

Christmas and Halloween



Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: What are the biggest commercial holidays in America? **#1 is Christmas; #2 is Halloween!** Since Halloween and Christmas are coming soon, let's focus on their ♦truth, ♦hypocrisy, and ♦danger.

1. **Truth:**

- a. God – Truth: **Numbers 23:19** “God is not a man, that He should lie...” Regarding the Bible, Jesus prayed to His Father, **John 17:17** “...Your word is truth.”
- b. Satan – Lies: Jesus said: **John 8:44** “...Whenever [the devil] speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- c. Christmas: The day Christians celebrate the birth of the promised Messiah, *the very Son of God in human flesh*, who came to ♦live, ♦suffer, ♦die, and ♦rise to *open the way to eternal life and heaven!*
- d. Halloween:
 - i. Over the centuries, Halloween has changed in many ways: Long ago people believed that the spirits of people who had died during the previous year

roamed the earth, *and were especially active on October 31*, so they put food and wine outside their houses to try to satisfy the spirits. Also, if an adult went outside on that night, he dressed like a spirit to try to blend in and not be harmed by them. Today, many see Halloween as friendly family fun.

- ii. How do followers of Satan view Halloween today?
John Ramirez, *now a pastor*, was a third-ranked high priest of a satanic cult in New York City. He ☞ had strong ties with the devil, ☞ cast powerful witchcraft spells, ☞ conducted animal sacrifices, ☞ drew many into Satanism, and, at times, ☞ was possessed by demons. In his book, “Out of the Devil’s Cauldron,” John said, “For me, autumn meant one thing, **the approach of Halloween**, my favorite holiday. Halloween is the most mysterious, carnal, and devilish holiday of them all. I always laughed at those who celebrated Halloween by changing their identity for one night, and those who claimed to be witches and warlocks... To me they were fools, like little kids playing with matches, not realizing the thing they played with had the power to kill. I knew the real meaning of this black holiday: **Halloween is the night to have the most demonic powers available to use to kill and destroy those you hate.**”

2. **Hypocrisy**: Hypocrites are actors, *but no matter what we pretend to be*, everyone is either a **child of God** or a **child of the devil** (*there is no third category*): **1 John 3:10** “By this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God...” // Those who are God’s children ✦ trust in Jesus for eternal life and ✦ practice righteousness!

- a. Christmas: Many Americans have a connection with Christmas, *but many DO NOT know the Christ*. They are **Christmas hypocrites**; they ♦*pretend* to know the Christ ♦*think* they are good, and ♦*expect* to be welcomed into heaven. What they do *seems harmless*, yet ☹they have been deceived and ☹their actions can lead others into the same false sense of security. *Sadly, Christmas hypocrites miss the JOY of Christmas!*
- b. Halloween: Many Americans have some connection with Halloween, *but they DO NOT worship Satan*. They are **Halloween hypocrites**. Their participation may *seem harmless*, but it gives the IMPRESSION that **Satan** ☹is NOT real, ☹did NOT lead the world into sin, ☹is NOT the cause of many going to hell, ☹is NOT the cause of Jesus' innocent suffering and death, and ☹is NOT the cause of evil today. Halloween hypocrites HELP TO CONCEAL the true evil of October 31.

3. **Danger:**

- a. Christmas: Since many people in America have some connection to Christmas – *lights, gifts, trees, family, church* – they can easily be led to believe ♦they are Christians and ♦heaven is open for them. The things in that list are not bad, *but they do give many people today a FALSE sense of security*.
- b. Halloween: The forces of evil are real: When my older sister was a teenager, her and her friends engaged in some fun that THEY THOUGHT WAS INNOCENT by calling upon evil spirits. However, *that resulted in a demon coming to live in my house for a time* – until my LCMS pastor came to drive the demon out of the house! Are the forces of evil real? **The Bible says:**

- i. **2 Chronicles 33:6** [Manasseh, the son of King Hezekiah] ...practiced witchcraft [*doing magic by the power of the devil*], [and] used divination... sorcery and... mediums [*sinful ways to discover future events*] ... He did **much evil** in the sight of the LORD...”
 - ii. **Mark 1:34** “[Jesus] healed many who were ill..., and cast out many demons...”
 - iii. This happened when **UNBELIEVERS** tried to cast out demons: **Acts 19:16** “...the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them [*7 of them*] and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”
- c. **Biblical advice for all who trust in Jesus:**
- i. **Ephesians 5:11** “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness...”
 - ii. **1 Thess. 5:22** “abstain from every form of evil.”
 - iii. **Rev. 21:8** “...for the... unbelieving... and sorcerers [*users of demonic powers*] ...and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone...”
 - iv. ^{NIV} **James 4:4** “...anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – God and Satan *ARE REAL!*
- **Relevance** – Each person is a child of *GOD* or *THE DEVIL!*
- **Inspiration** – Since we know the Christ, let us 🗨️celebrate Him and 🗨️not sugarcoat the powerful forces of evil!

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, in this very mixed-up world, help us 🗨️know the truth and 🗨️reflect that truth in word and deed!

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