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THE
TRUTH
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BEHIND
HALLOWEEN

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
HE HAS OVERCOME DARKNESS.



BY PASTOR VERN PELTZ
WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES



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Word of Life Ministries
3640 County Rd 6 NW
Stanchfield, MN 55080

HALLOWEEN — WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

As a Pastor, I will be asked many, many questions throughout the course of a year. Some of these questions are not related to any particular occasion, whereas others tend to be more seasonal. During the fall of each year, I hear many questions concerning the topic of Halloween. “What do you think of Halloween?”, “Are ghosts real?”, “What do you think God thinks about Halloween?”, “Should Christians celebrate Halloween?” and “Should we let our children go Trick or Treating?”

For quite some time I would respond to such questions with no real solid answers. I had never put much effort into making an in-depth study of Halloween, and as a result I had no real answers on the topic other than the standard Pastoral cliché. It seemed to keep people happier (and was a lot easier for me) if I just stayed neutral concerning such subjects. Life was comfortable “riding the fence” so to speak, and I worked very hard at doing just that.

Though I thought that my neutral stance was working quite well, God was soon to show me a better way. He began to reveal this to me through a series of encounters with people who were being harassed and tormented by demons. Through the learning process of helping these people find deliverance (also called exorcism), I quickly learned what it was like to sense evil and demonic beings. I did not know it at the time, but God was soon to use this newly learned sensitivity to teach me some things concerning Halloween.

The “Halloween Season” is a spiritually intense time of year. It is a time when a person can literally sense the demonic forces building in strength up until the very day of Halloween. I grew up celebrating Halloween. I lived in a very small mid-west community. My early years of ministry were also in the same type of setting. Satanism and Witchcraft in these communities was sparse at best, and any spiritual oppression associated with Halloween was either very minimal, or I simply wasn’t recognizing it. Consequently, I never really connected Satanism or the demonic with Halloween.

This all changed after I had been immersed in various forms of deliverance. Anything from people simply needing a demon cast out, to astral projections, to spiritually cleaning haunted houses, etc. When in deliverance, the Holy Spirit teaches a person how to ‘sense’ and ‘know’ what is going on in the spirit realm. Since you can’t use your physical five senses, you are forced to learn how to work with your spiritual senses. (1 Cor. 12; Heb. 5:14)

I’ll never forget my first Halloween after having grown spiritually in this realm. We were living in the Boulder, CO area at the time. I left the house and headed for work early that morning. As I pulled away from our driveway, I could immediately sense evil. As the day wore on, I continued to feel the power of darkness becoming more and more evident. By late afternoon it seemed as though I was driving through a literal fog of demonic power. That evening when I arrived home again, I went into the house and

noticed that the oppressive feeling I had been sensing all day was a lot less in the house. My wife had been working inside all day, and knowing this, I invited her outside to see if she too would sense the evil atmosphere in the air. I said, "Come outside, I want to show you something." As we stepped out the door, almost immediately she said, "What is going on out here? This place is loaded with demons!"

I had never felt oppression blanket an entire area like I sensed that year. That was 1984. This was the first time I had ever connected the two in my mind. I decided that it was time to find out what Halloween was really all about. I labored for some time, making an extensive study of the topic and began to uncover the truth behind the holiday. Interestingly enough, now (2006; reprinted 2026) the building of evil in the atmosphere can literally be sensed weeks before the holiday arrives.

In an attempt to answer some of the many questions I receive each year, I am writing this pamphlet. I pray that it will shed light on this very misunderstood and wicked celebration of evil.

WHERE DID IT ALL START?

The roots of our present Halloween can be traced back to the ancient Celtic peoples. The pagan Druids are historically hailed as the culture in which Halloween celebrations originated. It's believed by many historians that the Druids were the builders of Stonehenge, the well-known stone carvings on England's Salisbury Plain. It was among the stone pillars of Stonehenge that some of the most evil atrocities of devil worship were carried out. Mass human sacrifices were performed. Human blood was drunk. Demons were praised, honored, and revered as gods. On a yearly basis the Druids would construct a large, hollow, wickerwork statue of a man. They would then fill this human-shaped cage with men, women and children that were to be sacrificed. These images were then set on fire and the victims perished in a sea of flames.

Some archaeologists believe that Stonehenge was erected to calculate the sun's movements, and thereby to determine the most conducive day to worship the "Earth Mother-goddess" in those ways. The date chosen by this method was October 31. This was the eve of the holiday Samhain (the Lord of the Dead), which was the beginning of the Celtic New Year.

This holiday of Samhain, or "Sa-ween" as it was pronounced, was the single most important festival (concerning the dead) to those who practiced the ancient Celtic religion. It was believed that Samhain would call up all of the wicked souls who had died during the past year. With the departed dead also came myriads of demons and ghosts. To counter this evil attack, the Druids would sacrifice human children in hopes of placating the evil powers and ensuring the fertility of their cattle and crops.

Other steps were also taken to insure protection against these evil departed dead, ghosts, and demons. Since it was commonly reported that demons would masquerade themselves as fairies, hobgoblins, vampires, and werewolves as they

accompanied the departed dead to the nether world — large bonfires were built in remote areas. This was done in an effort to attract the dead and their accomplices, and in so doing, detour these supernatural invaders from the Druids' homes. Oftentimes, as with the wickerwork statue, humans would be sacrificed in such fires. This is where, according to linguistics, the word "bonfire" was derived from. It originated as "bone fire" — or "fires made from bones".

Just in case some of these night wanderers were not distracted from the homes by large fires, the people would put food outside the door of their home. It was said that these departed dead, along with their escorts, required food on their trip to the nether world. Should these evil spirits happen onto a home and no "treat" was provided for them, the spirits would cast spells on the home. They would then enter the home and cause destruction, or play "tricks" on the family, such as the destruction of crops or cattle, etc. This is the origin of our present day "Trick or Treat", as well as the emphasis on destruction that is so prevalent during the Halloween season. Make the application: when children are Trick or Treating, they are involved in a role-play that represents dead people stopping for food on their way to the nether world (Hell) as they were being escorted by demons and ghosts.

Similarly, the "Jack-o'-lanterns" that we commonly see today were not originally carved from pumpkins. Historically, they were carved turnips, hollowed out, with a glowing coal placed inside. The Druids practiced this because of a notorious cultural legend about a man named Jack. In the legend, it was said that Jack found a way to trick the Devil into leaving him alone. However, since Jack could not live forever, he eventually died. Because of his evil and crafty ways, he was supposedly turned away from both heaven and hell. With no place to spend his afterlife, Jack found himself eternally confined to roam the earth. Because of this, he decided to make a lantern to help him navigate his way through the dark. He was given an eternally glowing coal from hell, which he placed into a hollowed-out turnip. This is the origin of our present day "Jack-o'-lantern." Application: when we make Jack-o'-lanterns, that's the origin of what we're representing.

As Christianity spread through the pagan areas of the world, a type of compromise was instituted by the Catholic church in an effort to cleanse the pagan beliefs from the people. The Catholic church had been celebrating a holiday called "All Saints Day" on May 13th. This holiday was to commemorate the deceased saints and martyrs that were held by the church to be "hallowed", or holy. This day was also referred to as "All Hallow's Day". The date of this holiday was changed from May 13th to November 1st, in what was believed to be an effort to coincide with, and eventually Christianize the pagan holiday of Samhain. The mixing of these two holidays is how Halloween derived its name. By combining the pagan "Samhain" (or Sa-ween as it was pronounced) with "All Hallow's Eve" (the eve of All Hallow's/All Saints Day) you arrive at the construction of the word for our present day "Hallow-ween".

What this combining of holidays accomplished was that it allowed the October 31st pagan holiday known as "Samhain" to be kept by the new Celtic converts. This was to allow them to keep their old heritage. The church would continue in the celebration when on November 1st they would celebrate "All Hallow's/All Saints' Day." This was

done in hopes of adding a “religious flavor” to the pagan holiday of Samhain. Since both holidays deal with a celebration concerning the dead, the church believed that the paganism of Halloween would dissipate and eventually be forgotten, with the main emphasis switching to “All Saints Day”. Unfortunately, as we can see today, this has not been the case.

Because of the mixing of these holidays, soon the celebration of Halloween began to change slightly. Allow me to quote Jack Santino, an individual who has studied the Celtic people and followed the effects of various traditions on the descendants of these people. He says:

“Virtually all of our Halloween customs today can be traced to the ancient Celtic day of the dead. The wearing of costumes and the roaming from door-to-door demanding treats can be traced to the Celtic period and the first few centuries of Christianity when it was thought that the souls of the dead were out and around along with the fairies, witches, and demons. Food and drink were left out to placate them. As the centuries wore on, people began dressing as these dreadful creatures and performing antics in exchange of food and drink. The practice, called mumming, evolved into our present trick or treating. To this day witches, ghosts, and skeleton figures of the dead are among the favorite disguises.”

BUT THIS IS THE 21st CENTURY!

Now many of you may be thinking, “But Pastor Vern, why are you trying to bring all the superstition and spiritualism of the past into the 21st century?” To be quite frank with that question — I’m not!!! The truth is that IT’S ALREADY HERE. I say this for two reasons: (1) The power and the horror of that ancient, pagan time has been maintained through the decades and is still very much alive in the present-day practices of Satanism and Witchcraft. (2) Many of the traditions surrounding the pagan festival of Samhain are still practiced and symbolized throughout the United States and the world each year during the Halloween season. IT’S ALREADY HERE because it never really went away.

Allow me to bring some facts from the *Encyclopedia of the Occult*, *The Satanic Bible*, and the *Dictionary of Satanism*. The present-day belief and practice among Witches/Warlocks and Satanists is that Halloween is known as “Satan’s Holiday.” It is on this day that Witchcraft has its biggest Sabbath. In the occult world there are 21 yearly celebrations or Holy Days, with the most important being Halloween.

In the tradition and belief of Satan Worship and Witchcraft, it is taught that the “Black Cat” is a type of the animal kingdom which familiar spirits (demons) would inhabit in an effort to live with and be of assistance to human spiritists. This tradition is still being heavily practiced in Witchcraft circles today. The “Broom” or “Broom Stick” was believed to be a mode of transportation to and from Sabbaths for the human spiritists in ancient times. This would coincide with what we know today as levitation, as well as the commonly practiced astral projection.

I'd like to quote Anton LaVey, who founded the Church of Satan. In the *Satanic Bible* he writes: "After one's own birthday, the two major holidays are Walpurgis night (which takes place around April 30th — welcoming Spring) and All Hallow's Eve (which takes place October 31st — the onset of winter)." The *Dictionary of Satanism* states: "The Druids believed on this night (our present Halloween) that the Lord of Death summoned all the souls of evil people who had been condemned to death, to inhabit the bodies of animals." This tradition is still practiced today through the use of demonic spirits and household pets.

As far as the people involved in Witchcraft and Satanism are concerned, Halloween is one of the most important and festive holidays of the year. It celebrates the beginning of a "New Year" of death and destruction and is commonly known in such circles as "Satan's Holiday." The most horrid part of all this is that sacrificing is still carried out on Halloween just as it was on the ancient holiday of Samhain. From personal accounts of those who have been involved in Satan Worship and Witchcraft (whose names I don't have permission to reveal), sacrificing is still one of the most holy forms of worship and allegiance that can be performed on Halloween. Many different forms of sacrificing are practiced on this day, ranging from the sacrifice of small animals to the sacrifice of human beings.

HOW DOES THIS CONCERN CHRISTIANS TODAY?

Most people are not aware of the sordid history of Halloween. I realize that some of the things that I have just shared may seem somewhat shocking and even border on the ridiculous for those of us who have been sheltered from Satanism, Witchcraft, and the rituals that surround both of them. However, the fact remains that Halloween is a holiday that has its roots in some of the most paganistic, and satanic practices ever performed by the human race. For a Christian, it should not be difficult to see how diametrically opposed these things are with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The question remains then, what should a Christian do with this holiday? Should we celebrate it?

I've heard the comment made that our children are just "having fun," and that "They're not intentionally entering into the spiritualism and worship connected with Halloween. The masks and clothes they're wearing are only symbols, they don't really mean anything anyway."

Really? Symbols mean nothing? Then why is there such an emphasis on them in society? Stop and think about it — all advertising is built around symbols. We call them logos, but in reality, they are symbols. Every brand and company has its own symbol and is easily recognized by it. Coca-Cola, Nike, Puma, General Electric, IBM, Apple, United Nations, Walmart, Target, Fleet-Farm, General Motors, Dodge Trucks, Wells Fargo, Prudential Insurance and on and on I could go. When I bring up a company or a product, you see their logo symbol. It represents the company or product the symbol stands for.

So what company / Kingdom do the symbols of Halloween represent?

Symbols mean nothing.

Seriously?!

It is not at all difficult to see the fallacy of that reasoning. Then how can we as Christians enter into something that glorifies death, horror, torment, fear, and the work of Satan, and then say we're "just enjoying the festivities of the day!!!" There is nothing in Halloween that is Godly in any manner whatsoever. In fact, the entire celebration is Anti-Gospel, and Antichrist!!!

Is it right for a Christian to "just enjoy" the festivities of Halloween, when everything that the day stands for and signifies is death, destruction, evil, demons, witchcraft, fear, horror, etc.? Aren't these all things that are contrary to what the Bible teaches us to believe, practice and live out 24/7? Which Kingdom is being advertised / promoted through these symbols?

What about the masks and costumes that are "just a symbol" and really have "no meaning" in what they represent? If this is a valid line of reasoning, then why don't we have an inverted cross and a goat's head (a satanic symbol) in our churches, rather than the cross which represents Jesus Christ? If symbols mean nothing, then why don't we throw out our altars and kneeling benches and replace them with areas where pentagrams are drawn on the floor (the place from which Satanists and witches pray, chant, and worship)? Would it be any different to do our praying, receiving of communion, etc. in the middle of those symbols? The truth is, whether we like to admit it or not, symbols do carry a great deal of power and importance not only in what they represent, but to the person who is seeing them. Application: if the symbols of Halloween mean nothing, why are they entirely built on things that are from the Kingdom of Darkness?

As Christians, do we honestly think that it pleases and glorifies God when we dress ourselves and our children as ghosts, vampires, werewolves, demons, fairies, witches, warlocks, etc.? Don't all these things openly glorify Satan, death, fear, destruction, pain, horror, etc.? What about haunted houses? What spirits are being portrayed as haunting a house? The Holy Spirit? Angels? Heavenly spirits? No. I've never heard of a haunted house that portrays anything but demonic, Kingdom of Darkness type of spirits. (Zombies, Werewolves, Trolls, Goblins, Imps, Monsters, Demons, etc.) And most everything is built around the theme of Fear and Death. (Both of which are specifically addressed in scripture and 'Not Of God')

So I ask again: what is being promoted and advertised here? Can we honestly say we are bringing glory to God by participating in it?

What about dressing like an angel, or a cartoon character, etc.? Let's go to a deeper question: WHY DO WE HAVE TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL? WHY IS BEING INVOLVED IN HALLOWEEN SO IMPORTANT TO US? Since the basic theme of it pictures and

symbolizes all the wrong stuff, WHY DOESN'T IT QUENCH US IN OUR SPIRIT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY FASHION?? Are we that spiritually dull?

So what should Christians do with Halloween? We'd have to be either stubborn or in denial to not see that it's designed to represent Evil and the Kingdom of the Devil and Darkness. What does the Bible say we should do with Evil, the Devil, and the Kingdom of Darkness? Without getting too preachy, let me summarize — we are supposed to avoid them, stay away from them and not be involved with them!

Here's a question I have: Why can't we use it as a teaching opportunity? Present it for what it is: Evil and not of God. What an opportunity to use the holiday to teach our children the principle that some things are just wrong, and Christians don't do them / we don't get involved with them? There are things in this life we are not to participate in as a believer — Right? So here is a ready-made opportunity to teach that principle.

I know, there is also the thought of our children feeling left out by not being able to participate and have fun. Again, I say: Really? Do you realize that is one of the things the Holy Spirit warned us about concerning the last days? He said people would use 'having fun' (loving pleasure) as an excuse to do their own thing rather than do what God wants/loves. (II Tim. 3:2a, 4b) We know the Bible says that 'sin is fun'. (Heb. 11:25) There are a lot of things in this world that our flesh considers 'fun', but we need to learn to stay away from them. Here is what is real according to the Bible: true disciples will feel left out at times when they don't do what the rest of society is doing. In fact it says that society will think we're strange for not doing what they are doing and will abuse us for our beliefs. (I Pet. 4:1-5) But that doesn't change the fact that we need to learn to say no to some things in this world if we are going to please God. Living for God is not always 'fun', and what we choose to do or not to do can't be decided on the basis of whether we're going to be left out or miss out on fun or not.

PASTOR, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS WITH CELEBRATING IT

I AGREE. Why is it such a big deal to a Christian to celebrate Halloween? Why do so many believers get so stubborn and angry about their right to celebrate it? If you are one of them: WHY IS IT SUCH A BIG DEAL TO YOU?? As a pastor, I would love to see people get so passionate over getting people Saved, Healed, Delivered, Baptized with the Holy Spirit, being Godly Parents, involved with their church and ministry — as they are passionate about protecting their favorite sin — or in this case: "Celebrating Halloween". Do you know how much God could get done in this world if his people were as passionate about his agenda, as they are about their own!!!

When Halloween is viewed from a Biblical perspective, it is a holiday and celebration that is openly symbolic of everything Jesus came to this earth to destroy. It is also in direct spiritual conflict with the purposes and teachings of the Bible and Jesus Christ.

Halloween is SATAN'S HOLIDAY and glorifies his purposes in every way, including the symbolic skeletons, Jack-o'-lanterns, and the trick-or-treating that are all part of the celebration.

Why would we want to participate with something that promotes the Kingdom of Darkness, demons, etc.? God tells us that we shouldn't do that:

1 Cor. 10:20-23 (AMP)

[20] No, I am suggesting that what the pagans sacrifice they offer [in effect] to demons (to evil spiritual powers) and not to God [at all]. I do not want you to fellowship and be partners with diabolical spirits [by eating at their feasts]. [21] You cannot drink the Lord's cup and the demons' cup. You cannot partake of the Lord's table and the demons' table. [22] Shall we thus provoke the Lord to jealousy and anger and indignation? Are we stronger than He [that we should defy Him]? [23] All things are legitimate [permissible and we are free to do anything we please], but not all things are helpful (expedient, profitable, and wholesome). All things are legitimate, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life].

Just because we can, doesn't mean we should. I've heard so many people say: it won't hurt anything; it's not going to affect me. Maybe you should re-read verse 23 (above). It Will Affect Everyone Who Gets Involved. Just because you don't recognize its effects on you doesn't mean it's not affecting you.

Why is it such a Big Deal to us that we risk getting involved with (fellowship) demons, just so we can do it?? Really??

If we are so weak (or deceived) as Christians that we can't even take a stand on an issue as obvious as Halloween, how are we going to stand against sin and unrighteousness in all the other areas of society?

You have just read what Halloween truly is and what it stands for. You likely already know what the Bible and Jesus stand for — so think about this question: How does celebrating Halloween make 1 Pet. 2:9 alive and real in my life? This verse states:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His wonderful light."

This scripture, among many others, requires an effort on our part. The evidence of The Word will not be seen in our lives if we choose to live opposite of its teachings. As followers of Christ, we are held to a standard of holiness. When it comes to witchcraft and the demonic, we are not to hold anything in common with the world's way of doing things.

This doesn't mean that God wants us to live dull and boring lives while serving him. There are many ways to enjoy the fall season while not promoting the demonic practices of Halloween.

But in my opinion, Halloween should never be participated with by Christians. It should never be acknowledged as something to participate in or to take lightly by the church. It is Satanism's Highest Holy Day of the year. How can we be full of the Spirit of God, and yet participate with the Demonic and Witchcraft that is glorified during the Halloween season, without literally being quenched and made sick in our spirit? Have we become that dull and senseless when it comes to spiritual things that we can't discern what is happening around us? Much less, make excuses to be involved in something that is 100% scripturally ungodly.

Halloween needs to be stood against as being totally ungodly!

I encourage parents to pray and find ways to make the Halloween season special for their children without celebrating Halloween.

We used to take a family trip, and spend a day or two at a motel and go to an indoor water park, mineral hot springs, etc. We would give our children money to buy the candy of their choice (excluding Halloween candy of course) and go to the store and let them pick it out. We'd take them to special places to eat that were all about the children. Our children are adults now, and they were taught the truth about Halloween. They didn't participate, and whenever I've asked them, they have no regrets, whatsoever. (And even if they would have felt left out and regret not being able to celebrate it with their friends, believer, there are some things we simply need to learn to say no to and eliminate from our lives. It's all part of disciplining ourselves so we can be Disciples.) Over those years Mary and I began looking forward to this time of year, because we'd usually go to a Mineral Hot Springs that was a few hundred miles away from home. And in making it special for the children, it became special to us. We had a good time and created memories with our children that we would have never had if we hadn't taken a stand against Halloween.

I realize that many Christians will think I am taking a 'legalistic' stand on the subject. The only answer I have to that is search the scripture for yourself. You show me where Halloween has any Godly characteristics whatsoever. God asks us to be imitators of him. If Halloween is not of God, then who are we imitating?

I'll never forget the time when during a deliverance session, a demon was speaking through someone and was arguing the fact that Satan was the true god. This being went on to say that "Christians even serve my god. They do things that glorify Lucifer. If Lucifer wasn't really god, why do they worship him?" The demon went on to list some things to prove his point, and Halloween was one of them. It really made an impact on me. These very beings, that according to Eph. 3:10-11 are supposed to be seeing the wisdom of God shown through the church, are literally being convinced that Lucifer is god by watching the hypocrisy that goes on in the church. That's Sad!!!

I pray that we will carefully consider these things, and that we ask God what changes he wants each of us to make in our lives. You now know the truth, and it has the power to make you free. Halloween and the rituals/traditions that surround it are not something to take lightly or play with. I encourage you, don't be a complacent and compromising Christian, but be a Disciple that takes a stand on issues.

Be Blessed!!!

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