

How God's people are not to take the names of the heathen gods in their mouths, nor follow their customs, nor learn their ways.

By George Fox

Thus said the Lord to the house of Israel, '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, for they are altogether brutish and foolish. Their stock is a doctrine of vanities. Thus shall you say unto them, the gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.' Jer 10:2,11.

'Pour out your fury upon the heathen, that know you not, and upon the families that call not upon your name; for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate. But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king; at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.'
Jer10:10,25.

Here you may see those who did follow the vain customs of the heathen, and learn their ways, and follow the doctrine of their vanities, are foolish and brutish, and such worship the gods that are made with hands, which made not the heavens and the earth, and all such gods the Lord said shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. As you may see these that learned the way of the heathen, and followed their vain customs and doctrines of vanities, and were foolish and brutish, and were dismayed at the signs of heaven; and these are such that eat up Jacob, the second birth, and seek to devour him, and consume him, and to make his habitation desolate. So the Jews, the children of Israel, were not to learn the ways of the heathen, nor their vain customs, nor to follow their doctrine of vanities, for they were foolish and brutish that did so. And the portion of Jacob, the second birth, is not like them, for the Lord is his portion. The Lord said to the children of Israel in the old testament, and old covenant, 'In all things that I have said unto you be circumspect, and make no

mention of the names of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth.'
Exod 23:13.

Now here you may see God's people were to make no mention of the names of other gods, namely, the gods of the heathen that were made with hands, neither were they to be heard out of their mouths; for he said, 'The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from off the earth and from under these heavens.' Jer 10:11. And God's people were not to learn the way of the heathen, nor follow the vain customs of the people; for they are altogether brutish and foolish, and their stock is a doctrine of vanities. And therefore God's people in the old testament, were wholly forbidden such things; but they were to serve and to fear the Lord God.

The old pagan Saxons, in their idolatry, brought in the names of the days after their gods; and these called christians have retained them to this day. Yet they say the scripture is their rule, for their faith and practice, and yet their practice is quite contrary to the scripture and the command of God. The first day of the week, the idolatrous Saxons worshipped the idol of the sun, from where came Sun's-day or Sunday. The second day of the week they worshipped the moon, from where came Monday or Moon's-day. The third day they worshipped the idol of the planet, which they called Tuisco, from where came Tuesday. And from their idol Woden, came Woden's-day, called Wednesday. And from their idol Thor, came Thursday. And from their idol Friga, came Friday. And from their idol Satur, came Saturday. And the heathen called Mars the god of battle, and from it they called the first month March.* And Venus they called the goddess of love and beauty, and from that they called the second month April. Maja, a heathen goddess, called Flora and Chloris, were called the goddesses of flowers; unto Maja the heathen idolaters used to sacrifice, from this was the third month called May; and upon the first day of May they used to keep Flora's feast to the two goddesses of flowers, namely, Flora and Chloris. Flora was a strumpet [prostitute] in Rome, who on the first day of May used to set up a may-pole at her door to entice her lovers; from where came may-poles to be first observed. From the heathen goddess Juno, is the fourth month called June. In honor to Julius Caesar, a Roman emperor, [designated a Roman god] they called the fifth month July. And the sixth took its name August, in honor to Augustus Caesar [designated a Roman god]. And September, October, November, and December, are called from the Latine. And one Janus, a king of Italy, was for his wisdom pictured with two faces, and whom they honored as a god, and from this name Janus was the eleventh month, called January. And Saturnus, Pluto, Februs, were called the gods of hell, whom the heathens said had the rule of the evil spirits there; and from Pluto, Februs was the twelfth month called February.

*In use during the 17th Century, the old Julian calendar's year started in March and ended in February. It was replaced by the now in use, Georgian calendar, starting in January and ending in December.

Now here you may see how the christians call the days, and many of the months, after the heathen gods and goddesses, and not after the scriptures, which in the beginning called them the first, second, third, fourth, etc. and called the months, first, second, third, ... to the twelfth.

And the Lord commanded the Jews, his people, as is said before, 'In all things that I have said unto you be circumspect, and make no mention of the names of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth.' Exod 23:13.

Now all you who profess christianity, how do you obey the Lord, and are circumspect, who make mention of the names of other gods and goddesses, and are so often heard out of the mouths of you and your children. To keep them up in the memory, both in your mouths, and children's mouths, you put them in your Almanacs, lest you should forget them. Yet you say the scripture is your rule, and yet disobey both the command of God, and the holy scriptures of truth, and are often angry with, and deride the people of God, whom you in scorn call Quakers, because they do not call the months and days after the heathens' gods and goddesses, but call them according as the holy men of God in the scripture of truth have first called them, and cannot call them after the idolatrous heathens' gods and goddesses, nor mention their gods' and goddesses' names, as you do, without the breach of the command of God, as in Exod 23:13 and the scriptures of truth.

The Lord said, 'I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered.' Zach 13:2. And the Lord said, 'I will take away the names of Baalim, out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name.' Hos 2:17.

George Fox