



# *The Heart of the Matter*



*Jason Chambers*

Among the many traditions Christians have treasured over the centuries which trace their origins back to the cursed heathen religions of old, Valentine's Day is hardly the exception. Like all the other holidays we hold dear, the so-called "day of love" now bearing the name of a holy saint is plainly pagan if one is paying attention. Christmas, Easter, Lent, Sunday, and Halloween aren't alone in their dark beginnings beyond the worship of the One True King of Heaven. No. With the many days and delights we highjacked from the heathen, Saint Valentine's Day is as loathsome to the Almighty as it is loved by us.

While it is not entirely clear, which Valentine this day is named for, as there have been at least 3 men of the same name all of whom lived and died in the 3rd century, two in Italy and one in North Africa, it is known that the day we have been honoring for roughly 1,700 years is called for one of these three men, all said to be martyrs, all of whom are collectively accredited as being the Patron Saint of Love and Lovers, and two of which are quite possibly the same exact person. Each of these men was said to have been unlucky in love and died for their faith, so anyone of them could be the official Saint whose nomenclature adorns this holiday. Yet, regardless of which is the proper Saint, the purpose of this celebration remains the same as ever it was, and that purpose is thoroughly and completely foreign.

February 14, as a sacred festival may very well originate with the Christian Saint(s) for whom it's now called, yet as is so often the case, a holy man was in fact in time tapped to takeover for the pagan holiday that was already held around this time of the second month by pagan born gentiles. As more and more heathen were coming to believe in the Messiah,



rather than being called to change their ways completely and surrender their wicked traditions for those of the Scriptures they were embracing, they were being instead, accommodated at every turn by desperate clerics willing to compromise the truth for the sake of “saving souls”. In their efforts to save people and fill the Church, they destroyed what had been the pure unadulterated worship of the Creator.

As it happened with Christmas, Easter, and Halloween, (See our other articles: [The Reason for the Season](#), [Resurrecting the Easter Controversy](#), and [A New Place For Nightmares](#)) what eventually became Valentine’s Day preceded Christianity by several centuries, and several centuries into the Christian Era, so-



called converts were still clinging to these superstitions, fables from their former faiths, the leftovers of long dead gods and all their lying prophets. Finding it too hard to force out the wicked traditions of the people coming to ‘Christ’, Christian bishops of the day found Christian excuses for all believers to keep doing them, and began to teach these to successive generations aswell until all of the Church in all of the world worshipped their generic “Lord God” their own generalized way...in much the same manner our ancestors worshipped their private idols.

What is now known as Saint Valentine’s Day was formerly the heathen feast of Lupercalia. This celebration was an outrageous orgy which engulfed cities throughout the Roman Empire every 15th (rather than 14th) of the month of February. An entirely lecherous event, not about “love” in general but specifically lasciviousness, it honored the pagan deity, Lupercus. A very ancient deity worshipped by pre-Roman tribesman and herdsman, Lupercus, was the god of flocks and herds, protector of animals from wild predators and who ensured their fertility and virility. This old Roman idol was a counterpart to the Greek deity, Pan, the wild god of flocks and herds and fertility, whom the Romans usually referred to as Faunus. Except unlike Pan/Faunus who was depicted predominantly as a satyr or faun, goat-legged man, Lupercus was usually depicted as a manlike wolf.

His priests were known as Luperci, and on Lupercalia they sacrificed goats and dogs to honor their god. The priests traditionally cut themselves and mixed their blood with milk. Dipping strips of the animal skin from the sacrifices into the mixture, these priests went about the streets striking women with the strips of animal skin, believing this would grant them the divine blessing of fertility.

At Lupercalia, the faithful would pray to this half wolf, half man minor god for fruitfulness throughout the coming year. Not only for virility and fertility for themselves but for their livestock and crops aswell. In addition to much raucous and riotous behavior and many libidinous parades in Lupercus’ honor, with primitive rituals involving dressing up in wolf skin and fawning over those desperate to bear children, a great deal of attention was also paid to

Eros, or Cupid, the winged god of lust.



Now we depict the god of lust as a winged diapered baby with bow and heart tipped arrows. But then he was hailed as a horny gorgeous teen sprouting enormous dove wings from his shoulders. And his attendants were the little cherubs or cupids we usually see portrayed today. Eros (Cupid) was a spiteful bitter deity ever toying with the feelings of mortals. The product of the adulterous relationship of Ares (Mars) the god of war and Aphrodite (Venus) the goddess of beauty, Cupid thrives on making unrequited love most of all.

He was infamous for shooting a golden arrow at one lover and a lead arrow at another so that forever the lover would be unloved and forever the unloved would be forced to run from their lover. Such was the madness memorialized this day in the first century and before. This is the chaos embraced by the masses prior to the coming of the Messiah, the same madness that so many millions refused to lose when they found their Salvation.

But what does all that ancient madness have to do with us now? Unlike the common claims about Christmas and Easter that “it’s all for ‘Jesus’ so it can’t be evil”, the excuses of believers for embracing Valentine’s Day generally tend to be more simple and simplistic. “We shouldn’t stand in the way of love,” being the most common. But really what’s love got to do with it? The Church buried an old pagan sex festival behind the heart symbol and a long dead martyr...or two...or three, yet Valentine’s Day didn’t really catch on in Christendom till the 15th. But the festival as we know it today was largely the product of the commercial industry, specifically, greeting cards, but eventually, flowers, chocolate, restaurants, etc. Especially in modern America these celebrations take on a life of their own. Born in pagan pageantry so long ago almost no one remembers it’s beginning, but through the religion of the western world, namely industry, what this and most other holidays have become is a celebration of self indulgence, ego, and avarice. We have to celebrate because we have to. We have to buy certain items because it is expected. And because it is expected, it is for sale. And so on and so forth, the faith of our modern age evolves. From the vile tribal rites of Rome to the vicious buying / selling cycle of America.

“What’s wrong with love?”, they ask, and we rightly reply with a better question “What’s love got to do with it?” Or better yet, “What’s wrong with us, if we call all this evil, love?” Greed. Pride. Vanity. Love? No. We are taught to celebrate something that came from the idol worship of ancient pagans. Something the Church coated in gloss to shine it up and sell it to her own people as a grace of the Saviour. And now it’s just a day to waste money on things that don’t matter, have no meaning, and won’t last.



And what’s it all for? Undoubtedly the devil delights in these dainties, because he can use them as distractions. He can keep us chasing heart shaped paper instead of seeking the heart of our Savior...which is His Holy Days and habits of following the Torah of the Almighty. While we are immersing ourselves in the leftovers of Rome and the remnants of lost civilizations that worshipped idols and invented imaginary festivals, holidays that have no meaning anymore anyway, we are losing sight of what our Lord actually asked us to be focused on. And that is following in His footsteps. Learning what He said and loving what He did. And doing our level best to live likewise.

It may very well break our hearts to leave behind the vain things of this world such as Valentine’s Day, but if we truly do have love in our hearts for our Heavenly Father and His holy Word, we will do just that and much much more.