

CHRISTMAS — A MEMORIAL

C. O. STADSKLEV

Should Christians unite with unbelievers and antichrists in banning Christmas as a memorial to the birth of Christ? If so, in order to be consistent, Christians must seek to ban the memorial to Christ's resurrection — Easter.

They also have to seek to ban Sunday, Thanksgiving and Communion. None of the above memorials have ever been observed fully in a scriptural manner by all the people. Even in Paul's time the Communion memorial was abused. Some used Communion to get drunk. See I Corinthians 11:20 through 24. But Paul did not teach — ban Communion.

It is said that there is not a command or an example in the New Scripture establishing a day to memorialize the birth of Christ. Neither is there a command or example for the building of a church. Is it therefore a pagan practice to build churches because the heathen build temples to worship their idols?

In Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:11, Paul wrote that the Old Scriptures were written for our learning, admonition and ensamples. There is much learning and many ensamples in the Old Scriptures on both memorials and building places for worship.

In Exodus 12:14 God established an Exodus memorial. "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever." Does anyone think that every Israelite observed this memorial in a perfect manner? There is much evidence that many did not.

The word "memorial" appears more than 25 times in the Old Scriptures which were written for our learning and ensamples.

Since God established memorials for such events as the Exodus and other events, how can it be pagan to commemorate the birth, death and resurrection of Christ? They are the three most memorial events of all history.

It is good and right to teach and preach that Christmas and Easter should have a more scriptural observance. It is evil and wicked to teach

that Christmas and Easter are pagan festivities in Christendom. There is more thought, preaching and singing devoted to Jesus Christ at Christmas time and Easter than any other time in the year. Should Christians help the antichrist to ban this thought, preaching and singing about Christ? Christmas and Easter are desecrated and misused, and so are Sunday, Communion and Thanksgiving. Should we therefore ban these memorials also?

Do not Christians seek to convert the pagans? And if a pagan temple or observance is converted to a Christian church or a Christian memorial, why should Christians object?

The charge that those who set up an evergreen tree are worshipping an idol is silly. We all have various plants in our homes and churches. What better simple symbol of everlasting life is there than the evergreen? If people made the tree an idol and worshipped it, they would not take it out and burn it after a few days.

Scripture has much to say about the pagans who make an idol out of wood and worship it. But to apply such scriptures to the evergreen in the Christmas memorial is far fetched, to say the least.

Scripture states: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) So giving at Christmas is a blessing and not a pagan practice. Because pagans give gifts, does it become a pagan practice when Christians give gifts? Concerning gifts we have the example of the wise men in Matthew 2:11.

If we should ban everything in Christendom that is not observed perfectly according to the Scriptures, by all the people, all the time, we would have to ban every Christian ordinance and activity.

Pagans memorialize their great men. Are we observing a pagan ritual by memorializing such men as Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln?

The teaching that Christmas and Easter are pagan holidays is another fantastic teaching that intrigues the world, offends Christians and brings reproach upon the gospel of the kingdom.

Every person with average intelligence knows