

# A Pagan Holiday?

Luke 2: 1-7; Gal 4: 4-6

# A Pagan Holiday?

- Question....
  - Have you ever heard or been told that Christmas is a pagan holiday?
  - What is the answer to that question?
  - The answer is.....
    - It depends.....
    - On how you celebrate this holiday....
- History of this holiday called “Christmas”
  - It is the most celebrated holiday in the world

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- About the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> century
  - The bishop of Jerusalem sent a letter to the bishop of Rome asking him.....
  - What is the birthday of Jesus Christ?
  - The problem is.....no one knows for certain
    - Neither the day nor the year is known for certain
- However, there was a celebration known as Saturnalia
  - This was held after the shortest day of the year
  - It was a major holiday in honor of Saturn
    - The so-called “god of agriculture”
    - The festival of Saturnalia was to say “spring is on the way”.

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- Because Saturnalia was a celebration looking forward to spring
  - People would give each other gifts.
  - Feasting was the order of the day
  - Decorating your home with greenery depicting the arrival of spring was instilled
  - It was a time of general decadence
    - First Christmas cards pictured everyone drinking alcohol
- The bishop of Rome thought if he could introduce some Christianity into this festival.....

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- There was a mixture of paganism with Christianity
  - A melding of the two
  - Resulting in the loss of the real meaning of the birth of Christ
- Luke 2: 1-7
  - This is the message given to the serpent now fulfilled...
    - Gen 3: 14-15
    - He shall bruise your head!!!
  - This is the message that Abraham looked for
    - Gen 22: 18

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- It is the message given to Job
  - Job 19: 25-27
- It is the message given to David
  - II Sam 7: 8-29
- This is the message given to Isaiah
  - Isa 9: 6-7.... For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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- This is the message given to the O.T. prophets
  - Micah 5: 2-5..... But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.
  - Zech 9: 9.....Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
  - None of these prophets saw with their own eyes the event that is happening now to Mary

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- Gal 4: 4-6....In the fullness of time...
  - Luke 2: 1.....
  - What does this mean to you and me?
  - Regardless of what we see with our eyes
  - His truth is marching on....His plan is going ahead
- In the fullness of time “God sent forth His Son”
  - In this passage we see the Triune God (Gal 4: 4-6)
    - Vs 4 God sent.....The Father is sending the Son
    - Vs 4....born of a woman
    - Vs 6....The Spirit of His Son



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- What does this mean to you and me?
  - God literally sent Himself to His creation..
  - Col 2: 9..."For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
  - Note.....born of a woman
    - Jesus did not come as a fully developed human man
    - He did not come as a king or emperor
    - Luke 1: 31....you will conceive in your womb
    - He came as an embryo; a zygote
    - There is not one thing of the human experience that Jesus did not experience

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- Born under the law (Gal 4: 4)
  - Jesus Christ had to live a sinless life under the law
  - To fulfill the requirements of the law for us
    - II Cor 5: 21
    - When God laid on Him the iniquities of all (Isa 53)
    - Jesus paid of the full price of the judgment of God
    - And imputed to us His righteousness
    - Gal 4: 5.....to redeem those who were under the law
- Why?
  - Vs 5b..."that we might receive the adoption as sons"

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- I John 3: 1-3.... Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
- John 1: 14....."And the Word became flesh..."

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- So, is Christmas a pagan holiday?
  - It depends on how you and I view it
    - Just presents and family get-togethers
    - Mistletoe and feastings?
  - Or is it the celebration of life?
  - Not just an ordinary life but eternal life spent with the Triune God
- “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
- Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you!!!! (James 4: 8)

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