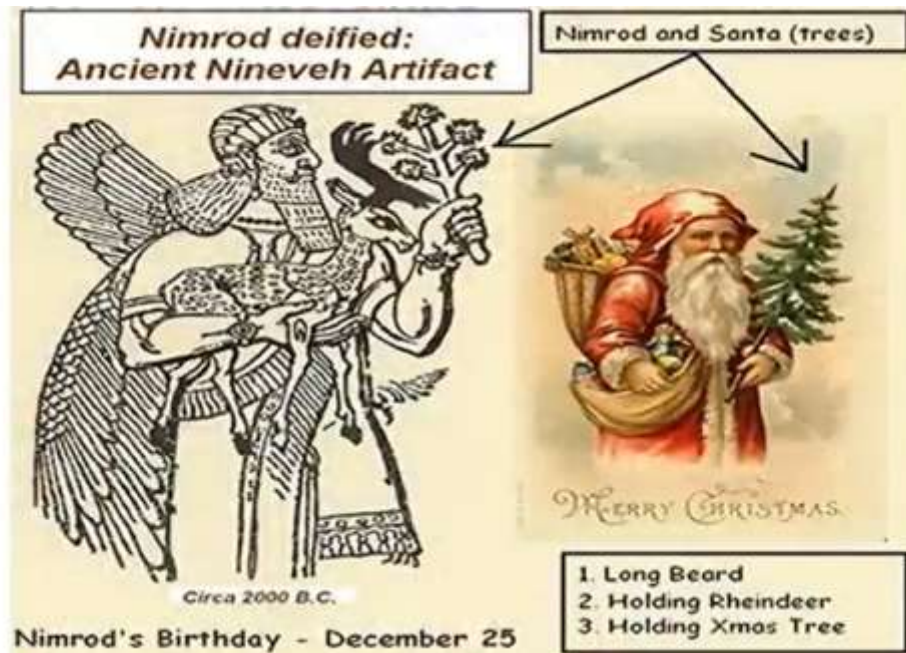
I learned the truth that santa was not real at the age of six while getting a haircut. Another kid let it out of the bag. I thought my dad would straighten this kid out. When he didn't I knew that santa was a lie. His uncle would come and say he'd just seen santa and they'd get in the car and go look for him. Then when they came back home the uncle would say that santa had just been there and left. Without thinking we tell our children stories of santa, the toothfairy, the boogie man as if they were true as if they are harmless. But they are in fact lies. According to Jesus all lies come from the devil.

John 8:44 – “He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the TRUTH...When he speaks a lie he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the FATHER of LIES.”



The idea of a jolly old elf can be found in many cultures. The Catholic church attached the name of one of their bishops to him. Nicholas of Asia Minor from which comes the expression St. Nich. The Vikings believed that the goddess heartha would appear in the fireplace during the winter solstice and bring good luck to the house. But if you search long enough you can trace santa all the way back to wicked Nimrod.





The Bible calls Nimrod the mighty one on earth. Nimrod's birthday – December 25<sup>th</sup>. Nimrod deified: Ancient Nineveh artifact Nimrod and santa trees 1. Long Beard, 2. Holding Reindeer, 3. Holding Xmas tree

The name Nicholas means mighty one.

Comparing this ancient relief of Nimrod to the modern image of santa it is easy to see the correlation. Let's see what we have learned so far: The date of December the 25<sup>th</sup> attributed to Jesus' birth is associated with sun worship. The early church never observed Christmas or Jesus' birthday. It was more than 800 years after Jesus that it came into the church. It was introduced to Christians by the Catholic Church and all the customs used in observing Christmas had pagan idolatrous roots. Santa is not only a lie but is a modern version of Nimrod. And God has warned us not to add nor take away from what He has commanded. And Jesus said we can worship in vain if we hold to traditions of men while neglecting the commandments of God.

God has given many examples in the Bible to learn from. The apostle Paul tells us that the mistakes Israel made were recorded for our instruction, in order that we don't make the same mistakes. So let's take a minute to look at some:

1 Cor.10:6-7 – Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved...Do not be idolaters as some of them were.

In Exodus chapter 32 we find that the children of Israel had grown restless. Moses had been on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and many feared that he was dead. The people went to Aaron, Moses' brother, he was also the high priest of Israel and asked him to make a golden calf to represent the God of Israel.

Exodus 32:1 – Come, make us a god who will go before us, as for this Moses,...we do not know what has become of him.

Aaron instructed the people to give him their gold jewelry so he could melt it down to make an image of God. Then all the people took off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took this from their hand and fashioned it with a graven tool and made it into a molten calf. And they said this is your god oh Israel who brought you up from the land of Egypt. Notice they didn't say this is another god or this is one of Egypt's mighty gods. It's clear by the context that this beautiful golden calf was made to represent the God of Israel. They were trying to honor God. They had given their gold jewelry to build it. The people's heart seemed right before The Lord. Aaron the high priest of God had built himself had also built an altar before and had proclaimed a feast to honor The Lord the next day.

Exodus 32:5-6 – And Aaron made a proclamation and said Tomorrow shall be a feast to The Lord. So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings.

Notice that Aaron proclaimed a festival to The Lord. And clearly Aaron was not proclaiming a feast to another god. So why wouldn't God be honored or pleased? The people wanted something to represent The Lord to go before them. They gave offerings to make it possible. They observed a festival to honor The Lord and made sacrifices upon His altar. So what was God's response?

Exodus 32:7-8 – Then The Lord spoke to Moses, - Go down at once, for your people have corrupted themselves. They have quickly TURNED ASIDE from the WAY which I commanded them.

As a result of this sin, 3000 men died that day. What had they done that was so wrong? God told Moses, they have turned aside from My Way. God has a specific way He wants to be served. Israel had acted as if they were not a people under God's authority. They had no authority to add an image of God and no authority to proclaim a festival which God had not. God was angry because they were doing what was right in their own eyes without inquiring of His will. They were following their own way instead of His way.

Proverbs 16:25 – There is a way which seems right to a man but its end is the way of death.

What God is clearly saying to us in Proverbs chapter 16 is that any way other than God's way results in death. By contrast God's Way results in life even life eternal. Christmas today is not unlike the festival observance in Exodus chapter 32. The Israelites observed it to honor God and Christians today believe they are honoring God by keeping Christmas. Israel was observing a holiday to honor God by using images and customs from Egypt. And Christians observe Christmas to honor God by using similar pagan customs and objects of worship. Both ideas came not from the mind and will of God but the mind and tradition of men. Neither were following God's way, neither were following God's commandments regarding how He wants to be worshipped. There are many things which seem right but are not.

It is not true that Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is not true that the early church observed Christmas. It is not true that the evergreen tree has anything to do with Christ. It is not true that a jolly old elf named Santa is a harmless notion. It is true that Christmas and its customs have pagan roots which honor pagan gods.

No one can worship or serve God and a lie. One thing is certain God must be worshipped in truth.

God seeks true worshipers – Jesus said in John 4:23-24 – But an hour is coming, and now is, when the TRUE WORSHIPPERS will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

By watching this presentation you've acquired valuable knowledge. We've presented no personal interpretations but have simply unveiled what is recorded in history. Perhaps you are among the billions who have never questioned the

observance of Christmas and the customs associated with it. But with knowledge comes responsibility. We've done our part in exposing this lie, now it is up to you what to do with the truth. Consider carefully because ultimately those who do not love the truth will perish.

2 Thess.2:10-12 – They did not receive a love of the TRUTH so as to be saved. FOR THIS REASON, God will send upon them strong delusion so that they would believe what is false. In order that they all may be judged who did not believe the TRUTH, but took pleasure in wickedness.\*(About 30 min's)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-v6whv3PM>

After God led me to that video back in 2014 I dug in and did my own research and found that what they shared all checked out. What I found was very disturbing as a true and sincere Christian and minister. I had never thought much about all the things we do at Christmastime. I loved the lights and sending Christmas cards and sipping hot chocolate while looking at the pretty tree. I had no idea where the traditions came from, never questioned anything. Growing up I never had any idea it had anything to do with Jesus and that is because it really doesn't.

## **CLOSING**

They did an awesome job in that video presenting all the historical facts and information on Christmas as well as laying out Scripture to clearly show that God does not want us to have any part of pagan worship. Christmas is not Biblical. What we know as Christmas, was celebrated long before Christ left heaven and was born as the babe in a manger. It just wasn't called Christmas back then. Christmas is the new name for Saturnalia and for Yule. When you learn that truth, it should be all you need to know to forsake Christmas.

It's my job to teach and preach the truth, it's between you and God what you do with it. We will all be judged by Christ one day (**2 Tim.4:1, 1 Peter 4:5, Acts 10:42**) and will answer for the truth that we knew and what we did with it.

## **PRAYER**

Shocking But True- "Is Christmas Christian?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-v6whv3PM>