



Finding *the* **Truth**

What time is it anyway? The truth about the calendar.

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With the New Year comes fireworks, champagne, and the purchase of an updated calendar. The calendar industry reports sales in the billions with designs featuring comedy, landscapes, and of course swimsuit models. You can choose a desktop or wall chart of days but you can't choose to use the most accurate telling of time. Historians agree that the calendar of today has been through so many changes that it is almost impossible to know exactly what year it is.

Most of the world uses the error-filled Gregorian calendar that was made popular by Pope Gregory XII. This calendar shows the year to change on January 1. Yet before this dateline, several countries celebrated the New Year at different times. The Romans recognized March 1 while the Byzantine Empire held September 1 as the start of the year. The Jewish people still change their calendar in mid September.

The Gregorian Calendar is a supposed improvement upon the model created by Julius Caesar. When Caesar created monthly calendar, he named each period of days after a different Greek god. January was named for Janus, the Roman mighty one of portals. May was named

for Maia, the female deity of fertility. July was given its title after Julius Caesar himself. This isn't the only pagan connection to the modern calendar.

The Romans and Greeks had their pantheon of gods to honor. So, they developed a system of unified worship based on the calendar. This pattern continues today. Each day of the week actually retains its original name, given by the Romans, to signify the time to worship a different god. Monday is the day to worship the moon. Thursday is Thor's Day. Sunday is honored as "solis dias"- the venerable day of the sun.

Using these titles for the days and months is in direct opposition to a Biblical principle to not pronounce the names of false gods. Exodus 23:13, "And in all things that I have said to you take heed: and make no mention of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth."

Perhaps we should return to the Biblical reckoning of time? Throughout the Scriptures there is only one day that is given a specific name. The Seventh day is called the "Sabbath" or "Shabbat" in Hebrew. All other days were counted off from the Sabbath. The months were also counted from the spring time of Passover and the month of "Aviv" as seen in Exodus 12:1-3.

The dating of our modern calendar is also incorrect. We are told that there have been 2009 years since the birth of Christ. The term "AD" is short for "Anno Domini" or "in the year of our Lord." The problem is that Jesus couldn't have been born in the year 1AD. The gospels show that the Savior's birth occurred during the reign of Herod the Great. Well, Herod's died in the spring of 4BC. Therefore, Christ's birth had to take place at least four years before the traditional date! (Herod's death is recorded by Jewish historian Flavius Josephus in the *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 17, Chapter 8.)

The calendar errors make a startling point. If we are misled concerning the actual dating of the year or naming of the days, then what other parts of our life and culture also contain error? Much time has passed since the events of the Bible took place. Sadly, as the calendars have changed so has mankind. The Almighty is the same yesterday, today, and forever.