



Victory Seekers Update

A news update of Victory Seekers Ministries
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No. 7

Dear Readers:

If you have been reading our newsletters, you may have been shocked, offended or even angered by some of our articles. The response we've been hoping for is an intense desire to research some of these subjects we bring up.

Our purpose is to educate the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. That statement may offend some, so let us explain. There is a vast difference between Biblical Doctrine and Tradition. Many things we say and do as Christians have been taught to us by a particular denomination, or religion, or come from someone's interpretation or tradition. It's always been done this way, or Grandma Jones believed it so I will too.

We hope our articles have shaken your thinking enough to study these topics yourself and come to an understanding of what you really believe and therefore, **have sufficient evidence to substantiate what you believe**, as per **I Peter 3:15**. Jesus Himself declared that our tradition makes the Word of God of none effect. **Matt. 15:6; Mark 7:13**

We are about to address probably one of the most controversial subjects in Christianity. The information we are about to present will cause many of you to become **down right fight'n mad**. We pray that you will read the complete article and if you have questions or are unclear about something please contact us by email, mail or phone and/or research it for yourself.

In these last days it is by far more and more important that we try to live a life Jesus would want us to, *not being deceived by the traditions of man*. We **must** hunger and thirst for righteousness, abide in Him and **study** to show ourselves approved. **Matt 5:6, 15:4, II Tim. 2:15**

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Christmas or Mithraism?



While the majority of Christians believe that they are truly commemorating the arrival of Jesus Christ in celebrating Christmas, many are not aware of the actual reason why Dec. 25th was chosen.

As hard as it is for Christians to learn that they are in fact not really celebrating Christ's day of birth, the truth remains that historical and biblical facts concerning Jesus' birth are clear and indisputable. Please allow us a few pages to bring these facts to your attention.

There has been and continues to be an apostasy of true Scripture and of the commands of Jesus and the Apostles

Rome's many heresies, and acts of unthinkable cruelty to not only actual Christians, but to Jews, Muslims and anyone else that stood in her way throughout the centuries is well documented history. Yet these terrible deeds of evil are being overlooked for the sake of a **false** unity in which Protestants have admitted "making a mistake" and

embraced Catholicism, while Rome

has kept **in place** the very heresies and lies that millions of true Christians, in fact, whole families, willingly died for and some of which Luther wrote down in his 95 theses at Wittenberg.

The selling of “indulgences”, the lie of purgatory, the infallibility of the pontiff along with Mary worship and absolute obedience to the supreme pontiff etc. are all **still in force today** and were again dogmatized in the second Vatican Council in 1965.

Without a doubt the world is getting ready for the one-world religion and, as if it should be a surprise, is headed up by Rome under the able leadership of John Paul II. This Pope has the ability to actually come off as if he represents true Christendom.

To Protestant audiences we are known by Catholics as the “separated brethren” but to home crowd listeners and according to the dictates of the **Council of Trent**, (the granddaddy of all councils) we are actually referred to as heretics and our children are believed to be bastards as well as having against us currently over 100 anathemas, (being condemned to hell) condemning us to hell for not believing and obeying the Roman Way.

In the May 8, 1990 *Seattle Times* John Paul II warns Catholics, “**Not to be seduced by Protestant fundamentalist sects...**”

The Bible tells us in **Mark 13:22** that deception will be so great in the last days that even the elect are threatened with falling away. It behooves all of us who hunger and thirst for righteousness to **actually educate ourselves** as to what’s going on in the world.

Roman Catholicism got its start with Constantine who declared himself the head of the church in Rome shortly after his victory at the Battle of Melvian Bridge in 312 A.D. His whole thrust was to unify his empire so he decided to become a Christian, not to actually be saved, but to control the masses, for Christianity had spread greatly by then.

As a “Christian” Emperor he immediately became the de facto civil head of the Christian Church and seduced her with promises of power.

Constantine now claimed the titles of Vicar of Christ and Bishop of Bishops but never relinquished his main title of **Pontifex Maximus**, the head of the pagan priesthood, known as the pontifical college. (Today’s Vatican still uses and claims these titles.)

Historian Michael Grant points out, “**Moreover he even retained the title of Pontifex Maximus a traditional and very pagan part of the imperial titlature.**” (Constantine the Great, p. 178) (We had to look up “titlature” so we’ll save you the trouble, it means, pertaining to title.)

For Constantine, Christianity had to undergo a transformation that would allow pagans to convert without giving up their old beliefs and customs. Will Durant writes, “**When Christianity conquered Rome, the ecclesiastical structure of the pagan church, the title and vestments of the Pontifex Maximus, the worship of the “Great Mother” and a multitude of comforting divinities, and the pageantry of immemorial ceremony, passed like maternal blood into the new religion, and captive Rome captured her conqueror. While Christianity converted the world, the world converted Christianity.**” (The Story of Civilization: Vol. 3, Caesar and Christ p. 657)

Constantine, while allowing the building of churches, also endowed the building of pagan temples. Clearly, he was not “converted” but used Christianity for his own ambitions. In “The Conversion of Europe”, Fletcher tells us that instead of requiring people to repent and give up their ancient customs, church leaders urged “**the replacement of pagan practices with Christian ones**”. Another amply testified truth is that churches were built on or near pagan shrines, and ancient festivals were given a

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“Christian name and content”. (The Early Church. Chadwick, p. 186; quoted in Tomorrows World, Nov./ Dec. 2003)

Those who were born again refused to partake of pagan practices and were harassed and worse. D.G. Kousoulas informs us, **“Early Christians were rightfully accused of staying away from public sacrifices of the god’s, and that this practice certainly bothered most of the other soldiers.”** And again, **“Most military commanders agreed that Christians in their units were good soldiers, obeying orders and keeping their religious beliefs to themselves.”** (The Life and Times of Constantine the Great, p. 95)

Soon after Constantine’s supposed conversion it became “fashionable” to be Christian. Positions of power like Cardinals, Bishops and Popes went to the highest bidder as well as advancements in business, politics and the military. (Just like today)

Holy is what we’re supposed to be and the Christians of the first century were doing their best to be what God expects from all of us. They were reviled and persecuted then, and we’re reviled and persecuted now. The Truth is alive and therefore remains unchanged, **“Jesus the same yesterday, today, and forever”** Heb. 13:8; Malachi 3:6, **“I am the Lord, I change not.**

By now the Persian Mithras was an enormously popular cult in Rome and was the Zoroastrian god of light. Its ritual attracted many people just as other secret societies do today, Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism with their colors and vivid imagery, along with impressive stages. (Hitler, a Catholic himself, also used banners and light-shows, lots of color, and fanfare to mesmerize the crowds.)

Mithraism soon became popular enough as to seriously rival Christianity especially among the business classes and the army. The problem then, as it is now, was that all the other cults were inclusive with each other but Christianity was, **and is**, not. As long as they paid their fees and performed in the rituals, initiates of one cult could freely join others.

There are actual sermons that have survived from this time; these sermons tell of ‘Christians’ taking part in other cults, especially Mithraism. Not having actually read them ourselves, we can only assume that real preachers would have reprimanded those who wanted to still be in the pagan world.



Mithrism - SunGod worship. Notice: cross on Rt



Mithras being born into the third heaven

Birth from rock

The “feast of the day of god” was celebrated on the 25th of December and commemorated his birth from a rock. Mithraic legend also tells of shepherds bringing gifts to the newborn god. Interestingly, the priests of this cult were also called ‘magi’.

Saturnalia was a “riotous Roman festival”, which came to a climax on Dec. 25th as well as the Dec. 25th celebration of the winter solstice because of miscalculations in the ancient calendars. **Candles** were lit in people’s homes, because of the darkness of the longest night of the year. **Greenery** was hung and **presents** were exchanged. (Exploring the New Testament World, pp. 141,142)

The real crux of the matter lies in the fact that *celebrating Jesus’ birth was not the real reason for the season.* **“The church had no festival to draw its members’ attention away from these joyous, colorful occasions, so in the mid-fourth century, the bishops of Rome began celebrating the birth of Christ on Dec. 25th.”**

(ENTW p.141) Note: Most historians have the 1st celebration of Christmas in Rome around 336 AD. Christmas, as we know it today, began in the Victorian Era.

By now the corruption of the church in Rome had been in force for over 40 years and the unholy marriage between the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the world's paganism was in full bloom. While Constantine allowed certain freedoms to Christians with his, Edict of Milan, in 313 A.D., it was Emperor Theodosius who made Christianity the state religion in 381 A.D. That was something that can't be done because what is called Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Countries, TV programs, organizations, etc. really cannot have a personal relationship with God, only individuals in them.

Biblical marriage ends up with both parties becoming "one". This is something that can never be among the world's religions and Christianity. Christ excluded Himself from all other 'would be gods' by proclaiming that **He is the Truth, the Way, and the Life**, and that **no man could come to the father but by Him.** (John 14: 6) Until this fourth century, **most Christians had not** observed any kind of holiday in honor of the event of the birth of Christ. There is no record of Peter, James, John, Paul, or any other original authority in the early church, having celebrated Christ's birth at all, let alone on a pagan holiday.

Consider this: If we were to choose a day to celebrate Christ's birth today, I doubt we would select Halloween.

The very fact that God is **holy** means that He exists and consists totally by and of Himself. He is separated from anything else that is or may be. The notion of celebrating His birthday on what are clearly pagan festivals for the sake of witnessing Him, also finds no support in Scripture. Such an act necessarily means Christ is shared with the world, shared not as pertains to the witness but shared with other entities that are worshipped, and that's something that can't be done with a **holy** God. (Ex. 20: 5; Deut. 5: 9)

While His birth is described in the Gospels, the celebration of it is nowhere taught or implied. It took the perverted church in Rome to start a false tradition that has continued to this day.

Having said all that, we would like to note that the issue is not **that**, we celebrate His birth, it's **when**. Consider the following. Christians who **did** take note of Christ's birth, did so around April to September according to Clement of Alexandria who himself preferred May 20th. A 4th century document originated in Syria called, **The Apostolic Constitutions**, which calls for the birth of Christ to be celebrated on the 25th day of the ninth month. In fact, when the Western churches began celebrating the nativity on the 25th of December, the Eastern churches were horrified that they had succumbed to pressure from their pagan environment. (ENTW p.142)

The Eastern Church celebrates Christmas on Jan. 6th, which they deem to be the day of His baptism/spiritual birth, to which they also attached His physical birth.

Interestingly, both East and West are wrong. *Much has been made of the actual date of Jesus' birth, and while nothing can be conclusive as to the very day, it would be hard to argue against the month of September.*

The following events are what brings one to that conclusion:

1. Beginning with Zacharias and the 24 courses of the temple priesthood, which is the yearly cycle of service in the temple,
2. The conception of John the Baptist, which occurred after his fathers temple service, **Luke 1:24,**
3. The conception of Jesus Christ, which occurred in the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, **Luke 1:24-27;**
4. The birth of John the Baptist is most likely on the 15th of Nisan which is the beginning of the "Feast of Unleavened Bread"
5. The birth of Jesus Christ would then be 6 months ahead and that falls on the 7th month of Tishri, (Hebrew calendar), which is today's 9th month, or September, the 15th day of which
6. Begins the 3rd and last festival of the year (Feast of Tabernacles) and to which all men were to gather in Jerusalem for temple services.

Obviously, the above is a very brief overview of what the Bible actually tells us of Jesus' birth. *To the question of, "Why does it matter when we celebrate Christ?"* The answer is simple. God is **holy and true**. Therefore, anything that is to represent Him must also be holy and true or it can't be **trusted**. The world rightly defends their day when it opposes Christian activity, which they see as being imposed on them. As mentioned above, those early believers who did celebrate His day didn't do it on an already existing pagan holiday, but closer to September. John Loeffler comments that, **"In trying to counter the secularization of its holy days, the church is having a difficult time because it has forgotten the origins of its celebrations. (K=House Internet access 12/19/04)**

It's Rome that is countering that which she is trying to fully usurp, as per fulfilling prophesy. But the irony is that Evangelicals are agreeing with Rome and together are perpetuating lies about our Savior.

Shocking as it is, Evangelical leaders like Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship, well known prophesy teacher Jack Van Impe, Pat Robertson of the 700 Club, Fuller Theological Seminary President Richard Mouw, Craig Hazen, Asst. Prof. Of Bible Exposition at [Christian] Biola University's Talbot School of Theology and even the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Bill Bright of Campus Crusade, apologist Dr. Ravi Zacharias, among many others, have made the **Reformation** (for which millions were literally murdered by Roman Catholicism's sadistic hierarchy) a mere "misunderstanding which resulted in the unfortunate division of the church."

Every secular source knows and mentions the fact that Christmas as we know it, belongs to them. And so it does. The words of Acharya S. author of "Sons of God, Krishna, Buddha and Christ Unveiled", are quite revealing, **"Regardless of attempts to make Mithraism the plagiarist of Christianity, the fact will remain that Mithraism was first, well established decades before Christianity had any significant influence.**

If Christian apologists will not yield to the well attested assertion that Christianity "borrowed" from Mithraism in specific, they simply cannot deny that both copied from paganism in general from one or more of the numerous religions, cults and mysteries of the pre-Christian world. Hence the effect is the same: Christianity took its god-man and tenets from paganism."

In truth, one cannot argue her points, up to her conclusion, because of historical facts, but praise God, that is where her authority stops. She mistakenly assumes a conclusion that just isn't there, for

Christ and His deeds have been admitted to, certified, and amply attested to, from not only Christian, but more importantly, secular sources such as, Pliny the younger, Suctonius, Josephus, Tacitus, Lucion,

Mara Bar-Serapion, etc. These non-Christian individuals confirm the Scriptures and the person of Jesus Christ.

Also, it must be understood that when Acharya S. or any other scholar speaks of 'Christianity' or the 'Church', they actually mean Roman Catholicism. Even to Muslims we're known as 'crusaders', referring of course, to the cruel undertaking of supposedly freeing Jerusalem for the Lord, but which was financed and carried out by the Vatican for selfish gain, not Christianity.

In his exposition of the parable of Matt. 12:43-45, Dean Alford writes, "**Strikingly parallel with this runs the history of the Christian Church. Not long after the apostolic times, the golden calves of idolatry were set up by the Church of Rome.**" (Quoted in The Berean Call, Sep. 2003)

Even so, the above speaks for itself in the danger of insisting that we're celebrating Jesus, even if we do it on a pagan holiday. The mentality is, God can take whatever day He wants. This attitude is unwise as well as un-biblical because we are not of this world and our witness must be accepted upon free will and completely un-coerced. Satan has us agreeing with his apostate church headed by the Vatican and thus fighting ourselves in a quarrel that should not even exist.

To read more about Christmas, log onto: www.historychannel.com - Christmas

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Resurrection Day or Easter/Ishtar ?

Since Satan is the father of lies, **John 8:44** and the author of confusion **I Cor. 14:33**, he really has things upside-down and all around, but it is no wonder because we're living under the Babylonian system of the world. **The very word 'Babylon' means confusion.** Without doubt, Babylon is the seat and therefore the very beginning of all occult activity. In fact every single cult/religion can be traced directly to Nimrod's (his name means, **we will rebel**) city in which the infamous Tower of Bab-El was built. Bab-gate; El-God; hence **gate to God**. It was a blatant attempt to show God that we can be defiant, and do anything we please without Him.



In the Garden of Eden, the very first lie that was sold to Adam and Eve is the same lie that the devil perpetuates today, namely that we are gods. Following many of today's televangelists will quickly put you in the same mind set, as we are told that we can speak into existence things that do not yet exist, all we have to do is **really** believe.

Citing **Romans 4:17**, "**As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations, before Him whom he believed, even God, Who quickens the dead, and calls those things which are not as though they were.**" They go on speaking and decreeing to make things appear. This Scripture doesn't say Abraham 'calls things that be not as though they were', but **God does.**

Why would anyone do this? One would, if one believes to have God powers bestowed on them and thus actually become gods. Trying to usurp the powers of God is what the occult is all about. There are cults who actually practice ‘decreeing’ to try to effect change in their environment such as

Elizabeth Clair Prophet’s Church Universal and Triumphant, Nichiren Shoshu, and other “I AM” groups. Decreeing is a widely established pagan practice and has no place in the believer in **Jesus Christ Who alone is exalted, Amen!**

Occult expert **Dave Hunt** points out, “**The belief in laws that control spiritual forces, which in turn control the physical world through the power inherent in spoken words, is the essence of sorcery.**” (The Seduction of Christianity, p.98)

This attempt to play god is exactly how the perversion of Scripture carries on, so much so, that now, about 1700 years of it, we have been dulled into thinking and even believing that it is proper to mix lies (as long as it’s just a little bit) with the Truth. But God is **HOLY**. Of course we’re really not changing God any more than they were actually going to reach heaven when they built the tower. It does change us though, in the fact that by giving the, “**appearance**” of evil we have been dulled and thus give it place.

I Thess. 5:22 states, “Abstain from all appearance of evil”. The 3rd commandment states, “**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.**” In the Hebrew it actually says that we should not carry His name in vain, and that He will not cleanse those who do.

With Christmas, we have a good thing, gone very bad, when we allowed the birth of Christ to be attached to a well established pagan holiday. Now with the **Resurrection** celebration, we have just the opposite, a **rightful celebration date**, but gross perversion of it, by allowing the association of cultish goddesses of sex/fertility to dominate the most awesome and important event in all of Christianity. **Resurrection day, unlike His birth, was celebrated from the get go. This is truly our day!**

Christianity has in the resurrection of Christ, the only rightful ownership of that Day. It is therefore shameful that the pagan female deities such as, the **Great Mother, Ishtar, Astarte, Artemis, Diana, Venus, Bona Dea**, etc. have been successfully inserted into it. These were accepted willfully by the perverted Roman Church, and are all still worshipped, even if people think not.

Not only is it satanic, (slandering of the truth) but it reeks of placing Satan in the exalted position that belongs only to **El-Elyon, the God Most High**, the very thing he/she desires as per **Isaiah 14:14**. According to Dr. Craig Lampe, the Hebrew word for Satan is actually feminine in gender. This is interesting as it certainly explains all the goddess worship of the past and the dramatic rise of female worship in this age. (This subject will be discussed in our next newsletter.)

In the **Passion of The Christ**, Mel Gibson also portrayed Satan as a female along with several other obvious references to Mariolatry.

Probably all of us have in some form taken part in the “Easter Egg Hunt”, and are familiar with the “Easter Bunny”, a symbol of rapid proliferation. Knowing that this has nothing whatsoever to do with Christ’s resurrection we have nonetheless participated, largely because



Throughout the Roman Empire the goddess of fertility (Diana as she was known at Ephesus) was worshipped at the vernal equinox. Both Polycarp and Polycedas were unsuccessful in their attempt to keep this pagan festival from being substituted for God’s Passover.

of tradition, in this **blasphemous and damning** portrayal of the **Glorious Resurrection** of our Lord, because of which we too will be resurrected. **“Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first**

resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Rev. 20:6

May God forgive us of our lackadaisical manner with which we supposedly contend for the faith as we’re admonished to do by the Holy Spirit in the book of **Jude** the brother of James and half brother of Jesus. The Amplified Bible is succinct: **V. 3 “Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God]. V. 4 For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).**

Once we know and understand the truths concerning these “holidays” we hope that all who hunger and thirst for righteousness will earnestly seek the Lord, to help us prepare our hearts, in order to not succumb to Satan and his kingdom’s rendition of that which does not belong to him/her.

Most think that since they’re not physically bowing down, they’re not really serving other god’s, but there is such a thing as “guilty by association”, the get-away driver is a part of the robbery. Also, Jesus said, If we have merely lusted after somebody, we’re guilty.

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.” Ex. 20:5; Deut. 5:9

God will not share His glory with anyone, Hallelujah!

In conclusion, we know that most of us haven’t really thought about these issues much, partly because they don’t come up, and if they do, they’re just thought of as insignificant, something that we’re unsure about, or no-one really knows the truth, etc.

History and more importantly, the Biblical record, clearly indicate that gross misrepresentations have been made concerning Christ and His Church. It’s up to His people to bear the truth wherever and whenever we can with the power of the Holy Spirit.

During his sermon on “Where was God?” concerning the Tsunami disaster in Malaysia, Thailand, India, etc. Michael Yhousef correctly pointed out that the real question should be, **“Where are we in our relationship with Christ?** Citing **Luke 13:3-5**, which talks of the fact that those who die in disasters are no more guilty than anyone else, the difference is, had they repented. He reminded us of how little time we have left and that this disaster should be a wake up call for the whole world, but especially the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to look up, for our redemption (**resurrection day**) is nigh.

To read more about paganism: one good source of pagan information can be found at:

www.sabbatarian.com/Paganism/Mithros

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New Radio Station – Harvest Chapel has recently received its FCC license to operate WTGO 97.7 FM radio station broadcasting Christian rock music and teaching.

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Saturday night bible study is on Bible Doctrines, which began Jan 6. It's never too late to join. Everyone is welcome. Email victoryseekersministries@highstream.net or call 765-474-7490 for time and location.

We solicit your prayers for our ministry that we will continue with boldness as we present the truth, no matter what.

Walt's book **Condemned to Hell, Why Intelligent Men Believe and Follow Doctrines of Demons** is available from us for \$12.00 includes S&H or you may order it thru www.amazon.com, or your local bookstore.

If you would like for Walt to speak at your church or group or if you have questions regarding anything you've read in our newsletters or any biblical subject, you may send your requests via mail or email and indicate *Victory Seekers Request* in the subject line.

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If you wish to have someone added or wish to be removed from this mailing list, respond by mail or email.

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Victory Seekers Ministries is based on the scriptures **Ephesians 5:11** *“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”* and **Colossians 2:4,8-10** *“lest any man should beguile you with enticing words...beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power”.*