



[Deuteronomy 12:30-31](#)

(30) take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, "How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise." (31) You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

[Matthew 15:9](#)

(9) *And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*""

New King James Version

Two arguments are often used to justify [Christmas](#) observance.

1) Many will reason this way: "But, even though the exact date of Jesus' birth is unknown, should we not select *some* date to celebrate as His birthday?" The answer is positively no! Notice the statement quoted from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*: "Sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthdays." The celebration of birthdays is not a Christian, but a pagan custom, observed by sinners!

2) But, many still reason, "Even so—even though Christmas was a pagan custom, honoring the false sun-[god](#), we don't observe it to honor the false god, we observe it to honor Christ."

But how does *God* answer in His Word? "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them [the pagans in their customs] . . . that thou enquire 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 Eternal, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods" ([Deuteronomy 12:30-31](#)).

God says plainly in His Instruction Book to us, that He will not accept that kind of worship, even though intended in His honor. To Him, He says, it is offering what is *abominable* to Him, and therefore it honors, not Him, but false pagan gods. God says we must not worship Him according to the "dictates of our own conscience"—a term we often hear. But [Jesus](#) says plainly, "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" ([John 4:24](#)). And what is truth? God's Word—the Holy Bible—said Jesus, is truth ([John 17:17](#)); and the Bible says God will not accept worship when people take a pagan custom or manner of worship and try to honor Christ with it.

Again, Jesus said: "*In vain* they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" ([Matthew 15:9](#)). Christmas observance is a *tradition of men*, and the commandments of God, as quoted, forbid it. Jesus said, further, "full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

That is precisely what the millions are doing today. They ignore the commandment of God. He commands, regarding taking the customs of the pagans and using them to honor or [worship God](#): "Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God." Still, most people today take that command of God lightly, or as having no validity whatsoever, and follow the tradition of men in observing Christmas.

Make no mistake! God will *allow* you to defy and disobey Him. He will *allow* you to follow the crowd and the traditions of men. He will *allow* you to [sin](#). But He also says there is a day of reckoning coming. As you sow, so shall you reap! Jesus was the *living* Word of God in Person, and the Bible is the *written* Word of God. And we shall be judged, for eternity, by these words! They should not be taken lightly or ignored.

— Herbert W. Armstrong

To learn more, see:

[The Plain Truth About Christmas](#)

Related Topics:

[Birthdays](#)

[Christmas](#)

[Christmas, Pagan Origins of
Pagan Holidays](#)

[Pagan Religious Practices](#)

[Paganism](#)

[Sun Worship](#)

[Sunday Worship](#)

[Syncretism](#)

[Syncretistic Religion](#)

[Traditions of Men](#)

[Worship, False](#)

[Worshipping in Vain](#)