

Remnant Life Church  
10.31.21  
**Know Your Enemy – Know Your God**  
Psalms 8:1-9

There is no way I could pass up the opportunity to address in more detail the meaning of this day

- This is only the 17<sup>th</sup> time that October 31<sup>st</sup> has fallen on a Sunday since 1900 with the last time was 11 years ago

To understand why the church must stand against the activities of this day, and even this month, is to understand what it is, how it came to be, and the meaning of all that we see this time of year.

- But more than that, I want you to know the power and sovereign might of Almighty God
- Evil will not win
- Today it is merely on the increase – but it will not win!
- We must understand this in order to not become discouraged and lose heart in the battles

For many weeks, stores have been pushing costumes, candy, and decorations

- TV networks have devoted the majority of their programming to horror themed shows and movies
- And of course, Hollywood, in all of its deep depravity, dives deeper and deeper into the demonic and the macabre

But what is it that people enjoy so much about this day or time of year?

- In most list of favorite holidays, Halloween is listed at the top of the list second only to Christmas.
- It is ahead of Easter and even Thanksgiving
- Most people site the opportunity to dress up, act in bizarre ways without being judged – in other words, do whatever they want
- It is said that it is a day of fantasy, and honoring the dead, but one person wrote that they love the day because it is a celebration of God's victory over evil and death (!?)

I can assure you, that is not what Halloween is about!

- Centuries ago in ancient England, the Celts lived and there were a group of pagan priests in Gaul who became known as Druids
- The Druids kept virtually no written records and most of what we have about them are references in Greco-Roman accounts, and later mediaeval Irish writers
- It was the invasion of the Roman Empire into Gaul that suppressed the Druid ways specifically by the emperors Tiberius and Claudius
- Later writings would occasionally reference the Druids but usually as sorcerers who opposed the coming of Christianity

The origins of Halloween date back to the time of the Druids who celebrated the day of Saman

- Saman was the Lord of the Dead and they believed that every October 31 Saman would gather all the souls of the wicked who had died during the past year.

- It was the Druids who believed and taught that black cats were actually the spirits of dead humans being punished for their evil ways in life.
- The Celts believed that as the days grew shorter and the nights longer, the sun god was growing weaker and Saman was growing stronger
  - Their calendar year in that time began on November 1 so October 31 was, they believed, the day when the barrier between the worlds of the living and the dead was weakest
  - The bonfires, costumes, and pitchforks, all common symbols of Halloween today, were originally intended to scare away the evil spirits that had been released to roam the earth on that night
- The Druids would then travel from village to village demanding a treat (which was a young girl) or they would bring a trick (a curse) or perform acts of grotesque violence against the people
  - The girls would then be taken to a secret location where they would be sexually abused, tortured and finally sacrificed to appease the Lord of the Dead and ensure his favor for the coming year

Now, I tell you all of this, which is only a portion of the background, so that you are aware that Halloween is not just another day created by Hallmark and the confectionary industry – it is a day born out of blood, evil, the demonic, and the worship of satan.

Now what I could do at this point is talk about satan, who he is, and the danger of allowing any aspect of his intent into your life...and while that is certainly true, I am not going to do that.

Instead, I want to spend the remainder of our time being reminded of the power, sovereignty, and glory of our majestic God!

#### **READ – Psalms 8:1-9**

- The first thing you notice about this Psalm is that the first verse and the last verse are identical
    - This type of Psalm is often referred to as an envelope or bracket Psalm
    - David makes a declaration (*Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth...*) he then goes on to justify the statement then, at the conclusion, restates the declaration as if to say, “This is what all of that meant.”
    - It would be wonderful to go verse by verse through this brief chapter to examine what David meant by proclaiming the Glory and majesty of the name of God, but I want to look at just two points, two blessings really this morning, as it relates to His power over the darkness and evil of Halloween
1. **Verse 3** – *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place...*
    - a. Our first blessing is that He is Lord God Creator of all things!
    - b. Why would the things of the sky have so much meaning to David in his description of the awesomeness of God?



- c. We can figure that out by asking a simple question, where did David spend the majority of the first portion of his life?
    - i. Out on the hillsides of Bethlehem with the sheep – he was a shepherd
    - ii. I have heard it said that there are different skies depending on where you live
      - 1. This is not referring to constellations
      - 2. It is the ambient light of cities and towns
        - a. The less light there is around you the more brilliant the stars are
      - 3. David was out in the middle of nowhere where the only light available at night was the light of a fire
      - 4. The stars must have been absolutely breathtaking!
    - iii. David saw first-hand the majesty of God’s creation, so much so that it caused him to wonder why God would even care about us
      - 1. And he only knew what he could see
      - 2. Yet David wrote, they are the work of Your fingers.
        - a. Not the work of His hands, or arms but only His fingers
        - b. Creation of all things was an “easy” thing for the Almighty
  - d. Now recognize one other thing
    - i. David asked, what is man that you are mindful of him?
    - ii. I assure you this morning, He IS mindful of you
      - 1. **Psalm 139:13** - *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.*
      - 2. **Isa 49:1** - *Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name.*
      - 3. **Jer 1:5** - *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart...*
  - e. The majesty, might, and power of Almighty God knew you before you were even born. He loves you, wants the best for you, and sent Jesus to die for you!
    - i. Should we be concerned or scared even just a little of something that goes bump in the night?
    - ii. Should we want to allow even a little bit of that darkness into our lives?
2. **Verse 2** – *From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise because of Your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.*
- a. Our second blessing is that He has conquered the enemy!
  - b. As we have said many times over the past several months – the war is over, the war has been won
  - c. But the battles continue
    - i. In this second verse, David uses the word “praise” although in the original Hebrew the word is translated as “strength”
    - ii. *You have ordained strength because of your enemies...*
    - iii. In other words, God does not need an army to overcome His enemies
    - iv. He can do that through the smallest and humblest ways...an infant or little child

- d. The infant David was most likely referring to here was Moses
  - i. Moses became nearly as powerful as Pharaoh
  - ii. God then brought Moses back to Egypt to free His people and the nation of Israel received its own land
- e. However, Moses was a forerunner to the child who was yet to be born – Jesus Christ!
- f. We must remember in these times that God has all of His creation at His disposal to defeat the darkness of the enemy
- g. But we cannot allow ourselves to be pulled into the things of darkness because all it takes is one time of exposure for our hearts and minds to be changed

I watched an interview recently of Brian Hugh Warner (b. Jan 5, 1969)

- Grew up in a typical, normal home outside of Canton, Ohio
- There was the influence of the church in his home – mother episcopalian, father Roman Catholic
- Brian attended Heritage Christian School until he was 15 and then went to public school
- Shortly after his first week of public school, Brian attracted the attention of John, a big, “cool” kid
  - Punched in the face, “you looked at my girlfriend”
- How to befriend him so not to get beat up every day
  - Gave John his mother’s diet pills to sell
  - Both likes the same kind of music
- At John’s house one weekend because his parents were not home, big brother not home, one night do you want to see something scary?
- Up in the loft of the barn on John’s family property
  - A makeshift satanic altar
  - Pigeons and squirrels cut open
  - Satanic symbols all over the walls
  - Hanging animal carcass
  - Blood everywhere; soaked into the hay
- John held out a book called the Necromicron
  - A book of incantations and spells
  - Spoken aloud would bring about evil spirits and the apocalypse
  - Book is said to be a work of Hollywood fiction but there is still danger
- John said to open the book and start reading but don’t tell my brother we did this, or I’ll kill you
- Brian did not want to but as he was about to start reading John’s brother came home
  - Yelling, ‘You guys had better not be up there!’
  - They ran out the back of the barn into the woods down a path to a clearing
- They saw a foundation of sorts with an earthen cellar door
  - Down into the cellar – threatened Brian to start to reading
  - Dark, water dripping, hands shaking, Brian starts to read by the light of a small BIC lighter
- Whispering and low talking sounds – both thought they heard “Do you believe in satan?”

- Brain said he had read enough of the Bible to know that what they were doing was not good
- As he began to read, he sensed a very evil presence
- He said he knew they were messing with things that they should not be messing with
- He felt as if they were about to unleash something terrible
- So frightened them both that he dropped the book and lighter and they ran out of the cellar back into the woods to get back to John's house
- The next morning – go back and get the book
  - In the light they found the path, not scary and followed it to where they were the night before
  - When they came to the same clearing there was no foundation, there was no cellar door, there was nothing but the clearing
- He said that from that day on, things were different
  - I became the worse monster that I could have ever dreamed of because that became my life
  - I had underestimated the power of the occult and still do to this very day
- You may be asking why is this significant since you do not know the name Brian Hugh Warner
- But you do know him just not by that name
- Brian Hugh Warner later took the name Marilyn Manson
- And it was that encounter with the occult when he was 15 years old that changed the course of his life

Halloween is not a time of innocence

- It has become cloaked by Madison Avenue as a revenue generating time of year for businesses
- An excuse to keep pumping out more and more grotesque movies from Hollywood (modern-day Babylon)
- And it is a way that the enemy has deceptively made his way into the homes and hearts of millions of people, many of them unwitting Christians

But our focus, church family, is not on the enemy.

- Yes, we need to know his plans in order to stand against and combat them
- But our focus is on the majesty and greatness of our loving God
- He is the creator of all things and has them to use at His pleasure and will for His divine purposes
- And He has conquered death, hell, satan, and evil through the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ