

Remnant Life Church

November 4, 2018

## Angels – pt. 9

### The One-Third: The Danger of Innocence

Eph 5:8-15

- We have finally come through the end of October
- I say finally because I am always glad to be past Halloween
- One of the most confusing times for many Christians
  - Do we allow our children to participate?
  - Can I control its impact on my family?
  - I participated when I was little
  - How dangerous is it really?
- I am not here this morning to make up your mind or tell you what to do
- But to give you the biblical and historical facts

The origins:

- It begins with the Druids
  - Druidism is thought to have originated as a part of Celtic culture in Western Europe
    - Around the time of the Iron Age nearly a 1000 years before Jesus
    - They were the philosophers, the lawyers, the religious and community leaders who embraced and taught a combination of contact with the spirit world or mysticism and the wholistic medicinal practices of the day
      - We immediately have an origin that is in defiance to the Word of God – nearly 2 dozen times the Bible forbids the practice of divination or the use of occultic practices involving communicating with spirits
    - They were seen by the people of the day as being very powerful, thought to have magic abilities, and they could banish people from the community for disobeying them or one of the sacred laws
  - Most of what we know historically is from the writings of Julius Caesar in 50 BC
  - The direct lack of information is due primarily to the belief of the Druids that you do not record knowledge in written form
  - While archeology has uncovered many elements from the Celtic culture, virtually nothing has been discovered that can be unquestionably related to the Druids
    - Very secretive and shadowed in their recorded activities
    - But there are reoccurring themes: human sacrifice, belief in reincarnation, and their powerful, occultic influence over the people
- Halloween itself dates back to the time of the Romans where the Druids celebrated the Day of Samhain (Gaelic pronunciation Sow-eeen) the Celtic Lord of the Dead
  - From October 31 to November 1 which marked the end of their calendar year (Oct 31) and the beginning of the new year (Nov 1)

- The celebration marked the end of warmth and light; beginning of the season of cold, darkness, and decay (this is why the foundation of Halloween is death, graveyards, skeletons, etc...)
- The Druids belief of life after death was the souls of the good were taken to heaven, but the souls of the evil were condemned to wander between the earth and the sky in a spirit-filled arena of the eternally damned
- They believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to their homes for that one evening on October 31
  - Because the veil between the physical world and the spirit world was opened that night and all the evil souls could roam the earth tormenting the living
  - The leaders of the villages would gather up animals and people, stuff them into huge wicker baskets and burn them to appease the evil spirits
  - The origin of Halloween has always been about death and the demonic
- When Christianity came through the region, they renamed the day All Saints Day but kept many of the pagan customs
  - The Catholic Church then made November 2 All Soul's Day and it was at that time that they believed they could pray the souls of the dead out of purgatory
- What about some of the other elements of that night?
  - The Jack-o-lantern story is of an Irish man who liked to play pranks on the devil
    - He was cursed to wander the earth going to neither heaven nor hell
    - The lighted, empty pumpkin was to light the way he was to wander
    - The faces carved on them were to ward off or scare evil spirits
    - But on the Day of Samhain, the carved, lighted faces on the pumpkin (or gourd) were placed in windows and doorways to demonstrate that home's sympathy for the evil spirits
  - Trick-or-Treat finds its roots in the Irish tradition of farmers going from house to house to collect food for the village
    - But that practice, during the time of the Druids, was used to provide an offering of fruits, vegetables, or sweets so the evil spirits would leave the person alone
      - Call it what it was – a pagan offering
    - To not do so was to invite spells and curses to be placed on your home (the trick of trick-or-treat)
  - Costumes –
    - The people would disguise themselves, so the spirits would not be able to recognize them
    - It was then children dressing up like the martyred saints of All Saints Day
    - To the costumes of today that are, in large measure fixated on death, gore, and the demonic
- Church, we must call this time what it is and guard our children

**Eph 5:8-15** - *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

- What am I saying this morning?
  - Most, if not all of us, at one time participated in this and took our kids out T and T sometime over the last 2 weeks
  - My brothers and I dressed up and went door to door when we were little
  - I’ve seen many of the pictures of your children looking very adorable
- Do I think taking your kids around to a few homes to get some candy is harming them? – no, I don’t
- But do I think we must be especially alert, very careful, and on guard this time of year? – Yes, I do!
- The problem comes when we refuse to acknowledge what this truly is and allow more and more of it in our homes
  - Horror movies are played 24/7 on at least a dozen channels
  - Haunted houses throughout the area; Field of Screams
  - What type of costumes do you allow your children to wear
  - Are you letting your guard down?

**I Cor 10:23-24** - *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*

- Yet many Christians do understand the danger of this time – so is there an alternative?
  - We can celebrate with our children during this time, but our focus should be, must be different
1. Instead of celebrating death we can celebrate the beauty of autumn and the wonder of the home God has given us
    - a. Within the origin of Halloween, emphasis on man and death
    - b. Within the beauty of the change of seasons the focus is on the creation of God and the life of His great creation
    - c. **Psalms 65** and **104** beautifully declare these wonders
  2. Instead of celebrating the evil dead we can celebrate the great men and women of the Bible who God worked through
    - a. Freddie Krueger, Mike Myers, and the host of demonic characters Hollywood has spewed out over the years should not be viewed by our children

- b. Instead, talk about the great characters of the Old and New Testament who helped to create the foundation of our understanding of God and the love of Jesus
3. Finally, instead of celebrating the acts of the devil celebrate the act of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
  - a. The one act of what Jesus did for us defeated all the acts of satan
  - b. **John 3:16** – *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that anyone who believes in Him will be saved.*
  - c. It was that one act of love that defeated every act of death and sin

**Gal 5:1** - *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

This morning we are going to engage in a direct assault against the enemy – we’re going to take a firm stand

- We are going to celebrate here and now the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- Communion is the embracing of the blood of life not of death
- Halloween is a glorification of the death of hopelessness and despair
- Communion is an act that celebrates and glorifies a death that leads to eternal life
  - Not the death of man – although that is what we deserve (**Rom 6:23**)
  - But the death of a loving Savior so that we might have life with Him for all eternity

**I Cor 11:23-26** ...*the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*