

# On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

## Modern Trends In Paganism Part Five

by Linus A. Mathis III

Let's start this article off properly!

**Psalms 150:6**

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

The praise and worship of our God is the very essence of our being. It is what makes life worth living and causes every new day to bristle with joy and expectation. Joy because we are His and He is ours and expectation because His Son will come again and gather us together unto Him. This is the very thing that God has desired and justly deserves. Consider the question asked of the Lord Jesus Christ by the Samaritan woman he met at Jacob's well. Moreover, contemplate his response:

**John 4:20-24**

Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

People tend to talk about seeking God but what does it take for God to seek us? Worship! He seeks those who desire to worship Him.

**Psalms 22:3**

But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest (dwells, abides, stays) the praises of Israel.

God dwells in the praises of His people!

**I Peter 2:9**

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

He has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light. Therefore, we should praise Him. We owe it to Him and He desires it.

**Ephesians 1:6-13**

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

**Mark 12:30**

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

This is the first commandment and the primary desire of God's heart!

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole *duty* of man.

It is the WHOLE duty of man! Thus the prime directive of the Adversary is to be worshipped in God's stead. Bear this in mind as you proceed through this article.

These days even a calendar isn't safe from the PCP (Politically Correct Police). The fact is, the one we've been using in this country for 248 years is under attack. I might add, for all the wrong reasons. Allow me to fill you in on what has become fodder for debate.

CE which stands for "*Common Era*" is a term expected by many to eventually replace AD, which stands for "*Anno Domini*" in Latin or "*The year of our Lord*" in English. BCE stands for "*Before the Common Era*" and anticipations are that it will replace BC which means "*Before Christ*." Some theologians feel that non-religious terms like CE and BCE are less offensive to non-Christians who supposedly represent the world's majority by a three to one ratio. Consequently, we may see these terms receive greater usage and acceptance. It's further contended that these terms are purely innocuous and clearly identical in value. That is, BC = BCE and CE = AD. Some Christians are distressed by these "*new*" terms asserting that the old terms (BC and AD) have been in use for centuries and are part of a respected tradition. Others see this exchange as yet another example of non-Christian religions being favored above Christianity. There are even some Christians who support these terms

citing the Ethic of Reciprocity (the Golden Rule) to validate their reasoning. I have my own perspective as I'm sure you have yours. But let's consider this matter further.

The Church of Rome (read Roman Catholic) revised the Julian Calendar sometime around the collapse of Rome. Don't forget, the Romans were primarily pagans as was their leader Julius Caesar. Thus, you can be assured their thoughts, inspirations and decisions were colored strongly (seriously tainted) by their idolatrous beliefs.

The Julian calendar is the 365-day calendar that Julius Caesar made official in 46 B.C. It replaced a calendar based on lunar cycles. This calendar provided for a leap year with an extra day every four years. Thus, the Julian calendar included an average of 365.25 days each year. By 1582 A.D., however, it had become out of step with the seasonal cycle by 10 days. The adjustment, ordered by Pope Gregory XIII in October, 1582, subtracted ten days from the calendar. The new Gregorian calendar removes a leap year every one hundred years except for years divisible by four hundred. With each year having an average length of 365.2422 days. In 1752 both England and the American Colonies adopted this calendar. Later they dropped 11 days. This is the calendar currently in use in the Western world. Christians and civil authorities utilize it. Birthdays, work days, holidays Christian and non-Christian are reckoned by it.

Recognizing this calendar to be pagan in origin we're not surprised to learn of its namesakes.

Sunday - Sun Day

Monday - Moon Day

Tuesday - Mar's day for the Romans. Later Tiw's Day (warrior god of Teutonic mythology).

Wednesday - Mercury's day for the Romans. Later Woden's (or Odin's) Day from Teutonic Woton.

Thursday - Jupiter's day for the Roman god of thunder and lightning and husband of Juno. Later Thor's Day from Scandinavian mythology also worshipped as the god of thunder and lightning.

Friday - Venus' day for the Roman goddess of spring and Greek goddess of love. Later Frigg's (or Freya's) Day the Scandinavian goddess of love.

Saturday - Saturn's Day for the Roman god of planting and harvesting.

January - Janus the Roman god of doorways and beginnings.

February - Februa the Roman festival of purification.

March - Mars the Roman god of war.

April - A sacred month for Venus. *Aprilis* from the Latin root *aperire* = to open, as in flowers and wombs in spring.

May - For the goddess Maia daughter of Atlas and one of the Pleiades.

June - Juno wife of Jupiter and goddess of heaven and all other gods and goddesses.

July - Julius Caesar who like other Roman emperors considered himself a god.

August - Augustus, another Roman emperor.

September - *Septem*, Latin for seven as this was at one time the seventh month of the Roman calendar.

October - *Octo*, Latin for eight.

November - *Nove*, Latin for nine.

December - *Decem*, Latin for ten.

A good portion of these adaptations began with the Babylonians who shamelessly worshipped the host of heaven. These ungodly appellations were modified over the years as the calendar moved from culture to culture. Our current nomenclature is the product with Anglo Saxon beliefs resulting in the final influences.

As to accuracy? Well 365.2422 days per annum with a leap year every fourth year isn't too bad. But then there's that business about losing 10 or 11 days and dropping a leap year every 100 years. Except, of course, in years divisible by 400. Not to mention the absence of a zero year for use between 1BC and 1AD. That makes for a first century from 1-100, a second from 101-200, etc. As well as a first millennium from 1-1000, a second from 1001-2000 and so forth. Uh oh! So it ain't perfect after all. It certainly isn't worth any argument which is exactly what's going on about it right now. Though I must admit, I always liked the idea that everyone had to reckon their time by the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems so satisfying even though he was born 3BC and despite the pagan infestations so rife in the

Julian/Gregorian calendar. Christ is acknowledged and so I am blessed. But, do you think the greater portion of society actually thinks of the Lord when they look at a calendar? Is godly service a priority in planning? Is government absorbed with the notion of pleasing Him when courses are plotted? Is the business world consumed with the application of His Word in the execution of their plans? I think not.

In the satanic scheme of things the greater reality is deception and distraction. Well meaning Christians are led to pursue second and third rate causes in the name of Christ. They are distracted from the great commissioning as recorded in Mark 16:16-20 and tricked into handling the Word of God deceitfully. I'm sure you know that you can make the Bible agree with your beliefs by simply arresting select verses from their context. Far too many Christians are willing to do just that because somewhere down deep inside they believe the ends will justify the means. They are deceived. This is not a blessing to God. It's dishonest and only serves to further the cause of God's arch enemy, the Devil. This is especially true of those in support of the new jargon. Here are some of the examples I have seen used:

Mark 12:37

David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he *then* his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

You see, there's nothing wrong with the word "common."

Acts 10:15

And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou

common.

God Himself supports the use of this word "common."

Acts 2:44

And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

This one is a real stretch to justify a change from Christ to common. Isn't it?

Titus 1:4

To Titus, *mine* own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Jude 3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Common faith, common salvation! How can we go wrong? Well we can't except when we wrench a verse from its context so as to get it to suit our needs and prove our points. How very sly the Devil is. It's truly amazing how so many wonderful Christians fall for this. They are so intent on what they believe they will even "bend" the truth to prove it.

On the flip side, I've seen the following verse used in defense of keeping the BC/AD distinctions.

Daniel 7:25

And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times

and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

This, of course, is speaking of the Antichrist and things he will do in his reign. The logic of using this verse is that it's ungodly to change times. Especially noting the deliberate removal of any acknowledgment to Christ in its reckoning. Some scholars believe that the phrase "a time and times and the dividing of time" refers to a 3 ½ year period of rule given to the Antichrist. Is that true? Perhaps. But, that doesn't necessitate it begin with the supplanting of BC/AD. If that's the case, I'm compelled to joyfully anticipate this promise:

#### II Thessalonians 2:3-8

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall

consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

What and if the alteration of the calendar is preamble to the revelation of the Antichrist? I say, hallelujah! Why? Because, if he's revealed the Lord is due to Return and when he does he shall consume the Antichrist with the spirit of his mouth and the brightness of his coming! However, I'm sad to say I don't think that's the reality of it all. The factual products are division, word wrangling and mishandling of the Word of Truth.

The result being a displeasure to our Father and a denial of His right to the undivided attention of His children.

#### II Timothy 2:14-16

Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

As familiar as these verses may be to you, you cannot deny how they resonate with truth. Godliness is what we need these days and the promotion of it should be paramount in our thinking. What is godliness? A true and vital spiritual relationship with God. The opposite of which (ungodliness) is increased by word strifes, e.g. BC or BCE, AD or CE.

This all fits so nicely with the agenda of the ungodly and the spirits that lead them. Deceiving spirits run amok these days fueling the media and driving technology.

#### I Timothy 4:1-3

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

How timely is that? There are so many issues being raised these days the intended purpose of each being to divide people. I'm reminded of something I saw the other day on the evening news. Three individuals dressed up in cow suits with placards decorated with inflammatory statements. Basically protesting for a group whose acronym is PETA. Which, up until recently, I thought represented People Eating Tasty Animals. The fact is you can't grill it until you kill it and I do like beef. How about you? Anyway, I guess ethical treatment somehow framed said acronym instead. Oh well. I wondered what my large (and very macho) male Alaskan Malamute would think of a person in a cow suit. I think he might exploit that individual and (should that happen) I imagine he (Boaz the dog) would be entitled to ethical treatment. Especially since he is an animal and a hairy one at that. As a matter of

fact I did see a certain team mascot (you know how those guys dress up in the surreal animal costumes) get knocked down several times by an Australian Kangaroo. I would say that the Kangaroo had the right to ethical treatment too. Don't you think? What's the point of all this? Simply to divide people. Haven't you noticed how polarized folks are today?

II Timothy 3:1-3

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

This couldn't be more current if it were written yesterday!

The agenda of the Adversary of late is to bring about a moral flip-flop. Actually it takes years to do this. But little by little people become desensitized to what initially would incense them. When I was in high school the concept of a man kissing a man was well beyond repugnant. Yet, the other day prime time TV had two teenage boys engage in just such an act. The public reaction when I was a teen would have FAAAR exceeded today's viewing audience. Let me assure you of that. But things have taken a turn in the moral consciousness of modern man. That which was good and upright is today thought to be cruel and hateful. For instance, my Bible based beliefs that homosexuality is deviant and sinful used to be considered

wholesome and pure. But today the Christian viewpoint is considered narrow and judgmental, one sided and archaic. Sinful behavior is considered as sexual orientation and Bible based ethics are deemed malicious. That which is pure is called abhorrent and that which is abhorrent is thought of as natural and good. Think about how this has affected life, marriage, education, the job market, adoption and the treatment of children. Even the Boy Scouts of America are under attack. The Devil has pitted men against women and women against men. He has children at loggerheads with parents and teachers at odds with both. Division, division, division and through it all, God is denied.

Isaiah 5:18-24

Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:

That say, Let him make speed, *and* hasten his work, that we may see *it*: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know *it*!

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Remember, God is not mocked! What we are to do then is remain focused on our calling. We dare not get caught up in the issues of the day as we have "larger fish to fry." As the song says, "There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save." Right now, as you read this, some one waits. A hungry heart is crying out right now to the Father. Are you ready to serve at the Master's pleasure? If you are called, will you answer? Will you be the one to go? Let us remain undaunted in our quest to love, worship, praise and serve our God.

Be ready always, you never know when the need will arise!

I Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

We dare not allow the world to entangle us for then we will be ineffective and unfit for service.

II Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

The world is chock full of the means wherewith to entangle. Avoid them,

each and every one, instead anticipate His call. Be as was the great prophet Isaiah. For then your pursuits will truly be noble ones:

**Isaiah 6:8**

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here [am] I; send me.

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### **The Counselor's Corner**

wishes to extend hearty congratulations to all our young men and women who are graduating or being promoted!

**I Timothy 4:12**

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**WE LOVE YOU!**

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