

From Holiday to Holy Day

Colossians 2:16-17



Pastor Ron Graff
Sunday,
Dec 9, 2007

Continuing the series: From Secular to Sacred

Introduction

“Happy Holidays” isn’t a bad greeting if people know what they are saying. Holiday= “Holy Days”

Colossians 2:16-17

WITH CONSCIOUS EFFORT WE CAN KEEP OUR FOCUS ON JESUS, THE “REASON FOR THE SEASON.”

★ Christmas and Pagan Holidays

☆ Samhain – Oct. 31



☆ Yule – Winter Solstice – Dec. 21



☆ Saturnalia – Dec. 17-23



★ Christmas and Substitute Holidays

☆ Winter Break



☆ Kwanza



✦ **Christmas and Secular Holidays**

☆ Party Time



☆ Materialism – Gift-giving



✦ **Christmas and Jewish Festivals**

☆ Feast of Tabernacles – September

✦ Birth of Christ

✦ While shepherds watched their flocks –

✦ Jesus “tabernacled” among us

John 1:14

☆ Hanukkah – Feast of Lights – December

✦ Conception of Christ

✦ Visit of the Magi

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✦ **Christmas and Your Celebrations**

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✦ Witnessing to Family, Friends and Others

1 Peter 3:15

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☆ Your Gatherings

✦ Not a stumbling-block to others

✦ Do all to the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

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“Happy Holidays” isn’t a bad greeting if people know what they are saying. Holiday= “Holy Days”

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

(from New International Version)

WITH CONSCIOUS EFFORT WE CAN KEEP OUR FOCUS ON JESUS, THE “REASON FOR THE SEASON.”



Christmas and Pagan Holidays

There are many connections between Christmas and ancient or pagan holidays. We need to explore some of these connections because people like the Jehovah Witnesses use these facts to confuse and convert some people to their cult.

☆ Samhain – Oct. 31



Samhain ([pronounced](#) /'sɑʊn/ or /'sɑ : wɪn/^[1], [Irish](#) /'sʲaunʲ/ from the [Old Irish](#) *samain*) is the word for November in the [Gaelic](#) languages. The [Scottish Gaelic](#) spelling is *Samhainn* or *Samhuinn* (for the feast), or *an t-Samhain* (for the month). The Festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest season in [Gaelic culture](#), and is generally regarded as 'The Celtic New Year'.^{[2][3][4]}
Wikipedia

Samhain – Oct. 31



Celtic New Year

Spirits may visit as the veil between This World and the Otherworld is the thinnest...

Becomes Halloween



All Saints Day

- Harvest Calendar
- Replacement

Secularized and adopted by Wicca

☆ Yule – Winter Solstice – Dec. 21



Yule is a [winter festival](#) celebrated in Northern Europe since ancient times. In pre-Christian times, [Germanic pagans](#) celebrated Yule from late December to early January on a date determined by a lunar calendar.^[1] During the process of [Christianization](#) and the adoption of the [Julian calendar](#), Yule was placed on December 25, in order to correspond with the Christian celebrations later

known in [English](#) as [Christmas](#).^[2] Thus, the terms "Yule" and "Christmas" are often used interchangeably^[3], especially in [Christmas carols](#).
Wikipedia

☆ Saturnalia – Dec. 17-23



Saturnalia is the [feast](#) at which the [Romans](#) commemorated the dedication of the temple of the god [Saturn](#), which took place on [17 December](#). Over the years, it expanded to a whole week, up to [23 December](#).

Saturnalia became one of the most popular Roman festivals. It was marked by tomfoolery and reversal of social roles, in which slaves and masters ostensibly switched places.

Wikipedia

"We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it." (A theologian in 320 AD)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/decemberweb-only/54.0.html>



Christmas and Substitute Holidays

☆ Winter Break



☆ Kwanza



Mishumaa Saba (The Seven Candles)

These are symbolic of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, the matrix and minimum set of values which African people

are urged to live by in order to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

✦ **Christmas and Secular Holidays**

☆ Party Time

✦

☆ Materialism – Gift-giving

✦

✦ **Christmas and Jewish Festivals**

☆ **Tabernacles - Birth**

☆ **Passover - Death**

☆ **Firstfruits - Resurrection**

☆ **Pentecost – Sending Holy Spirit**

☆ **Rosh Hashanah - Rapture**

☆ **Yom Kippur - Tribulation**

☆ **Tabernacles – Glorious Return**

☆ Feast of Tabernacles – September

✦ Birth of Christ

✦ While shepherds watched their flocks –

✦ Jesus “tabernacled” among us

John 1:14

John 1:1-5

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that

life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:11-14

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Remember [Philippians 2:5-11](#) - Last week – Jesus/God/ emptied Himself/ became a man/ died for us.

- ☆ Haunnukah – Feast of Lights – December
- ✱ Conception of Christ
- ✱ Visit of the Magi
- ✱ Jesus is The Light of the World

John 9:4-5

4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 12:35-36

35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. 36 Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.



Christmas and Your Celebrations



Your Testimony

* Witnessing to Family, Friends and Others

1 Peter 3:15-16

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Psalm 126:5-6

5 Those who sow in tears
will reap with songs of joy.

6 He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him.

☆ Your Gatherings

- * Not a stumbling-block to others
- * Do all to the glory of God

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

31 So whether you eat or drink or
whatever you do, do it all for the glory of
God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble,
whether Jews, Greeks or the church of
God- even as I try to please everybody in
every way. For I am not seeking my own
good but the good of many, so that they
may be saved.

Checklist

Observance of Christmas is not prescribed by the Bible, but neither is it forbidden. Why? Why?