



IT TAKES A THIEF

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All of the cleverly-disguised devices that have been designed to rob Jesus Christ of His glory, perhaps the greatest fraud of all is the legendary Santa Claus. With the creation of this fantasy, which is little more than a collection and glorification of pagan legends by the poet, Clement Moore, the Devil has succeeded in using parents to infiltrate the minds of millions of innocent children with a mammoth lie. By far the worst effect that such a seemingly harmless fictitious character as Santa Claus has brought about is the diminishing of the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apparently Satan realized many years ago that even though the people were observing the birth date of Jesus at the time of the Roman Saturnalia rather than during the Hebrew Feast of Tabernacles, when, indeed, our Lord was born, they were, nevertheless, worshipping Jesus at Christmas. So, from legend and imagination, a jolly character called Santa Claus was invented and has since been implanted in the minds of millions for many generations. In today's commercialized, secular society, the myth of Santa Claus has been almost completely substituted for the worship of the Lord Jesus.

The only thing that could have accomplished this kind of pollution of men's minds was a fraud, a clever device disguised in the better attributes, which man imagines he possesses. So we have Santa Claus—a jovial character who works all year at his secret North Pole workshop to prepare for all good little children the gifts that he brings on Christmas Eve. Santa's first move upon arriving on the housetop gives the old fellow away as the thief who steals the glory of Christ, for according to the legend, he always comes down the chimney. Jesus well said that he that cometh not in by the door is a thief and robber. And, a thief Santa Claus is! In his supposed giving of Christmas gifts, Satan usurps one of the most basic of all principles from Jesus. The Bible tells us that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights; however, the doctrine of Santa Claus tells us that gifts come from Santa's workshop at the North Pole.

According to the legend, Santa Claus arrives riding on a fantastic sleigh pulled by supernatural flying reindeer. He comes bearing the children's much-desired gifts. Jesus Christ came lowly, riding upon a donkey. He was weighted down with the sins of all mankind as He bore His cross up Calvary to give His life to purchase the gift of eternal life for all men. To steal the glory of this greatest gift to man, the Devil invented a great lie, a thief greater than all the mobsters who have ever lived; and, this subtle robber goes on and on, unchecked by society, stealing the glory of Christ from the minds of the people when they should be worshipping Him.

This thief is so very effective because he is supported by parents by the millions who become tools of the Devil's burglary when they pry open their children's young minds and glorify the legendary Santa Claus to them. Instead of teaching them about the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, they spend their time extolling the virtues and temporal gifts of a creature that does not exist. When, finally, they are forced to admit that there is no Santa Claus, the tragedy of it all is that this admission also casts doubt in young minds as to the existence of God.

We strongly admonish you that you not be found casting your lots with the Devil by becoming an accomplice to the greatest thief of the glory of Christ. Reveal this legend for what it is, a fraud, and teach your children the truth concerning the Lord from Heaven, the Giver of every good gift, Jesus Christ. It is much better to suffer the reproaches of Christ than to enjoy the pleasures of relating the Santa Claus lie to unsuspecting children.

Help stamp out this organized crime—thievery from Christ. Do not permit Satan to dupe you into becoming his accomplice in such robbery, for without your assistance, Santa Claus, his master thief, will be cast into the chains of oblivion forever.

■Grammatical and/or verb changes only