

Is Halloween the Devil's Day?

With Halloween happening in just three days - we should take a moment to ask...

Is Halloween the Devil's Day?

The reason I ask is because - there are those who insist that Halloween is a Satanic celebration...

...that stems from the ancient Druidic holiday known as Samhain
- which is Gaelic for - Summer's End.

The Celtic New year began on the first day of November - and it was believed by many....

...that this change in season - from summer to winter - created the conditions for the veil between this world and the next...

...was at it's thinnest - on October 31st - as a result...

...the spirits of lost souls were able to return - and wreak havoc here on Earth.

According to the beliefs of many modern pagans - this thinning of the veil is something to be celebrated.

Here's how one practicing pagan put it in her article titled: How I am Celebrating Samhain This Year - - and I quote...

In the lead-up to Samhain, many pagans decorate their altars with pictures of deceased loved ones, symbols of the underworld (like pomegranates), animal bones, and lots and lots of candles. I usually decorate my own altar with a black altar cloth and fallen leaves from our neighborhood trees. Covens and circles often hold feasts, honoring the long tradition of food for the dead by leaving an empty place for spirits and ancestors. Other pagans use the night of Samhain to practice divination using mirrors, Tarot cards, runes, and other tools.

According to this self-professing pagan - October 31st is a good time to engage in the practice of divination.

And just to be clear - divination - is the attempt to gain hidden knowledge - especially of the future - or of the will of the gods...

...through the ritual magic of reading signs and omens - or by communication with the spirits.

The same practicing pagan went on to inform us - how she plans to celebrate Samhain - by declaring...

I will put on my finest witch's hat, hand out lots of candy, and compliment lots of costumes. And I shall wish everyone who comes to my door a Happy Halloween.

From this - we can see that this self-professing pagan associates the modern holiday known as Halloween...

...with the Druidic celebration of Samhain - which is centered around the practice of divination.

And it's for this reason that many Christians have concluded that...

...Halloween is the devil's day.

Now - there are those who take issue with this perspective - and the reason why is because...

...the word - Halloween - is actually a contraction - of All Hallows' Eve...

...which is based on the Roman Catholic tradition of remembering the martyrs of the Christian faith.

All Martyr's Day - which is November the 1st is a celebration of the Saints.

And so - October 31st became known as All Hallows' Eve - - or - Halloween for short.

With all of this in mind - our modern holiday known as Halloween seems to be a mixture of pagan traditions - with the Roman Catholic religion.

Here's how Lauren Woodrell explained it - in her article titled - All Hallows Eve: history, traditions, and observations - in which she writes...

As the reach of Christianity spread throughout the Celtic territories throughout the 9th century, All Saint's Day blended into the traditions of the Celts.

That's right - our modern holiday known as Halloween is a marriage of pagan practices - and Roman Catholic rituals.

And with that being the case - we should take a moment to ask...

...should Christians abstain from this holiday that clearly encourages unbiblical practices...

...or - is the Christian church able to redeem Halloween despite it's debatable origins?

In other words - can Christians use this holiday - for the glory of God?

OR - is this a day that is entirely irredeemable - and therefore - believers should just stay home - and hide in their homes - until it's all over?

What about our Fall Fiesta - can we provide our kids with a safe alternative to Halloween?

Or - is the devil going to use our event - to deceive kids according to his Satanic schemes?

With these questions in mind - we're going to spend our time tonight...

...considering a Biblical response to this holiday.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 - and as we make our way to the 11th chapter of 2nd Corinthians...

...I wanna take a moment to point out that - the Celtic celebration of Samhain was observed - long before the days of Paul.

According to one historian - this ancient pagan holiday was originally observed at the Mound of the Hostages - nearly 5000 years ago.

What this means is that - some form of this holiday was being celebrated - during the days of Paul.

And yet - he didn't bother to warn the church about the pagan practices of the Druids.

No - instead - he warned them about the false teachers who would try to infiltrate the church...

...according to the scheme of Satan.

Let's consider the warning Paul presented - in 2nd Corinthians chapter 11 - look with me beginning there at verse 13 - where he referred to the...

2Co 11:13 ...false apostles and deceitful workers who transform themselves into apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

According to Paul - there is a fallen angel - called Satan - and he is able to disguise himself as an angel of light.

Not only that - but - the servants of Satan - can also present themselves - as ministers of righteousness.

And it's for this reason that Paul warned the Christians in Corinth about the false apostles...

...and the deceitful workers who transform themselves into apostles of Christ.

And listen - the devil isn't waiting until October 31st - to deceive the disciples of Christ.

As a matter of fact - one of the most deceptive days of the week is Sunday...

...because - this is the day when many churchgoers gather together - and listen to the spiritual charlatan...

...who is masquerading as a minister of righteousness.

Proof of my point can be found in the recent research of George Barna - who has informed us that...

...a mere 37% of the pastors here in America actually possesses a biblical worldview.

In other words - more than 60% of the pastors here in the US don't believe the Bible is the infallible word of God.

And you better believe that these pastors are masquerading as ministers of righteousness...

...while simultaneously presenting the people in their church with doctrines of demons.

This was precisely the point that Paul was making - in 1st Timothy 4 - it's verse 1 where he declared...

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

Christian - listen - the Holy Spirit has warned us - - that there will be many believers in the last days...

...who will fall away from the faith - and the reason why is because...

...they will embrace the deceptive doctrines of demons -
which are presented from the pulpits of many churches.

Knowing that we are currently live in these latter times - - we must be mindful of Satan's schemes...

...and the reason why is because - we could become those believers - who are led astray by the deception of the devil.

With that being the case - let's take a moment to ask - - does the deception of the devil include Halloween?

And are the Christian parents who dress up their kids on Halloween being led astray with doctrines of demons?

With this question in mind - let's consider the warning that Paul presented - to the Christians at the church in Ephesus.

Turn with me to Ephesians chapter 5 - and as we make our way to the fifth chapter of Ephesians...

...I should take a moment to remind you that - our God is the One Who created all of the days - including October 31st.

And so - those who try to convince us to concede this one day to the devil...

...are failing to realize that - every day is a day that belongs to the Lord.

At the same time - it's also important for us to remember that - the Earth is currently under the curse...

...and the devil - and his demons - are leading people to engage in all manner of wickedness.

And according to Paul - this is happening every single day.

Let's consider how he put it - here in Ephesians chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 11 - where he declared...

Eph 5:11 ...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,

Arise from the dead,

And Christ will give you light.”

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that - the DAYS are evil.

And just to be clear - Paul wasn't referring to just one day of the year...

...no - instead - he was referring to every day - - every day of the year is an evil day...

...and the reason why is because - unbelievers are engaging in the unfruitful works of darkness...

...every single day of the year.

With this in mind - we should ask - - is it possible that October 31st is a day when pagans engage in an increasing amount of wicked works?

Well - yeah - - Halloween is most certainly a day when those who are engaging in the unfruitful works of darkness...

...are gathering together in order to engage in various forms of divination.

Does this mean that Christians should concede this day - by hiding in our homes?

Certainly not - - and to the contrary - Paul encouraged us to redeem the time - because the days are evil.

Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Ephesians 5 - look with me again - beginning there at verse 11 where he declared...

Eph 5:11 ...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Eph 5:14 Therefore He says:

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Arise from the dead,

And Christ will give you light."

Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Rather than engaging in fellowship with those who are celebrating Satan on Halloween...

...Christians have been called to expose those who are engaging in the unfruitful works of darkness.

And in this way - we're able to redeem the time - knowing that the days are evil.

With this as our goal - let's take some time to consider how Christians can redeem this holiday.

And I wanna begin by addressing the individual conviction of each Christian...

...according to the challenge that Paul presented to the Christians at the church in Rome.

Turn with me to Romans chapter 14 - and as we make our way to the 14th chapter of Romans...

...I wanna take a moment to remind you that - there is a clear difference...

...between Biblical prohibitions - and individual convictions.

For example - - the Lord has called us to abstain from every form of witchcraft - like divination - and fortune telling.

And it's for this reason that believers should reject this demonic aspect of Halloween.

At the same time - there is no Biblical prohibition that forbids kids from dressing up in costumes - and collecting candy.

Now - don't get me wrong - because - I don't think that Christians should dress up their kids to look like a demon - or a witch - or James Talarico...

...but - if you dress up your daughter like a princess - or your son like a super hero - I personally don't see the problem.

At the same time - if you were to say to me - - pastor Bunjee - we have a conviction to abstain altogether...

...then - I would encourage you to stand firm in that conviction.

But what we shouldn't do is divide from one another over debatable things.

Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in Romans chapter 14 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Rom 14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.

Rom 14:2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.

Rom 14:3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Rom 14:5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

Christian - listen - when it comes to the debatable things that the Bible doesn't explicitly address...

...the best thing that we can do is to remember that we've been called to receive one another...

...by avoiding the divisions that created - whenever we engage in disputes over doubtful things.

Again - this is not a greenlight to engage in the satanic aspects of a holiday like Halloween.

At the same time - Christians have different convictions about the more innocent aspects of this holiday.

And while we might feel the need to impose our convictions on every other Christian...

...it's important to remember that we've should redeem the time...

...by refusing to engage in disputes over debatable things.

At the same time - we'll all do well to remember that - the Devil wants to destroy our life - every day.

With this as our focus - let's consider the warning that the apostle Peter presented - in his 1st epistle.

Turn with me to 1st Peter chapter 5 - and as we make our way to the 5th chapter of 1st Peter...

...I wanna take a moment to remind you that - the enemy has come to Steal - and Kill - and Destroy our lives.

And listen - this is not only true on Halloween - but this is also true - every day.

It's for this reason that the apostle Peter warned every Christian - about the attacks of the adversary.

Let's consider how the apostle Peter addressed this - in 1st Peter 5 - look it's beginning at verse 8 - where he declared...

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Here in these verses - we find the apostle Peter - comparing the devil - to a hungry lion who is on the prowl.

And as we consider the way that Satan is seeking those whom he may devour...

...I should take a moment to point out that - the word - devour - was translated from a Greek word...

...which was used in reference to that which is consumed - and swallowed whole.

It's for this reason - that the Scottish translator - Robert Young rendered Peter's words in this way...

1Pe 5:8b ...the devil, as a roaring lion, doth walk about, seeking whom he may **swallow up**

Now - in order to understand - how the devil intends to devour - - or swallow up those who have placed their faith in Jesus...

...it's important for us to understand that - the Greek word - which was rendered - devoured...

...was also used figuratively - to describe something that has been destroyed.

Just to be clear - this scheme of Satan CAN NEVER destroy our connection with Christ Jesus...

...and yet - it's crucial for every Christian to realize that - the devil is still able to destroy our testimony...

...so that he can successfully hinder our ability - to lead other to the Lord.

Christian - listen - if you're allowing the devil and his demons - to devour your time - with ungodly activities...

...then you're also allowing the enemy - to stop you from serving our Savior.

If you're allowing the enemy to devour your talents - and your treasure - by spending your time on sinful pursuits...

...then - you're also allowing the enemy - to destroy your testimony.

And it's sad to say that - there are many Christians in the church today who have fallen for these demonic distractions...

...by allowing the enemy - to devour their time - their talents - and their treasure...

...as we waste our lives - living for the lust of the flesh - the lust of the eyes - and the pride of life.

With that being the case - I encourage every Christian - to follow the advice that Peter presented in verse 8 - when he declared...

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Now - that word - sober - was translated from a Greek word - which was used to describe those who abstain from wine.

Knowing that the intoxication of alcohol - lowers the inhibitions of those who decide to drink...

...the Christian who wants to guard themselves against the attacks of the enemy - should choose to stay sober.

And listen - we should not only remain sober - but Peter also instructed us to remain vigilant in our Sobriety...

...knowing that the demons are always looking for every opportunity - to destroy our lives.

And as we consider the point that the apostle Peter was making...

...we must not fail to realize that - the enemy tends to stalk weaker believer.

Notice with me again - beginning there at verse 8 - where Peter declared...

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Now - that word - resist - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of those who take a stand - in order to oppose the enemy.

It was used to describe those who set themselves against another.

And in this context - Peter was clearly encouraging every Christian - to rise up - and resist the devil and his demons.

That's right Christian - we are the resistance — which is to say that - we are the spiritual soldiers...

...who have been called to take a stand - against the evil schemes of Satan.

And while it might seem scary to engage in a spiritual war against an evil enemy like Satan...

...Peter encouraged every Christian soldier to Resist the enemy - with steadfast faith.

That word - steadfast - - speaks of those who are strong - firm - and immovable.

Therefore - rather than receiving the marching orders of the Lord - with a heart that's filled with fear...

...Peter called every Christian soldier - to resist the enemy - with a strong - firm - and immovable faith.

And with this as the goal - we should consider the shield of faith...

...that Paul referred to in his letter to the church in Ephesus.

With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles to Ephesians chapter 6 - and as we make our way to the sixth chapter of Ephesians...

...I wanna take a moment to point out that - the lion is looking for easy prey.

And it's for this reason that - the lion tends to target the prey - that has been separated from the rest of the herd.

In a similar - yet spiritual way - our adversary - the devil - is looking for easy prey - like a backslidden believer...

...to steal their blessings - kill their commitment to Christ - and destroy their testimony.

And it's for this reason that we must learn to use the shield of faith.

In order to explain what I mean - let's consider the spiritual armor that the Lord has provided to those who trust in Jesus.

Look with me - there at Ephesians chapter 6 - let's begin reading there at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Eph 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Eph 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping every Christian to realize that...

...the Lord is calling us to take a stand - against the evil schemes of Satan.

And with this as the goal - Paul encouraged us to realize that the Lord has provided us with spiritual armor...

...so that we have everything we need - to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Now - if you'd like to listen to an in depth study on each individual piece of armor...

...I encourage you to listen to my series - titled - winning the war against wickedness.

You can find it in the sermon section of our website - at CalvarySouthAustin.com.

For the sake of our study tonight - I would simply point out that - the shield of faith - which is mentioned there in verse 16...

...is a shield which is supposed to be used together - with the shields of other soldiers.

The Roman shield would interlock with other shields in order to create a tortoise shell formation...

...providing protection against the opposing army.

With this in mind - listen - the Christian who wants to properly use the shield of faith...

...should realize that - we are safer when we are connected with other Christians - who also have the shield of faith.

And so - as we consider the overwhelming spiritual war that we find ourselves facing...

...we'll do well to remember that the enemy is targeting those who are on the fringe of their fellowship.

Therefore - those who want to Redeem the time - should stay connected...

...with Christians who are also using the shield of faith.

As we apply this principle to Halloween - I believe that our annual fall fiesta is the perfect way for us to connect our shields together...

...so that we can provide our kids with a safe alternative that celebrates our Savior - Jesus.

And while I realize that there are those who insist that - there's no way to redeem this holiday - because Halloween is the devil's day...

...we should take a moment to consider the origins of the Jewish holiday - Purim.

The feast of Purim is the commemoration of the Day when an evil man named Haman was hung from his own gallows.

Much like the Devil - who has come to steal - kill and destroy - Haman was a man who used his evil influence...

...to convince the King of Persia - - that they needed to annihilate all of the Jews - living in the land.

And it's sad to say that the King of Persia agreed to allow the people of Persia...

...to purge the land of God's chosen people - by murdering every Jew.

Thankfully - the Lord raised up a young Jewish girl named Esther - who became the Queen of Persia.

And it was with incredible courage - that she asked the King to allow her people to protect themselves against this purge.

And at the end of the day - the Lord empowered his people to defend themselves against the attack of Haman.

Not only that - but Haman was hung from the gallows that he built for that day.

Ever since then - the Jews have celebrated the feast of Purim - on the anniversary of the day when they were supposed to be annihilated.

And as we consider this annual celebration - we can see how a day that the enemy meant for evil...

...is now a holiday that reminds us of the way that God used a young Jewish girl named Esther...

...to save the bloodline that would give way to the humanity of our Messiah.

In light of this example - we can see how a pagan holiday that the enemy meant for evil...

...can be used by the church - as a way to glorify the Lord.

For example - if you're staying home - then - what better time to pass out gospel tracts to all of the people that come to your door?

Or - if you plan to take your kids trick-or-treating - then - why not take gospel tracts with you...

...so that you can evangelize your neighborhood.

Halloween is a perfect opportunity for us to share the love of the Lord - with those who are celebrating the holiday.

And while it's true that there are many who see this as the Devil's day...

...it's also true that Christians can redeem this day - - for the glory of One Who came to save us from the enemy.