# SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS Pt. 2: PAGANS, ORIGINS, ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

\*Please play this video – Pat Robertson on the 700 Club speaks about Christmas – STOP

A guy named David wrote in saying they had friends who do not celebrate Christmas because they say December 25 is really a pagan holiday. He says he knows Jesus was born according to the Bible but agrees it probably wasn't on December 25<sup>th</sup> but wants to know how to respond to his neighbors. Pat answers and says, well in a sense tell them they're right. The winter solstice a couple days later was the shortest day of the year. The pagans had something called Saturnalia and it was a time of lawlessness because all the laws were suspended. And people, a bunch of singers actually wandered the streets naked singing. Then they had orgies, sexual orgies, it was a mass thing. When the Catholic Church came along in Italy the Romans didn't want to give up their holidays. So they said, ok well we will "Christianize" it. He's laughing and says that they said, ok we'll say the birth of Jesus is the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. Then there was a monk who began to add it up. In Luke it says there was a census taken when Quirinus was governor. They could take those leaders and figure the time dating to the foundation of Rome. And that's when the dates were established and so they get pretty close to the date. But to say it was the 25<sup>th</sup> and shepherds were out abiding in the field, it gets a little cold at night and they were out there in the middle of winter. I don't know...I've been out there on Christmas Eve in a shepherd's field and it's very nice but it's cold. Nevertheless, what was going on? All this business about mistletoe – pagan, Christmas trees – pagan, gift giving – pagan. Every bit of it is pagan every single bit of it, we've "Christianized it all." And that's good. So we have time we celebrate for Jesus, everybody gets all misty eyed. But the truth is there're all pagan but the birth of Jesus...Then Terry says the practice is (pagan) but the intent of the heart is what it's about. Pat says, exactly so we've "Christianized" all these things, we give gifts in the name of Jesus, we celebrate His birthday and it's a nice thing. I'm very delighted, I like Christmas and I like...I'll tell you the best Christmas I ever spent – he describes a time he was in Jerusalem on Christmas Eve in a shepherd's field and they sang a song about Bethlehem. The next day they had a service baptized 50 something people in the Jordan river. Thanks for those

questions, I'm not being irreverent, hope I didn't shock you but it's the way it is. Terry interjects, so when are you putting your tree up? He begins talking about his modern day Christmas tree that he has. He says he likes all the decorations and lights, the Founders Inn is just loaded with decorations, very pretty – BUT PAGAN! And then he laughs and Terry says – all to celebrate Jesus. He ends by saying but – "Christianized" pagan.\*(About 3.5 min's)

# https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr86eB5PQks

Were you convinced that he really believed it was ok to do all the things that are part of Christmas because I wasn't. He kept laughing and going back to how it was supposedly Christianized which is supposed to make it all ok. Terry could not wait to jump in and say well the intent of the heart is what it's about.

**Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**Proverbs 14:12** - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

These passages highlight the potential for human judgment and self-reliance to be flawed and to result in negative consequences when not guided by God's wisdom and insight. Who said it is ok to use pagan traditions to worship Jesus? He is the very One Who told me to get out of it.

**Judges 17:6** - In those days *there was* no king in Israel, *but* every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

At that time they did not have any governing authority and it was a time of social and moral chaos. It has come to mean a society where individuals act according to their own personal morality or self-interest, leading to a breakdown of a shared standard of conduct and the potential for lawlessness. This is going on today where everyone just believes God is ok

Be careful not to justify sin. God is Just and He will judge us according to the knowledge we have. He is full of grace and mercy and for those who died participating in Christmas but did not know the truth about it, I'm sure He will take that into consideration. For those of you who are watching this series, you will be held accountable for your actions going forward. You cannot claim

ignorance on this subject any more. We don't know what God's judgement will be but we do have examples in Scripture of His judgement against those who participated in paganism and idolatry. 3000 fell at Mt. Sinai for participating in idolatry with a golden calf and believing all of this pleased God when it was actually an abomination to Him. (Exodus chapter 32)

### **PAGANS**

So as Pat just told us Christmas came from the pagans. If you are like me when I first heard that term I didn't know what it was. So let's take a look at what a pagan is.

Ancient paganism refers to a wide variety of pre-Christian and non-Christian religions from antiquity, such as Greco-Roman, Celtic, Germanic, and Slavic faiths. The term, originally a Latin label for those outside the dominant religions, encompassed diverse polytheistic and nature-focused belief systems that worshipped various deities and spirits, often through seasonal festivals and rituals. These practices honored the divine in nature and often emphasized a cyclical view of life, death, and rebirth.

We know from Scripture that the Egyptians were pagans and their religion was as far back as the 31<sup>st</sup> century, Latin is as far back as the 8<sup>th</sup> century, so the word pagan is newer than what we see in much of The Old Testament.

The Old Testament word for pagan was gentile or heathen or the nations — basically everyone except The Hebrews or Israelites. Scripturally a pagan was everyone who did not serve The One True God of Israel but served other gods. It is important to read The Old Testament so that you can learn what God thinks of pagan worship which He calls idolatry. Pagans worshipped the fallen angels and the women they mated with and their offspring the nephilim and sometimes humans like Nimrod and his wife and mother. God forbids His children to have any other gods before Him. This is the first commandment. All pagan practices were an abomination to God and He forbade His children to participate in any of it. God does not change (Hebrews 13:8) and so we know His attitude toward pagan things has not changed.

Yes, many ancient and modern pagans worshiped or honor the sun as a deity or a powerful life-giving force due to its perceived association with life, light, energy, and wisdom. This is evident in the worship of sun gods like Ra in Egypt, Helios in Greece, and Inti in the Inca Empire, as well as in solar deities like Sol Invictus in the Roman Empire.

# **Ancient worship**

- Egypt: The sun god Ra was considered the highest of the gods, representing life, power, and energy.
- Mesopotamia: The sun god was known as Shamash.
- Canaan: The sun god was known as Shemesh, and the city of Beth-Shemesh translates to "house of the sun".
- **Greece**: The god Helios was the sun god, associated with giving light to both gods and humans.
- Rome: The cult of Sol Invictus, the "unconquered sun," was prominent, and Sunday was considered the "venerable day of the sun".

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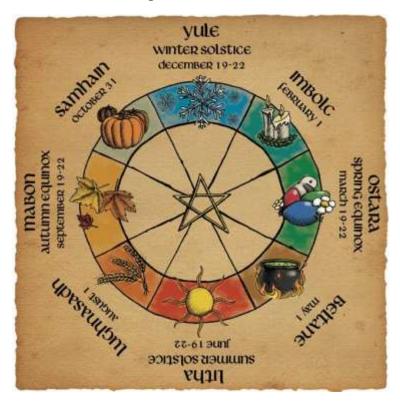
Sun worship was a big part of paganism. Pagan is a term for a person who practices a religion outside of the Abrahamic faiths (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), which includes ancient polytheistic religions and modern spiritual movements like Wicca.



Here is a general depiction of a pagan at a ritual. Notice the horns he's wearing to be like the horned god who is satan.



Here is a depiction of pagans enjoying a feast. Notice the greenery on their heads and the one guy wearing the helmet with horns. He also has a pentagram on his chest. Paganism is of the occult.



This is a pagan wheel of the year also called a witch's wheel of the year. They celebrate the changing seasons and worship the fallen angels, their offspring and human deities. They are empowered by demons. Notice the pentagram in the center. At the top of this wheel you see Yule – winter solstice. And directly beneath that you see Litha the summer solstice. So called "Christians" mixed into the pagan celebrations and took them over and just gave them new names and kept all the pagan customs. I say "so called" Christians because at the time this happened they knew the truth and real Christians would have had nothing to do with anything pagan.

#### **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

I'm going to go ahead and talk about the role of The Roman Catholic Church in bringing pagan Christmas into the churches.

The word "Mass", as used by the Roman Catholics, has traditionally been rejected by the so-called Protestants, such as Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists,

Presbyterians, Pentecostals and so on. The word "Mass" is strictly a Catholic word and so is "Christ-Mass." The word "Mass" in religious usage means a "death sacrifice." Millions of people are saying, "Merry Christmas", they are literally saying "Merry death of Christ." There is nothing merry or laughable about what Jesus did for us. We are so humbled and grateful for what Jesus did for us.



The blending of Christianity with paganism began in The Roman Catholic Church with Constantine, a Roman emperor.

Constantine became a Christian after experiencing a vision of a cross in the sky with the words "In hoc signo vinces" ("By this sign, conquer") before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 AD. He and his soldiers painted a Christian symbol on their shields, won the battle, and attributed their victory to the Christian God. This event marked a significant turning point, leading to his conversion, the legalization of Christianity, and its eventual rise to a dominant religion in the Roman Empire.

Before the battle against Maxentius, Constantine reportedly saw a cross-shaped sign of light in the sky and heard the phrase "By this sign, conquer." Later that night, according to some accounts, he had a dream where Christ appeared to him and gave further instruction.

He had his soldiers paint the Chi-Rho symbol, a Christian emblem, on their shields.

Constantine's forces defeated Maxentius, and he credited the Christian God for the victory. His conversion led to the legalization of Christianity with the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D., ending centuries of persecution and beginning the process of integrating the church and state. His support played a crucial role in the religion's political rise.

If the vision ever happened it was not by God's hand. God is not known by any image or symbol and especially not the cross. The cross was a pagan symbol originating in Babylon and then spreading into other cultures like Egypt and Assyria and eventually even Rome.



Here is one of the coins bearing Constantine's image along with the sun god, Sol Invictus. I do not believe Constantine had a true Christian conversion because if he did he would have refused to allow any more of these coins to be printed after his conversion and he did not put an end to it. This deifies the Roman sun god — Sol Invictus. God will not share His glory with another. If Constantine were a true Christian he would have pledged his loyalty to Christ alone and would have done everything in his power to take the coins out of circulation. He certainly would not have allowed them to continue being printed.

He legalized Christianity. In 313 A.D., the Edict of Milan granted religious tolerance to all faiths, including Christianity, which ended the persecution of Christians. Constantine never outlawed paganism and sometimes used pagan imagery, such as the symbol of the "Unconquered Sun," alongside Christian

symbols. He also decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest, which helped Christian worship but also accommodated other religions that had a day of rest on Sunday. While he didn't ban it, Constantine did weaken paganism by cutting funding for pagan temples, discouraging public sacrifices, and using his power to favor Christianity. The religion of paganism was not officially banned until Emperor Theodosius I made Nicene Christianity the official state religion in 380 A.D., decades after Constantine's death.

All of this helped to push the pagans over into the church without true conversion. Remember last week we learned:

Strange Stories, Amazing Facts Reader's Digest - Although Christianity has swept the world in a relatively short time...the missionaries faced an uphill task. The pagans were reluctant to give up their false gods and ancient practices. So the missionaries, unable to convert them easily to an entirely new code of worship, did the next best thing. They took the pagan festivals as they were and gradually grafted the observances of the new faith onto these festivals and the rites and customs surrounding them.

The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge explains clearly, in its article on "Christmas": "How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia ((Latin: Brumalia, [bruːˈmaːlɪ.a], "winter festivals") was an ancient Roman, winter solstice festival honoring Saturn/Cronus and Ceres/Demeter, and Bacchus in some cases. )(Dec. 25) following the Saturnalia (Dec. 17-24), and celebrating the shortest day in the year and the 'new sun,' . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of <u>idolatry</u> and <u>sun worship</u> for adopting as Christian this pagan festival." \*Years ago a muslim approached me online thinking we were a false religion because they thought we celebrated Christmas. They know it is about s-u-n worship and Christians to them are just big

hypocrites who don't even know what they are doing with the celebration of Christmas. They were surprised to learn that I knew the truth about Christmas.\*

Continuing with the Religious Encyclopedia: But remember, these people had grown up in pagan customs, chief of which was this idolatrous festival of December 25th. It was a festival of merrymaking, with its special spirit. They enjoyed it! They didn't want to give it up! Now this same article in the *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* explains how the recognition by Constantine of Sunday, which had been the day of pagan sun worship, and how the influence of the pagan Manichaeism, which identified the SON of God with the physical SUN, gave these pagans of the fourth century, now turning over wholesale to "Christianity," their excuse for calling their pagan-festival date of December 25th (birthday of the SUN-god) the birthday of the SON of God.

The *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1956 edition, adds, "Christmas...was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, since the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth...a feast was established in memory of this event [Christ's birth] in the fourth century. We do not read of the early church celebrating Christ's birth not in the time He walked the earth nor later either.

The Roman Catholic Church established Christmas in the 4th century, 336 a.d. around 300 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. No one was celebrating it before that time and it certainly is not recorded for us in Scripture. There is nothing in Scripture about bringing evergreen trees into your homes and decorating them or people giving gifts to each other or decorating with lights or celebrating for 12 days – the 12 days of Christmas or mistletoe and certainly not Saint Nick or santa or elves.

Pope Julius I is credited with declaring December 25th as the official date to celebrate the birth of Jesus around 350 AD, which effectively ordered the celebration of Christmas. In the fifth century the Roman Catholic Church ordered the feast to be celebrated forever on the day of the birthday of Sol Invictus. They were trying to shift the focus from pagan celebrations to Christian ones. They are the face of the mystery Babylon religion in this world. I propose that satan used the "mother church" to incorporate paganism in and work from inside the church to tear it down. Paganism coming into the church was a potent influx of tares,

those who had no desire to really know Christ and look what happened as a result of compromising. The church as a whole is in abominable acts against God.

So the pagans feasts, festivals and rituals became part of the Roman Catholic Church and all they did was give them new names.

We don't agree with the Roman Catholic religion, with their rules and beliefs. It is against God's Word to pray to Mary or any other dead saint. She is not our mediator, Christ is. Only He has earned that right.

**1 Timothy 2:5** – For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Shame on those that pray to her and other dead saints who are not God and never will be.

It is not Biblical to teach that holy communion, which the Catholics call eucharist, that the wine actually turns into Jesus' blood and that the bread wafer turns into His flesh in our mouths when we partake of it. These things represent His blood and His flesh but pushing beyond that is going too far. Rosary beads are not Biblical, that comes from Hinduism. Pergatory is not Biblical, there is no limbo that your loved ones can pay or pray you out of once you die. The idea that the pope and the Roman Catholic Church determine who is a saint is absurd. A saint is anyone who is truly saved, filled and sealed by The Holy Spirit, abiding in Christ and living a righteous life.

Baptizing babies is not Biblical.

Matt.28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. So be it.

Jesus said the people must be taught and He mentioned it twice in these 2 verses. In order for someone to be baptized they must understand what Christ did for them, what it meant to sacrifice His life and shed His blood. They must be sorry for their sin against God and ask forgiveness and be truly saved. A baby has no knowledge of any of this and certainly cannot be taught because they are too young. Therefore the practice of baptizing babies is not acceptable before God. I

know a woman who was a Catholic and when I asked her when she was saved she said, oh you know way back when I was small. She was talking about when she was baptized as a baby. She was old and very ill and I told her God had pressed it on my heart to talk to her about Jesus and her salvation she told me no. She actually got mad and that is because she wasn't saved and did not have a right spirit in her life.

## **CLOSING**

Roman Catholicism is a false religion but look how readily Christmas and all the other pagan holy days were brought into that religion which calls itself the Mother Church. From there all the other denominations readily embraced all of it too. The protestants seemingly broke away from Catholicism to serve God the right way but without question they followed suit in observing the pagan holy days.

Just renaming Sol Invictus, or Saturnalia or Mithras to Christmas does not make it now suitable for Christians to use in worship of Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 12:30-32** - Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them (pagans), after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which He hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

God warns all through the Bible to stay out of idolatry and that means serving other gods. The pagans served the fallen angels and not God. Everything involved in Christmas is pagan to the core and does not please God. Those who know the truth about where Christmas came from and are saying it is all ok and perfectly fine to keep doing it are adding to God's Word and will be judged by God for these things. He wants His children to come out from this sin, to come out from among her and be not partakers of her sin; (Rev.18:4) to stand apart from the world system and be pure and holy as He is holy. (1 Peter 1:16)

We will see later in this teaching, this pagan festival of Christmas existed even before the pagan festivals of the Roman sun gods. It goes all the way back to Babylon, to Egypt, to the Persians, to ancient times which are recorded in Scripture.

## **PRAYER**

Pat Robertson - Christmas is pagan <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr86eB5PQks">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr86eB5PQks</a>