



John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

Free Article : "Jesus Is NOT the 'Reason for the Season'"

https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/GG_JesusNotReason4Season_2003Q4.pdf

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ Children who watch to TV night and day will go down in history . . . not to mention math, geography, and grammar.
- ~ Christians never see the last of each other.
- ~ Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. ~J. L. W. Brooks, 2007
- ~ Not that which we give, but what we share,—
For the gift without the giver is bare...
~James Russell Lowell, *The Vision of Sir Launfal*, 1848

Pagan "Christianity" By John T. Polk II www.johntpolkll.com

"In Lystra, and with a loud voice, Paul healed a man crippled from birth. "Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!' And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, 'Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.' And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them." (**Acts 14:11-18**)

Idolatrous people tried to interpret God's miracle and Apostles in terms they were already familiar with. Using "oxen and garlands" to sacrifice, and naming Paul and Barnabas after their false gods was the best they currently knew to do. Paul, however, showed them the distinct difference by saying: **(a)** We

are only men; **(b)** Your worship practices are "useless;" **(c)** There is the Creator of all things Who stays in charge of life on earth; **(d)** We are blessed by this "living God," and not by your idols.

This is in accord with God's instruction to the children of Israel before they entered the idolatrous Promised Land:

"These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things. But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go." (**Deuteronomy 12:1-5**)

With these two Scriptures before us, let us learn that:

- (1)** God is not to be worshiped as if He were a "common" (man-made) "god!"
- (2)** Previous methods of worship should be eliminated from the thinking of God's People.
- (3)** Men should not be revered as "god" and never given consideration as if they represented God.
- (4)** When God designated the proper place and procedure(s) for His worship, nothing else sufficed!
- (5)** People should be informed that their worship is a "useless" approach to God and should be abandoned.

The Roman Catholic Church stands opposed to this teaching from God, for in every country they have gone, they have merely tried to give a Bible name or narrative to idolatrous practices, thus "adopting" paganism into their practice of "Christianity." **A couple of examples are offered:**

(1) PRAYER BEADS. A common method in pagan religions for keeping up with rapid prayer recitations. They are used in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Shinto, Baha'i, Lutheran, Eastern & Oriental Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Religions. Roman Catholics teach that: "The word *Rosary* means 'Crown of Roses.' Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions and it is therefore the most important one. The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary in fact we meditate the mysteries of joy, of sorrow and the glory of Jesus and Mary." **Jesus completely condemns such a practice:** "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For

they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (**Matthew 6:7-8**). Though Jesus prayed the same words in prayer (**Matthew 26:44**), each was a separate prayer, not empty repetitions that He condemned. And this pagan practice would only be adopted by "a pagan posing as a Christian." Since the "rosary" provides a "crown of roses" for Mary, God is not the recipient. Christians would pray in accord with Jesus' rule, and never recite memorized prayers. Many "pray the Lord's Prayer" but they are only repeating Scripture and are not praying. Jesus gave these words as a pattern, not as the actual prayer: "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (**Matthew 6:9-13**).

(2) WORSHIP OF MARY. *"With the Hail Mary we invite Her to pray for us. Our Lady always grants our request. She joins Her prayer to ours. Therefore it becomes ever more useful, because what Mary asks She always receives, Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother asks for. In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the Rosary as a [powerful weapon](#) against evil, to bring us to true peace. With your prayer made together with Your heavenly Mother, you can obtain the great gift of bringing about a change of hearts and conversion."* **[bold mine, jtpll]**.

"Mariolatry" is the worship of Mary, or idolatry disguised as deification of a Bible person. From a Catholic source: "But **all of the titles and all of the miracles are considered to be a result of Mary's close relationship with her son, Jesus.** As mother of the King of Kings, she is the saint of saints. **Furthermore, because the church is the body of Christ, and Mary is Christ's mother, she is also the mother of the church.** This means that in addition to having a special relationship with Jesus, Mary also has a special relationship with the church. She belongs to the church and the church belongs to her. So when we pray the rosary, or bow our heads during the creed, **we are honoring our mother, and the mother of our Lord.** Although she is not God, she has earned our respect and devotion." **[bold mine, jtpll]** This article appeared in the [May 2014](#) issue of U.S. Catholic.org (Vol. 79, No. 5, page 46).

This Roman Catholic "reasoning" violates the plain teaching in Scripture:

(1 The angel Gabriel told Mary: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David" (**Luke 1:30-32**). The angel further emphasized "that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (**Luke 1:35**). Jews on the street speculated of the physical Jesus "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?" (**Matthew 13:55-56**). *Mary was never named "the Mother of God" until the Council of Ephesus in A.D.431 declared Mary "the Mother of God" (theotokos).* The phrase and designation were never given in God-inspired Scripture. When "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit" (**Luke 1:41**), she prophesied that Mary's unborn baby would be her "Lord" (**Luke 1:43**), but did not say "God!"

(2 Never in Scripture were the works of Jesus Christ attributed to Mary. Beginning with her request at His first public miracle (turning water to grape juice, **John 2:1-11**), "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come" (**John 1:3**), thus proclaiming that His miracles were on His own, not at her behest. If Jesus would not perform miracles on earth at her request, why should anyone believe that He would "obey" her in heaven? The Roman Catholic Church has trodden underfoot "God the Father" (**John 6:27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:24**, et. al.) and, without God's permission, replaced it with "Mary the Mother."

(3 The Bible claims "there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (**1 Timothy 2:5-6**). The same One who is Mediator is the Ransom given, and that's NOT Mary! Mary cannot/has not/will not save one single (or married!) individual. God has only given Jesus Christ the authority to save sins, on earth (**Mark 2:5-12**), or in Heaven (**Hebrews 7:23-25**).

(4. Earthly Relationships do not exist in Heaven. Jesus taught, "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven" (**Matthew 22:30**). Paul taught, "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband" (**Romans 7:2**). Mary cannot be the "Mother of my Lord" in Heaven, for all earthly relationships are ended by death. So said Solomon (**Ecclesiastes 9:5-6**). So said Jesus Christ!

The Roman Catholic Church has led the way of "pagan Christianity" by incorporating idolatrous practices into their religion. They have violated the Word of God and kept millions from finding Jesus Christ as "the way, the truth, and the life," for, He said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (**John 14:6**), not through the Roman Catholic Church!

-----jtpll