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(Transcribed from IBM) Christmas Talk

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This morning I would like to present three problems to you and to see if we can find a unified answer from the Scripture to these problems. The first of these leads -- relates to a student who graduated some years ago and then took a very nice little church. I had had some familiarity with that church before and knew a number of the people in it. So I was not greatly surprised to receive a letter from a woman who belonged to the church. However when I read the letter I was surprised. She said that the minister had forbidden the church to have any Christmas celebration at all. The church had always put up a big Christmas tree and had had a scene of Christ in the manger with the Shepherds around, and had had a Christmas party at which they mutually exchanged gifts. The minister said this was all very heathen, and she quoted from Jer. 10:1-5. "Hear the Word which the Lord speaks unto you O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven for the heathen are dismayed at them for the customs of the people are vain. The one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands. of The workmen with the é axe. They deck it with silver and with gold. They fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good." And the minister said that the -- that Christmas is purely a heathen celebration and a Christian has no business having anything to do with it. She and other people of the church were very much upset and did not know what to do so she wrote me asking for advice about it.

In other connections we hear it said that Christmas is/so commercialized that actually it is just a thing to make money and it would better to drop it altogether. Some say that Christmas is a continuation of an old pagan feast -- the Saturnalia and that pagan matters such as this, having a Christmas tree are simply a continuation, and a Christian must have nothing to do with it.

There is no doubt that there are people who completely forget Christ in Christmas and think only of St. Nicholas or Santa Claus. Little children are told that Santa Claus will not give them something if they are not good, and I have even heard it said that when a child was told that there was no Santa Claus, he said, Is there any Jesus either?