

Remnant Life Church
November 2, 2014
“Bringing the Dark into the Light”
Deuteronomy 18:9-13

- Halloween has come and gone - finally - Praise God!
- It is second only to Christmas in terms of how much is spent and now occupies the entire month of October rather than just the one day
- I am not talking about the innocent dressing in costumes and getting candy and treats from neighbors
 - I have wonderful memories of doing that as a boy
 - Dusk until the last porch light was out
 - Can still smell the inside of the plastic mask
- Our concern and caution is a blind openness to all that goes on this time of year that becomes an in-road for satan into our lives and more than that, the lives of our children

READ Scripture

HISTORY

1. The beginning of this time and its origins are not specific or certain
 - a. There is evidence of the early churches commemorating the lives of those most influential by remembering not only the date of their birth but their death as well
 - i. This early recognition became known as All Saints Day which was added to the church liturgical calendar
 - ii. Churches were even built on the tops of their supposed graves to honor their lives and their service to God
 1. St Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City, Rome – grave of Peter
 2. Over the grave of James, son of Zebedee
 3. Built over the tomb of John in Turkey (Ephesus)
 4. Thomas is enshrined in Ortona, Italy below a beautiful basilica
 - b. As more and more were martyred for their faith and the spread of the gospel a general day of recognition was instituted
 - c. Originally it was observed on May 13 to coincide with existing feasts and celebrations but in 835 the Catholic church under Pope Gregory IV moved it to November 1
 - d. All Saints Day of November 1 was preceded by All Hallows Eve on October 31 – Halloween
 - e. Protestant churches also point to this time of year as it was October 31 in 1517 that Martin Luther attached the 95 thesis of reformation at Wittenberg
 - i. He declared, among other things, that salvation came only through the grace and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and not by our works
 - ii. That forgiveness from sins could not be purchased by giving money to the church

1. It was an act of repentance and contrition not a financial transaction
 - iii. Those within the church should act differently than the world
 2. But there is another side to the coin in the making of this time of year
 - a. Over 2500 years ago in the areas of Great Britain and Germany the Celts were the ruling culture
 - b. They were a polytheistic society that gave rise to occultism, the druid priests, and every conceivable form of spirit practice
 - c. Their new year was November 1 and they believed that the souls of all the dead of that previous year were gathered together and would be taken by the god Sow-en (Samhain)
 - d. Their focus was on those who had died and the opportunity to communicate with them before they were taken away for good
 - e. Later, occultic practices from other cultures are mixed in including the Festival of the Dead – Asian roots associated with Ancestor Worship as well as elements of Confucianism and Buddhism
 3. Over the centuries there has been a blending and a blurring of the church and the pagan settling on a time of year when satanists and occult groups have laid claim as one of their high celebration days
 - a. The satanic bible lists three days of renown
 - i. The birthday of the individual
 - ii. Walpurgisnacht – German celebration of witches coming together
 - iii. Halloween – the time when these groups believe that the world of the living and the world of the dead is at its closest making direct communication possible
 - b. The mischief night activities in the early 1900's were becoming more and more damaging to communities
 - i. Organizations like the Boy Scouts and community groups began to organize more constructive activities
 - ii. Modern trick and treating grew from that
 - c. Halloween has at its roots a convoluted amalgam of pagan, Christian, and civic elements that is blindly embraced each fall.
 4. So if we know the origins, and we don't embrace or teach them, what is the harm?
 - a. The glorification of death
 - i. Death is not of God it is a result of sin
 - ii. **Gen 2:16-17** – death is a result of man's sinful choosing
 - iii. **Eph 5:8** - *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light*
 - b. Death is an enemy
 - i. God created life and we are a product of that life
 - ii. Death destroys life and takes away what God created and gave to us at the beginning
 - iii. **I Cor 15:26** - *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

- iv. **Isaiah 25:8** – God will swallow up death
 - v. Since death was defeated by Jesus at His resurrection why would we, His followers, desire to focus on, embrace, and even glorify that which He came to destroy?
 - vi. Why will we not separate ourselves from the world when the world is against our risen Savior?
 - c. Death is not of God it is from the enemy – when we honor death we honor satan
 - d. The Bible forbids us from contacting the dead (**Duet 18:11**) and that is much of what the focus is with the Halloween culture of today
 - e. Our children are continuing to be desensitized to the gore, the death, and the horror of what is being promoted
 - i. Just as war games have done with killing
 - ii. The movies, games, and focus of this time of year has done the same
5. So what do we do?
- a. We need to educate our children and our grandchildren in the things of the Word not the things of the world
 - i. **Prov 22:6** – *Start(train) children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*
 - b. We need to guard and protect them
 - i. **I Cor 13:7** - *...always protects...*
 - ii. If we love our children we must protect them from the schemes of the enemy
 - c. We must set a good example
 - i. We are forcing our children to deal with things that their minds, their hearts and their spirits are not ready to handle
 - ii. You would not ask your 10 year old son or daughter to drive to the store for you – they are not ready
 - d. We must use wisdom and discernment
 - i. We are allowing the tools of the enemy, disguised as “harmless” to be allowed into our homes
 - 1. Ouija board
 - 2. Séances/Fortune telling
 - 3. Spells and sorcery – Harry Potter franchise
 - a. 7 books
 - b. 8 movies spanning the entire first decade of the 21st century
 - c. 7.7 billion world-wide movies alone
 - e. **Prov 1:7** - *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
 - f. **Phil 4:8** - *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*