



**The Truth About Halloween
Troubling Historic Roots
Deuteronomy 18:10-12
Ephesians 6:10-20
Revelation 2:18-29**

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Coming up Friday is a day where much of the church works overtime to justify and Christianize what it is they do, when they give a nod to Satan. I want to look at two sections of scripture today and discuss why Halloween is not something that we as Christians should be full willing participants in.



I am not anti-fun, anti-good neighbor or just a massive spoil sport.

Growing up, I was raised pagan, and I did indeed go for the free candy night and on one occasion, I dressed up in red and carried a pitchfork.

But then I met Jesus and things changed.

We discovered when we moved here 20 years ago, that in a neighborhood of 115 homes, why do we have 500 children I have never seen before showing up at the front door. We stopped.

That there is why we tend to take that evening as one to go out and eat. Usually, a nice long meal leaving right around sunset.

First, I want to look at what Paul says in Ephesians 6 where it outlines who our struggle really is with.

Hint: Taking one night a year and giving a nod to Satan is not in the Bible.

Ephesians 6:10–20

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.** Stand firm therefore, HAVING BELTED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH, AND HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having STRAPPED ON YOUR FEET THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; **in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints, and pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (NASB 2020)

Revelation 2:18–29

“‘And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze, says this: ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith, and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. **But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. **Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with plague, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.** But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come. The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I WILL GIVE HIM AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE SHATTERED, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. **The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**” (NASB 2020)



Compromise in the church began very early, and, as we can tell by the letter to the church in Thyatira as well as the instructions for the saints living in Ephesus, is not new.

Eventually, a compromised church is a dead church, welcome to Laodicea, the last days church which is predominately the church we see all around us in the culture today, fully compromised with the world and dead as all get out.

But the warnings we read of in Ephesians as well as the letter to Thyatira, to what would become the orthodox church of Rome, are real.

Serious compromise issues began to pop up during the middle ages, and it never stopped and the church continues to be compromised today, we need to remember who our enemy is and what his modus operandi is. Halloween is all about compromise.

We are in a war, whether we want to be or not, we are. There is no neutrality in this war, you are on one side, or the other.

This is what Paul was getting at in his warnings to the church there in Ephesus.

Our problem is the same as Thyatira, sometimes we just do not pick up on the deception that is going on.

Ephesians 6:10–12

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (NASB 2020)

Paul is providing marching instructions on how to do spiritual warfare, prevent compromise and up front, he says to be strong in the Lord. When he says be strong, he uses the word ἐνδυναμοῦσθε (endynamousthe).

Based on the meaning of the word, Paul is telling the church to strengthen, make strong...grow stronger and stronger in the Lord. (Newman Jr. 1993, 60) This is not a suggestion, it is in the imperative as well as in the passive indicating to us that the source of the strength does not come from within us, it comes from the Holy Spirit. He is the one who will make us stronger and stronger. Tough to do though if we are actively grieving the Spirit at the same time.

Earlier here in Ephesians, Paul warned the church about the danger of grieving the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

“Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God,** as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (NASB 2020)

If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit and moving towards becoming imitators of God, then we are instead moving towards the flesh. If we are taking a night off to party and give a nod to Satan with an embracing of his culture of death, the love of death, the love of evil and the love of all things connected with necromancy, then yes, I believe we are also actively moving towards grieving the Holy Spirit.



Here is the problem with compromise, in the church as well as personally. That is what began in Genesis 3.

What is compromise? We see something we want to do, but God says no, there are absolutes, there are things we cannot do as followers of Jesus. And then begins the lying to ourselves and justifications as to why this is not a bad thing.

In our culture, there are no absolutes, in fact, boundaries that have existed for thousands of years are now being swept away, declared to be ancient history. For example, Halloween is all about communicating with the dead. There is a name for that, necromancy. The culture makes a joke out of it, God doesn't.

Leviticus 19:31

“Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.” (ESV)

Deuteronomy 18:10–12

“There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.” (ESV)

The Hebrew conveys meaning to what we see here.

Divination (qosem) - the word means “to predict or consult an oracle or spirit of the dead, to seek to determine the future through signs, omens, or supernatural powers...someone who discovers hidden knowledge with the aid of supernatural powers.” (Lexham 2017)

Tells fortunes (soothsayer) (monen) - cause something to make an appearance, conjure up (spirits), practice magic. (Holladay and Köhler 2000, 278)

Interprets omens (menahes) - TO HISS, TO WHISPER, specially used of the whispering of soothsayers...to practise enchantment, to use sorcery...divination by serpents. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 544-545)

Sorcerer (makasep) – Think Pharaoh's guys. “A person who uses or claims to use magical spells to harness evil forces or spirits in order to produce unnatural effects in the world.” (Lexham 2017)

Charmer (hober) – “to ally oneself, be allied with; to be coupled, touch one another; to charm; to join together; to make someone partner with.” (Landes 2001, 97) Usually fallen angels or demons.

Medium (soel) - ask, interrogate, consult; claim, demand, wish, beg for from the dead. (Lexham 2017) See 1 Kings 18 and the priests of Baal begging and getting nothing.

Necromancer (spiritist or wizard) (yiddoni) – “Throughout the ancient Orient, it was believed that the dead possessed occult powers inaccessible to the living. The knowledgeability of the dead was attributed on the one hand to experience gathered through a long life, on the other hand to the fact that, as numinous beings in the realm beyond, they now had available to them previously inaccessible sources of knowledge.” (Troppe 1999, 907) Announcement: they are demons.



Consults with the dead – Yep, just another way of saying necromancy. “In the ancient Orient, necromancy was part of the Cult of the Ancestors. This essentially involved the invocation and interrogation of the dead patriarch from whom a family could seek advice and assistance.” (Tropper, Spirit of the Dead 1999, 807) And demons are more than happy to impersonate anyone.

God has not changed His mind about any of this. When confronting someone who was doing this, we would call it fortune telling, Paul was rather up front, it is demonic. Dr. Luke picks up the encounter there in Thessalonica.

Acts 16:16–18

“It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave woman who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing great profit to her masters by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us and cried out repeatedly, saying, **“These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation.”** Now she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and he turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.” (NASB 2020)

The demon in her was providing a false narrative. The Most High God is not the God of the universe to those pagans who were listening in. And a way of salvation is not THE way Paul was teaching. The demon was facilitating those in town who want to make God like us in our image, and He will not compromise and do that. This began in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:2–5

“The woman answered the serpent, “We may eat from the fruit of the trees of the garden, but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, ‘You are neither to eat from it nor touch it, or you will die.’” The serpent said to the woman, “It is not true that you will surely die; because God knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”” (CJB)

The Nacash gave really bad advice then, and those who work for him today, continue to do so and encourage compromise. Jesus has an opinion about those who compromise His word.

John 8:44

“You belong to your father, Satan, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. From the start he was a murderer, and he has never stood by the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking in character; because he is a liar—indeed, the inventor of the lie!” (CJB)

That method of operation has not changed over the centuries and continues unabated even today. Those who have compromised the faith think they are defending the faith, but there is no relationship behind it.

Perceptions about Satan are another point of theological murkiness for millions of Americans. Barely one-quarter of the public believes Satan is a living entity. A similar proportion believes Satan is merely a symbol of evil but not a living entity. The other half of the public is not sure what to make of the idea of the devil. Overall, Satan is not a being or a spiritual concept that most Americans take seriously. (Barna 2016, 27)

What does this really mean? Less than 25%, or less than 81.8 million people believe that Satan is real. But, according to a poll done by YouGov.com in May of 2014, 40% believe in ghosts and 31% believe in extraterrestrial ufos. More people believe in ufos than believe in Satan. But what is behind ghosts and ufos?

But the reality is just another lie of Satan. Even non-believing researchers into the topic of ufos get it.



The UFOs do not seem to exist as tangible, manufactured objects. They do not conform to the accepted natural laws of our environment. They seem to be nothing more than transmogrifications tailoring themselves to our abilities to understand. The thousands of contacts with the entities indicate that they are liars and put-on artists. The UFO manifestations seem to be, by and large, merely minor variations of the age-old demonological phenomenon. (Keel 2013, 326)

1 Peter 5:8

“Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (CJB)

Satan deceives, that is what he does, and we just do not get it unless we put on and keep on our armor. The problem though is that in the church we feel safe, people talk the right kind of language, they use the lingo of the saved and we feel ok with what is being sold to us since we tend to do the cultrual thing and not be good Bereans.

As we see in Thyatira, there are those who are faithful, those who are not, and those who are somewhere in the middle, all existing at the same time in the same church.

Let's talk about another infiltration made by the enemy. One that we deal with here at Calvary Chapel every year. To see where this comes from, we have to go back in time to see the origin of this infiltration, it is called Halloween. And the culture demands serious compromise from the church, and many provide it.

In AD 835, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints' Day, or All Hallows' Day (the term hallow refers to saints). The night before November 1, October 31, was known as All Hallows' Evening. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 9)

When that decision was made, Samhain, which is the last night of October, was routinely celebrated in Celtic culture. We are talking about Gaul and the British Isles

All Saints' Day and Hallowe'en originated in a pagan festival. Before the days of Christianity, the Druids in England (priests of a Celtic race) had the idea that people needed to be cleansed after they had died. The soul of the departed was transferred by magic to the body of an animal. During the night of October 31, the enchanted chanted souls were freed by the Druid god, Samhain, and taken together into the Druid heaven. (Koch 1986, Kindle Location 1297-1300)

Even though Christianity had come to what had been Gaul and to the British Isles, this continued to be observed and celebrated thanks to the church at Thyatira. They accepted what was being sold about the day/evening.

“That is the time when inhabitants of the underworld mingled with the people. On that night, the ghosts and other unfriendly creatures from the other world were allowed to scare the living.” (Wessels 2001, 347)
That is nowhere in the Bible.

Some Background

The most venerated priests among the Celts were the Druids....They were a native Celtic priesthood. “Druid means “the very knowing or wise one,” and the druids were thought to possess the key to all knowledge and magic. They exercised authority in the selection of rulers and took precedence of kings. Magical power to give or withhold rain or sunshine, to cause storms, to make women and cattle fruitful, to make objects invisible, to produce magic sleep, etc., was attributed to them. No sacrifice was complete without one of them. They seem to have been distinguished by some kind of a tonsure. At the mistletoe rite they were dressed in white, but at other times they wore scarlet and gold-embroidered robes and



golden necklets and bracelets.” (Barton 1919, 296) In other words, they engaged in those things which were an abomination to God.

Julius Caesar encountered them in his conquest of Gaul and he reported “the cardinal doctrine which they seek to teach is that souls do not die, but after death pass from one to another; and this belief, as the fear of death is thereby cast aside, they hold to be the greatest incentive to valour. Besides this, they have many discussions as touching the stars and their movement, the size of the universe and of the earth, the order of nature, the strength and the powers of the immortal gods, and hand down their lore to the young men.” (Caesar 1919, 339) That would be reincarnation, not Biblical either.

Julius Caesar also found out about their practices as well and made recommendations.

The whole nation of the Gauls is greatly devoted to ritual observances, and for that reason those who are smitten with the more grievous maladies and who are engaged in the perils of battle either sacrifice human victims or vow so to do, employing the Druids as ministers for such sacrifices. They believe, in effect, that, unless for a man's life a man's life be paid, the majesty of the immortal gods may not be appeased; and in public, as in private, life they observe an ordinance of sacrifices of the same kind. Others use figures of immense size, whose limbs, woven out of twigs, they fill with living men and set on fire, and the men perish in a sheet of flame. They believe that the execution of those who have been caught in the act of theft or robbery or some crime is more pleasing to the immortal gods; but when the supply of such fails they resort to the execution even of the innocent. (Caesar 1919, 341)

The Celtic year was originally an agricultural year, and their festivals were connected with the agricultural seasons. The year was ushered in on the first of November by the feast of Samhain. This was apparently a threshing festival. Possibly when the Celts lived in more southerly lands it had been a harvest festival. At this festival new fires were brought into each house from a sacred bonfire, kindled probably by friction of pieces of wood. The putting away of old fires expelled the spirits of evil; the new fire, obtained in this sacred way, assured the ritual purity necessary for a festival. Forecasts by divination, to learn the fate for the coming year, were also made. Animals were slaughtered for winter consumption. Samhain was also a festival of the dead; their ghosts were fed at this time. As winter came on the powers of growth were suffering eclipse, and men sought by magical means to aid them. This they did by means of a bonfire, from which brands were carried about and new fires lit in every house. In North Wales people jumped through the fire. There was a sacrifice at Samhain and there is some reason to believe that in early times it was a human sacrifice. (Barton 1919, 296-297)

So we see some of the background of Samhain, which is connected with October 31st.

Where did the costumes come from?

Possibly the representation of the corn-spirit in animal form may have blended with the divinity of the animals slain at Samhain. Again, in Gaul, at the calends, as formerly at Samhain, men wore the heads and skins of slaughtered animals in processions, doubtless in order to assimilate themselves further to the animal divinities by contact, as they had already done by eating. This custom was vigorously attacked by Church Councils and by individual preachers. (MacIer, et al. 1908-1926, 838-839)

They apparently believed that on October 31, the night before their New Year and the last day of the old year, Samhain gathered the souls of the evil dead who had been condemned to enter the bodies of animals. He then decided what animal form they would take for the next year. (The souls of the good dead were reincarnated as humans.) The Druids also believed that the punishment of the evil dead could be lightened by sacrifices, prayers, and gifts to Samhain. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 11-12)



Samhain

A pagan festival for the dead (a little more to come on that). They believed that the soul of the evil went into animals and the animals had to be killed to set the soul free. Connected with the Celts, run by the Druids. Initially followed in Germany as well as in the British Isles. It involved sacrifices, both animal and human.

It also involved the wearing of animals heads and skins, costumes. They believed they came from the god of the dead. They believed the soul of the good came back as humans.

All Saints' Day and Hallowe'en originated in a pagan festival. Samhain. "Before the days of Christianity, the Druids in England (priests of a Celtic race) had the idea that people needed to be cleansed after they had died. The soul of the departed was transferred by magic to the body of an animal. During the night of October 31, the enchanted souls were freed by the Druid god, Samhain, and taken together into the Druid heaven." (Koch 1986, Kindle Location 1297)

"In spite of the coming of Christianity, this pagan festival continued to be kept in England until the sixth century. Gregory the Great (A.D. 540-604) advised the Archbishop of Canterbury to retain the hitherto Druid sacrifices and celebrate them in honor of the Christian saints." (Koch 1986, Kindle Location 1300) This is an example of the church at Thyatira assimilating local religion and adding it to their practices.

That was exactly the thing Jesus warned them of in Revelation 2, there it was Jezebel. Here, Samhain. And it gets worse.

In the light of Bible teaching, it is incredible that anyone should try to lead people to the living God with the aid of the demons. To return to the Druid festival, English settlers brought these customs to America. (Koch 1986, Kindle Location 1305)

The Gauls affirm that they are all descended from a common father, Dis, and say that this is the tradition of the Druids. (Caesar 1919, 343)

Dis was the Roman name for the god of the dead. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 11)

As a result of this belief, the Celts taught that on their New Year's Eve (our Halloween) ghosts, evil spirits, and witches roamed the earth. In order to honor the sun god (Belenus) and to frighten away evil spirits who allegedly feared fire, large bonfires were lit on hilltops. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 12)

As we can see, the origins of Halloween, and All Saints Day have origins that are questionable to say the least.

Then there is All Souls Day which has roots going back to festivals of Dionysus or Bacchus, specifically the "Anthesteria (Flower-Feast) came in the month of Anthesterion (February), when the first flowers appeared." (Orr 1999)

All Souls Day - a Catholic festival with prayers for the souls of the dead in purgatory, held on 2 November. (Soanes and Stevenson 2004)

...on the day after All-saints' Day, for special prayer in behalf of the souls of all the faithful dead. It was first introduced in 998, by Odilon, abbot of Clugni, who enjoined it on his own order. It was soon after adopted by neighboring churches. It is the day on which, in the Romish Church, extraordinary masses are repeated for the relief of souls said to be in purgatory. Formerly, on this day, persons dressed in black perambulated the towns and cities, each provided with a bell of dismal tone, which was rung in public



places, by way of exhortation to the people to remember the souls in purgatory (Farrar, Eccl. Dictionary, s. v.). (M'Clintock and Strong 1880, 168)

Big problem though, there is no such thing as purgatory in the Bible. None at all. Purgatory implies that what Jesus did for us on the cross was not enough. And that is simply untrue.

All souls day has another name in Mexico, one more example of syncretism and compromise by the way.

The Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and by Latin Americans living in the United States and Canada. The holiday occurs in connection with the Catholic holidays that fall on November 1 and 2, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. On the Day of the Dead, more accurately called the "cult of the dead," friends and family members of those who have died gather together to pray for them and bring to their graves the deceased's favorite foods, often including the traditional "sugar skulls" and the "bread of death." Private altars honoring the deceased are created, and homage is given to them. Origins of the holiday have been traced back thousands of years to an Aztec festival dedicated to a goddess called Mictecacihuatl. (Got Questions Ministries 2002-2013)

And what is God's view of all this veneration of the dead and pre-occupation with death?

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

"You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth." (ESV)

Leviticus 19:28

"You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD." (ESV)

Please do not take this as a Biblical rejection of tattoos. It is not that unless you are doing so for the dead. Here is the thing to remember about this topic.

1 Corinthians 10:23

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up." (ESV)

But also, in light of what Paul further says in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23, there are those times where a tattoo might be the thing to do to reach others for Jesus. In other words, pray for wisdom per James 1:5 and let the Lord lead you.

So now back to Halloween, which is an issue of compromise for many in the church today

There is a whole lot more I could go into, but the bottom line is this, it comes from the Celts and has roots in the festival related to Samhain, also a big night for those into Wicca, and can be traced back to Babylon.

The idea of venerating or even worshipping the dead comes from the same source.

...in early American history, Halloween was not celebrated due to America's strong Christian heritage. It was not widely observed until the twentieth century. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 14)

As you peel back the various trappings you begin to see that much involved with this day is an issue for concern, how about the carved pumpkin jack o lantern?



“There appears to be no basis for carving a pumpkin or making a jack-o-lantern in any Christian tradition. The root of this practice seems to have come from the old Irish legend of a man named Jack, who once fooled the devil. The legend says that Jack, a wild man by nature, once got the devil up a tree, and then carved a cross in the trunk, so the devil could not climb down. In exchange for a ladder, the devil promised not to admit Jack into hell. Later, when Jack died, and was not admitted into heaven, and was not admitted into hell, he was forced to restlessly walk the earth, with a poor man’s lantern—a carved turnip or gourd, with a burning coal for light and warmth.

Thus the jack-o-lantern is, in this legend, the symbol for a miserable, lost soul.” (Bissett 2009, 243)

In Martin Luther’s time, the corrupt practice of buying indulgences for the dead “suffering in purgatory” was common. Appropriately, in 1517, on Halloween day itself, Luther took his 95 Theses, which attacked the concept of selling indulgences to free those in purgatory, and nailed them to the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 23)

But Ken, this is all past history, Halloween has none of those meanings attached to it today.

3 John 11

“Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.” (ESV)

1 Corinthians 10:23–24

““All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.” (ESV)

I have found over the years that those who do not know the Lord are confused and hold to things which are not Biblical and attached significance to things which also are not Biblical.

I have also learned that they tend to hold those who they know to be believers, to a different standard, one that would make the best legalist go back to revise their list.

If we observe Halloween, are we confusing the unbeliever? Are we imitating evil? Worse, are we giving a nod to Satan?

There is nothing wrong with repurposing the event to the cause of Christ and handing out candy and a gospel tract at the same time. I still love seeing the kids all in costumes other than the ones that are a nod to the enemy. The problem is to deal with is all of the trappings that go along with the traditional American version of Halloween which includes witches, ghosts, death, and more.

As we have seen, it is not exactly honoring to God and it all goes back to Babylon at some point.

As a 21st century church, you see, we also have to deal with the things of Thyatira.

God tells us to take the long point of view. Our task today is uncompromising integration with the people of this nation, establishing and maintaining safeguards so that we might not be absorbed by the world. We are not called to settle on a hill in North Dakota surrounded by a fence so that we can be far away from grinding human need and the danger of living in a chaotic and intoxicated world. Jesus came to live in a dangerous world, and we must follow His example. (Lutzer 2016, 60)

And that is getting harder and harder to do.



Peter nailed the world of the church in the last days and he identified the Thyatiran problem we deal with today.

2 Peter 2:1–3

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (ESV)

Halloween, poltergeists, witchcraft, and spiritism are all closely connected. This means that however innocent Halloween may be at one level, at another level its innocence is lost altogether. Further, because of the modern revival of witchcraft and other forms of neopaganism, an article on the subject in Christianity Today correctly reports that profound changes are underway in the religious climate of the West. They suggest that new religious forces are nibbling at the foundations of a society and a culture built largely upon a Christian worldview. (Ankerberg, Weldon and Burroughs 2008, 80)

As always, we seek to honor Christ in all we do. To know what to do as you decide how to deal with Halloween, first seek wisdom from the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit guide you. This is not the first nor the last time the culture will show up and demand attention, we just need to respond consistently with a Biblical worldview.

After seeking the Lord, do as He leads you to do.

If you don't know the Lord and you are wondering why all the fuss. Let me introduce you to the Lord.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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