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Sunday School Lessons

October 22, 2023

ALL CLASSES

The Idolatry and Abomination of Halloween

Scripture Reading before Invocational Prayer: Galatians 4: 8 – 11

Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 18: 9 – 15 thou shalt not do after their abominations

Subject: **GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD NOT CONSULT WITH THE DEAD. IT IS AN ABOMINATION, AND AN ASSAULT TO THE CHARACTER, WISDOM, AUTHORITY AND LOVE OF GOD.**

Text: Leviticus 19: 26 – 31 not to use enchantment, nor observers of time, familiar spirits or wizards.

Introduction: 2 Kings 17: 16 – 18 caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire.

Lesson Outline

- 1 Samuel 15: 1 – 25 rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
- 1 Samuel 28: 3 – 19 enquiring of a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.
- Isaiah 8: 19 Should not a people seek unto their God?
- Psalms 106: 19 – 41 serving idols is a snare unto your soul.
- 1 Corinthians 10: 20 – 22 the things that the gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to devils.

Proverbs 25:2 it is the Glory of God to conceal a thing, the honor of kings to search it out

Amos 3:7 He revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Deuteronomy 29:29 the secret things belong unto the LORD our God.

Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things.

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.

- Acts 19: 13 – 18 many which used curious arts burned their books and left that lifestyle.
- Proverbs 1: 24 – 33 But ye have set at nought all my counsel and would none of my reproof

Necromancy – practice of black magic involving communication with the dead.

Séance – a meeting at which people attempt to make contact with the dead especially through a medium.

Familiar Spirit – a demon supposedly attending and obeying a witch.

Witchcraft – a practice of magic that uses spells.

Enchantment – the state of being under a spell.

Observers of times – Astrology or horoscopes (Galatians 4:8-11)

A Christian Perspective on Halloween and the Spiritual Significance

Halloween began as a Celtic (mostly Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France) paganistic festival of Samhain pronounced “sow-in” (meaning literally summer’s end). This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Samhain celebrates the dead, and other gods and goddesses, with a festival on October 31 and usually featured a bonfire (bone fire where skulls and bones were cast into the fire, the bones symbolized death and the brevity of life) and communion with the dead; where the ghost of the dead returned to earth and caused trouble, and could make it easier for the Druids priest to make prediction about the future. Samhain was also seen as the ending and beginning of the Celtic New Year, which is why some people call it the Witches’ New Year. All present-day customs derive from the Ancient Druids (Druids were Priest, magicians, or soothsayers in the ancient Celtic religion). What might seem harmless in today’s customs (candy, costumes, pumpkins carving, etc.) actually is masquerading and giving homage and reverence to the Druids gods and religion. This is the reality that *God-fearing* people cannot compromise, but must stand with biblical truth, and discernment, even though pop-culture, peer pressure, and a desire to follow the crowd demand otherwise. The Bible contains many abominations that Christians should avoid, and hold fast to His commands to glorify Him alone and avoid idolatrous and pagan practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-15, Leviticus 18:21-22, Deuteronomy 14:1, Leviticus 20:27, 2 Kings 17:16-20).

The Bible says in Hebrews 1: 1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. Therefore, God is revealed to the Christian personally in Jesus Christ and not in sacred trees, or passing seasons or multiple gods or idols. Paganism fails in all its “*creative*” attempts to reveal the true God, when it points mankind to polytheism (a god for this and a god for that) the earth, the moon, the elements, animals or even a “higher self”. The Bible says in Exodus 34: 14 – For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6: 14 – 15 – Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. **This is not a jealousy based upon human passion or rage, but upon the longing of Almighty God to be in perfect, unbroken and undistracted communion with those who claim they follow Him.** The “*attention*” given to Halloween or any other time to pagan gods and goddesses is an insult to His Lordship and a rejection of His lovingkindness and care. Such actions are idolatrous and referred to in the bible as “whoredom” (Hosea 1:2, Jeremiah 3:6-8)

Why would we indirectly encourage our impressionable children, over whom God has given us direct charge to rise in the Christian faith, to engage in “fun” practices that will only desensitize them to deeper levels of the occult; which they must face as they mature in this sinful and adulteress generation?

How could a Christian even pretend to perform ritual magic to control their destiny if they are claiming to be trusting God for their daily needs, let alone pursue the casting of spells? (Proverbs 3:3-5, Matthew 6:33, 1 Timothy 4:1-2)

Despite our all too casual attitude to the subject, any practice of these occult arts as God describes them is forbidden in the strongest possible terms (Deuteronomy 18:9-13, 2 Chronicles 18:18-21). The apostle Paul dealt with this in the New Testament (Acts 16:16-18).

Why does God forbid such customs? It is because they establish a rival form of worship which are deceptive and demonic, and says to the True God “he is not enough”; which will lead to their eternal damnation (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). Therefore, seeking familiar spirits that speaks through mediums or wizards is a direct rejection to seeking God and a rejection of His word. These spirits are real creatures, whose power to interact in human affairs was revealed by the prophet Micaiah in 1 Kings 22:1-38 (I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets), (Mark 5:1-17 “My Name is Legion”), (Matthew 8:28-34).

Lucifer himself and his allies the fallen angels (Revelation 12:7) are the beings behind every god or goddess. From the beginning of time; they oppose God and demand of mankind to be worshiped (Matthew 4:8-10, Deuteronomy 32:16-17, Deuteronomy 11:16-28, 1 Corinthians 10:9-10). In all cultures and times, mankind has had a perception of spiritual deities, divine gods and goddesses, (Acts: 17: 22 -30 too superstitious) most of which has been demonically inspired teachings even the worshiping of angels (Colossians 2:18-23). Satan and the demons can deceive through lying wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9-13). The very elect could be deceived if God did not intervene (Matthew 24:24).

We are the temple of the living God and should not have any fellowship with the works of darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Ephesians 5:11-13). Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-23).

Non pagans or (so-called Christians) ignorantly (or willingly ignorantly) enter into Samhain traditions that are intended to literally invoke or appeal to as an authority, pagan gods and goddesses, spirits of the dead: and to even invite some form of literal possession by them to receive revelations and guidance (Acts 6:16-19).

The Wearing of Masks:

The purpose of wearing a mask according to traditions is to make a spiritual connection with the deity or the Nature Spirit represented by the mask. Mask dancing is still practiced during Samhain, the time when the veil between the living and the spirits of the dead is said to be very thin. Children today wear costumes which are associated with the mask tradition which tells us that Halloween is a celebration of the spirits. Halloween costumes are an offshoot of an ancient Celtic belief that dressing up as ghouls and other spooks would allow them to escape the notice of real spirits roaming the streets during Samhain. According to ancient Roman records people wore costumes of animal’s heads and skins to connect to spirits of the dead.

Lighting a candle inside a pumpkin or Jack -O- Lantern:

It is the candle inside the pumpkin that has traditional “magical” importance. The candle represents the element of fire and the white light of pure spirit. The lighting of a candle inside of a Jack-O-Lantern placed in a window or front porch as a beacon to the spirits, to welcome home the wandering spirits of the deceased, which were denied entry into either heaven or hell. Carved pumpkins are a New World variation of an old Irish tradition. According to the tradition Stingy Jack dealt with the devil who promised never to bother his soul. When Jack finally died God found him unfit for heaven, but the Devil promised never to claim his soul for hell. So, Jack was sent to roam the earth with only a burning coal for light. Stingy Jack put the coal in a turnip and became Jack of the Lantern. The Iris carved jack-o-lantern from turnips, beets, and potatoes to scare away Stingy Jack and any other wandering spirits.

Contact with the Dead:

Necromancy – At this time of year it is believed that the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead is very thin. As the old Pagan year draws to a close, it’s time to receive messages from those who have gone before. Spirits can contact us directly, with messages to us telepathically or in the rare cases, controlling the physical body and the vocal cords. These two elements contact with the spirit world and divining the future

are as much a part of Halloween celebrations today as they were during the earliest shamanic beginnings of the pagan religion (1 Samuel 28:3-9, Luke 16:31, 1 Corinthians 10: 20-21).

Trick-Or-Treating:

Trick-or-treating originated in Ireland, when on the eve of Samhain people would go house to house looking for food contributions to Muck Olla, an ancient Celtic “boogeyman”. He may be the ancient Celtic god named Macalla, or an ancient god of the sun or god of the underworld. A small group of people would go from door to door on All Hallows’ Eve (Halloween) and request gifts or offerings in the name of Muck Olla; it was believed giving a gift or treat would bring prosperity to the household; otherwise, the house would be cursed with famine, sickness, and even death. The leader of the procession was called “liar Bham” he would wear a white robe with a horse mask and lead the group as he recited poems or long prayers. After him walked young men blowing cow horns. They would tell the householder that their prosperity was due to Muck Olla, and if he wishes to prosper, he should make a contribution to the spirit. Today we sometimes recite the verse, Trick-or-treat, smell my feet. Give me something good to eat. It is then assumed that a practical joke would be played on an unwilling neighbor. **The practice of making offerings of some sort to Celtic deities is what today’s children’s visitations to homes on Halloween is largely based upon.**

It is often amusing to Pagans and Wiccans to see many people around the world who would never think of involvement with witchcraft or paganism any other time of the year to jump head first into Halloween participation. For they are fully aware of Samhain’s ancient spiritual roots and nature of the popular Halloween activities that so many ignorantly engage in. To them it is a holy day and one of their “Great Sabbats” of their religion. This pagan practice is gaining acceptance more and more: the attention the world puts upon it with their commercialism, sensationalism and sanitized adoption of the dead and decorative designs or images of the dead etc.

Many people young and old do so out of “fun” to amuse themselves or out of curiosity. And then there are those who enter into a serious earnestness and who do so seeking answers, power and direction. They will make contact with powers beyond their ability to understand or control (Acts 18: 13 – 19 evil spirits leaped on them).

Apple Bobbing:

The tradition of bobbing for apples dates back to the Roman invasion of Britain, when the conquering army merged their own celebration with traditional Celtic festivals. During an annual celebration, young unmarried people try to bite into an apple floating in water or hanging from a string on a line; the first person to bite into the apple would be the next one to be allowed to marry. This was done during the Celtic festival Samhain, with the apples being a sign of fertility and abundance.

The Deception:

Too many folks, dabbling with the occult (supernatural, mystical, magical powers) think it is no worse than anything else. To them the occult is no more dangerous than skydiving or white-water rafting. They say, “If anything became of it, it could be used the same way a tip on the stock market could be”. It could be empowering, enlightening or awe inspiring. Many people think getting uptight about such a harmless thing like necromancy makes one narrow-minded and out of touch, Fuddy-duddy; unimaginative or too old fashioned. However, that is not the case. The occult is a reality that cannot be toyed with and the spiritual consequences for all who do are far too high to ignore. Halloween is the “Door” to the occult or introduction to the occult and it leads to being desensitized or easy acceptance of demonic spirits and demonic gods and goddesses. It is idolatry and an abomination and an assault to the character, wisdom, authority and love of God.