

PAGANS AND HEATHENS

Various contributions

It causes endless trouble when the meanings of words are changed to suit so-called modern development or to dilute or dismiss the original meaning of such a word. When we were young, the word gay meant someone who was the life and soul of a party and the word wicked meant something evil but now some teenagers use this word to apply to something they rate as excellent. The word heathen really means all the nations of the world with the exception of the Jews who were forbidden to have any association with the heathen (Joshua 23. 7., 1 Kings 1.2 etc.).

Many complain that God was wrong to choose the Jews to be His special people. As someone has rightly said, God did not choose the Jews; He called Abraham.

Among the nations there was the practice of idolatry and the word heathen was used to refer to idolaters who worshipped other deities including goddesses and even idols made of wood and metal. The word heathen was therefore a name given to those who did not worship the God of the Bible. Sadly, the Jews became idolaters themselves. Therefore, those today who worship other deities are heathen.

Psalms 2 speaks of the heathen who rage and imagine vain, that is to say worthless things, and take counsel against the Lord and His Anointed wanting to break all ties with true spirituality namely to dismiss and fight against the worship of the Lord and His Anointed.

To the Jew and to the Christian, there is One God and in the Ten Commandments the Lord says, Thou shalt have no other gods before Me which means there is no God but Him, the God of the Bible. Leviticus 26 has God saying Thou shalt not make any idols.

Along with this is the condemnation of those who work magic, illusions and devious acts such as Simon in Acts 8. In fact the Bible condemns such deviations, illusions and delusions, the occult and every aspect of it (Ephesians 6.11ff and Deuteronomy 18 9-12).

God condemns human sacrifice, which the Druids used to perform, all forms of witchcraft, soothsayers, which would include fortune telling, Tarot cards etc., interpreters of unexplained events and signs, sorcerers, those who conjure spells, mediums, those who claim to contact and hear from the dead, observing times, which would include astrology and horoscopes (Isaiah 47 10ff, Jeremiah 10.2), the worship or veneration of the sun, moon and stars (Deuteronomy 4.19 etc), which is often displayed in Morris Dancing, spiritists and spiritualists since all these things are abominations in the sight of the Lord and in the sight of those who love and obey Him.

We began by lamenting how words have had their meanings changed. One of the basic meanings of the word heathen refers to those who do not believe in the God of the Bible yet heathen people do believe in gods as we have clearly expressed.

Hence, paganism which is a term referring to a variety of different religions from Wicca to Hinduism. Some pagans have no religion but, in general, paganism has more than one deity many of which are nature orientated. There is, for example, the worship of the earth, sun, moon and stars but not the God who created these things.

Paganism is a polytheistic and pantheistic religion which, among things, worships nature. It recognises the feminine face of divinity and ancestral deities and is opposed to the God of the Bible and Biblical teaching. And this is atheism in the sense of rejection of the Bible and monotheism

Originally, atheism was taken to mean that God and His Anointed did not exist and, therefore, the Bible was not true. However, today, atheism means that there are no deities of any kind. Richard Dawkins who is a strict atheist writes that the God of the Bible does not exist and never has, and that the Bible is full of lies and legends and yet he blames God for all the trouble in the world.

Left wing politics, including Marxism and Communism, are atheistic and violently object to Judaism and Christianity. In the UK, a large part of the Labour party are atheists who object to the Bible and ridicule it. British society is becoming more secular. There are other politicians who are atheists, prejudiced, misguided and objectionable such as Ken Livingstone and George Galloway who are blatant racists and hate the Jews.

The left wing politics of Communism led to their murder of 30,000 Christians in Russia from 1917 to Glasnost. During World War II, Russia put Christians into mental homes and homes for the advanced insane. The politics of the Nazis led to the slaughter of 6 million Jews.

Jews and Christians are the two more persecuted people in our world in modern times and even today. Why? Because, in the main, they honour the God of the Bible and the Lord Jesus and there are people who hate the morality that the Bible teaches.

In a Christmas television advertisement, one such advertisement was withdrawn because in the background The Lord's Prayer was being sung and it was claimed that this would offend some. Some time ago, atheistic members of the Labour party wanted the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer whitewashed off church walls often adjacent to the altar since this would offend those who would attend a wedding or a funeral in such a church.

The National Secular Society want to eliminate all religious privileges.

What religious privileges?

I asked the Society this question and also sent them a recorded delivery letter but they did not answer.

The Bible warns about the last times when people will not take note of sound teaching but invent ideologies of their own (2 Timothy 4 verses 3 and 4). What people do not want is the morality of the Bible or to live a decent and moral life. People want to rebel against this and do whatever they like whether it be right or wrong and they seem to care not if it offends or hurts anyone.

The traditional and conventional ways of kindness, consideration, love and decency is in further decline. Such kind attributes are now generally regarded as weakness and people want to be modern and independent and, consequently, may have become somewhat uncaring. The world is in a mess because of this. To be traditional and have old fashioned values is usually condemned by today's society.

2 Thessalonians 2 has Paul saying to believers, Do not be easily deceived as people are out to deceive Christians who are and will be continually opposed until eventually the Man of Sin will be revealed sitting in the new Temple and receiving worship. He will display strong delusions and, even now in our day, we are beset with strong delusions and falsehoods. Satan is active to discredit the Lord Jesus and Christians.

Stonehenge is still a religious ground for modern day Druids and a temple for fertility rituals accelerating the annual marriage of the Great Goddess with the Sky God. The arrangements of the stones represent the womb of the Mother Goddess. Some see Stonehenge as a Druid monument to worship the Serpent and many state that it is the place to worship the Sun who is the Giver of Life and the God of the Bible is fictitious. This is a place of pagan worship.

Many people think that Morris Dancing is just fun, exercise and the means of meeting people. They insist that it is not pagan. It is true that you do not have to be pagan to join the Morris dancers but it is pagan. The dances represent the worship of the earth, moon, sun and stars and make reference to the Hunters Moon and the horned hunter.

People will not accept the facts such as the fact that Morris dancing is pagan, often sexual and a display of fertility rites. A friend likes the Elim Pentecostal church but will not accept that a basic teaching of this denomination is that they believe in the second blessing evidenced by the speaking in tongues as an integral part of their doctrine.

The flicking of the handkerchiefs represent the warding off of evil spirits. The Morris Dancers represent the deities of the Earth god as well as the gods of the moon, sun and stars. Pagans are those who believe in many deities and do not accept the God of the Bible or Bible teaching although there may be a few who do, but do not realise that the activities are pagan.

Some Morris dances are of fertility rituals and some are blatantly sexual. A member of the dance company may have a stick from his or her groin and other dancers will attack that stick which represents sexual organs. As Coile Moreton points out, it is clearly about sex. There are many examples of this detailed in good quality newspapers. Some of these groups apparently appear in churches or at church fetes.

They have activities when they pass a chalice around as if it is Holy Communion

Paganism is opposed to the monotheism of the Bible. They are heathen since they worship other gods and are therefore idolaters.

Some relevant verses follow:

Colossians 3, 5 sexual immorality i, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness is idolatry.

1 John 5.23 Keep yourselves from idols.

1 Corinthians 10.14 Flee idolatry.

2 Corinthians 6.9 Sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers and homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God (unless they truly repent and turn away from these things understood).

This leads to the final comment. The Christian faith has been successful for over 2000 years although modern society in recent years has objected to it. This faith has given comfort and assurance to millions who have been converted and lived their respective lives to please God and have died in the faith inheriting everlasting life of bliss. This will not be so for the heathen, idolaters and pagans.

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