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**Elder Sharon & Deacon Robert Bradford**  
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**Elder Willie James**  
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Matthes, Marcus – Richardson, Shirley

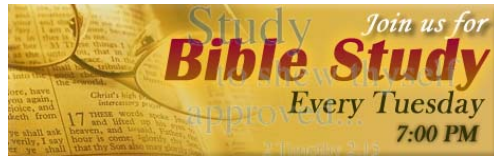
**Elders Michael & Cynthia Barfield**  
601-442-0429

Riggins, Sharon – Tuesno-Nealy, Linda

**Elder Katie Beamer**  
601-304-2206

Turk, Kamrica – Yearby, Tanya

***Church Events***



**Sunday School....**  
10:00 a.m.  
Every Sunday  
Deacon Brad Norman, Superintendent  
Elder Cynthia Barfield, Ass't Superintendent



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**Audio/Video Ministry**

Please be reminded that the audio/video ministry is open to anyone looking to serve in the church. We are in need of people who want to help take the gospel to another level through audio and video. Please contact Deacon Aaron Patten Jr. if you are called to spread the gospel in this manner.

**New Hope Bookstore**

Greetings from the New Hope Bookstore!

We would like to thank the congregation for your ongoing support of our bookstore. We are open before, in between and after each service on Sunday. If you have not had a chance to stop by and visit, please do so!!! Available to you are many great CD's and DVD's full of wisdom and knowledge that you can listen to over and over again!!! All CD's and DVD's that are dated from 2009 and before are only \$1.00!!!! WOW! how many blessings could that be for a friend or family member? Books are also available. If you have a special request for a particular service or message on CD or DVD, you may fill out an order form and prepay. We will promptly get it to you. We pray that each and every one of you be blessed and even more BE A BLESSING!!!!!!!

*Sis. DeAnna Hudnal*  
Bookstore manager

October 2011 Issue

**NEW HOPE THE VISION CENTER**

**Monthly Newsletter**



**From the Desk of The Bishop Dr. Stanley Searcy Sr.**

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John 12:24 says, verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bring forth much fruit. This is harvest season in our lives. Galatians 6:7 says for us to not to be deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sow, that shall he also reap. Spring-time is a time of sowing. It's a time where everything is freshly plowed and the ground is planted. It brings about another successful year in walking with God. It is a time of planting righteousness, peace and joy.



throughout the year you have planted righteousness, peace and joy and your walk is more stable than ever before, but if not, may you still experience a due increase in your life. In Galatians 6:7 it mentions that whatsoever we sow that shall we also reap. This is a time of reaping. You have to first go through deadness. The seed has to germinate and than propagate, in order to reproduce. There maybe some things that may look like you have lost this year. Such as relationships, finances etc. Attacks have come and you have lost in various areas of your life. Those are the areas of deadness. Jesus says in John 11:25, I am the

resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. In other words, I am the seed that brings forth the harvest to all humanity. This is the time of harvest. We have gone through the time of decay, a falling away, but now, we may experience a time of harvest.

Harvest is a time of celebration. After the harvest Ruth laid at Boaz feet on a pile of barley grain during a time where festivity and celebration was being made. If you have sown during the time of sowing don't fail to rejoice in this time of harvest. The economy may get worse, but in God there's a harvest. Naomi left Bethel because there was a famine. Though times were tough; she returned back to Bethel because she heard that

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## From the Desk of Co-Pastor Brenda Searcy

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ....*

Isn't it something, summer has ended and fall has come. Fall and Springtime are my favorite time of the year. As I think about the fall season I began to think about what makes leaves fall off trees. Okay Co-pastor where are you headed? I am so glad you asked. Well, in my studies I actually found out that what I had been thinking forever wasn't actually the truth; which was that leaves fall off trees because the sap gets low due to the cold weather. However, it is not cold weather that affects a tree. The weather really plays no role at all. I found out, the trees possess an inner clock which is triggered by the length of daylight. The shrinking daylight in autumn or fall activates it, and the trees will lose their leaves even in the warmest of fall. So we all know



that the absence of light is darkness, so it is the absence of light that cause the leaves to fall away from the trees.

Jesus tells us in John 8:12 that He is the light of the world, he that follow Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Isn't that amazing? Jesus Christ was the Creator of life as in John 1:4 and his life brings light to humanity. In His light, we see ourselves as we really are; sinners in need of a Savior. When we follow Jesus, the Light, we can avoid walking in darkness and falling away into sin. He lights the path ahead of us so we can see how to live. He removes the darkness of sin from our lives.

Ephesians 5:8 tells us that we were once in darkness, but now we are in the Light. Now we must walk as children of Light. If Jesus, the light of the world lives within us then we should be reflecting who Jesus is to the world by that light. Our actions should show that we are in the light and no longer in the darkness of our old life style. As long as we remain in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will never fall away from God's presence and being in the right standards with Him. The mo-

ment we at any time allow darkness to penetrate that light such as fornication, adultery, all uncleanness, covetousness, envy, jealousy etc. we began to die spiritually. Then eventually fall away from our walk in God because what we have actually done is turned away from the light that gives us life.

As we have entered into the season of Fall, where the leaves, which once had life are now falling away from the trees, due to the lack of daylight. We should remain steadfast in the light of God's presence by studying God's Word, praying without ceasing, seeking God's face continually and not be afraid to hang around those who are able to shine some light in areas of our lives where it seem like it may be getting a little dim. May we not only be a hearer of the Word, but may we apply it daily to our lives so we will always walk in the light and not fall away due to darkness or the lack of all of the above.

If for some reason you have fallen away, not as the leaves that can never be restored; God wants to restore you back from where you have fallen. No matter how

*Continued on pg. 10*

Proverbs 22:6 says *to train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* Parents have the responsibility to commit themselves to the godly training and discipline of their children. The Hebrew word for "train" means to "dedicate; thus, it speaks of training with a purpose. By instructing our children in godly conduct it says that we have dedicated them to God and His will by separating them from the world's evil influences. We at New Hope: The Vision Center encourage you to commit yourselves and your child to the following etiquette and not only to these, but encourage your child to seek God for themselves and to enjoy genuine spiritual experiences they will never forget. LET'S GROW UP CHILDREN WITH A PURPOSE!!

### Church Etiquette for Children

1. Realize Church is God's House, not yours. You have no right to behave as you desire (1 Tim. 3:15). Extreme reverence is to be exercised (Psalm 89:7).
2. Your children's behavior in church reflects your attitude to others.
3. Never allow gum chewing or candy.

4. Insure little children have been to the restroom before services.
5. If infants cry, immediately remove them.
6. Sit at rear of sanctuary near door if a child doesn't feel well.
7. Teach them to participate in song service.
8. Never let them get up and leave during a service for any reason. (unless sick.)
9. Remember, what you permit them to do while they are little will establish a pattern of life as they mature.
10. Don't bring them to God's House to sleep. What you are really saying is, "When you hear preaching, put your little head down." To allow a child to sleep could be distracting. The child may snore. A sleeping child could have a bad dream and awake noisily. A teen that nods during a service has probably been trained well to do so. A sleeping child is taught that Jesus doesn't really meet with us in His House, or that what the preacher says is not important (at any age).
11. Absolutely no note writing except for taking notes on the message.

12. Teach them that when prayer or preaching is going on, there is to be NO talking or whispering.
13. Leave all "busy" items at home (like crayons, drawing pencils, puzzles, etc.). God's House (**The Sanctuary**) is not a nursery center.
14. Parents who allow children to entertain themselves during a service have betrayed their own confidence as a parent (whatever you do is okay, just be still).
15. Hyper-active children ought to sit in the back of the sanctuary where they may be removed for discipline.
16. Teens (especially) during the invitation must never giggle or act up. Discipline ought to be swift in such cases. Never take the invitation for granted; stress extreme importance upon it.
17. Do Not allow children to look around at people or a clock to see what time it is.
18. Never allow teens of the opposite sex to casually touch each other for any reason in church.
19. Children are to sit with their parents.

*By Co-Pastor Brenda Searcy*

**From the Desk of Bishop Searcy Cont.....**

there was a harvest. I invite you to celebrate with us; Jesus the Lord of the Harvest. Expect to reap great things in this season of harvest. When that seed died it brought forth multiple seed. May you continue to sow and experience that harvest resurrection seed.

*Bishop Stanley Searcy, Sr.*

**The Worship Quiz**

by  
**Elder Cynthia Barfield**



See if you can identify the person described in the following statements about worship.

1. Who said "Stay here...: the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you"?
2. Who "tore his robe and shaved his head, and fell to the ground and worship. And said:...the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away"?

3. Who said, "... let it be know to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up"?
4. Who said, "All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me"?
5. Who was Jesus talking about when he said "And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"?
6. Who "when they saw Jesus , ...worship Him, but some doubted"?
7. What woman "did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day"?
8. To whom did Jesus say, "God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"?
9. Who said, "...the one whom you worship without knowing, him I proclaim to you"?
10. Who "exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever".

**Thought for the Month**

***The Lord... is righteous; He does no wrong. Morning by morning He dispenses His justice, and every new day He does not fail.***

**Zephaniah 3:5 NIV**



**From the Desk of Co-Pastor Searcy Cont.....**

far that may be I encourage you today to not allow pride or embarrassment cause you to remain in the dark another moment longer. Our Heavenly Father is waiting to restore you back to the light of His presence. What are you waiting on? ☺

*Co-Pastor Brenda Searcy*

**Editor's Comments**

**"Armor of God"**

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV)*

Praise Almighty God,

Ephesians 6:11 has been the scripture that has comforted me the most in the past 36 months. It is this scripture that gets me through daily. Anytime I feel down, discouraged, sad, or troubled. I get back in focus by remembering that I do have the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD and I am able to stand against everything that the devil throws at me. Of course, needless to say, I do overcome the situation at hand.

This scripture reminds us that things are going to happen, because the devil is going to do his job; because I am covered by the armor of God I can and will survive. Normally, I read Ephesians 6:10-20 daily, but for the past 36 months the Holy Spirit has lead me to focus more on Ephesians 6:11. I

believe it is because with the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD covering me I am fully protected. Personally, I can attest to how the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD has and will continue to cover me. In 2009 my husband was injured on his job and has not returned to work; which caused our income to decrease greatly and to make some serious adjustments in how we live. It has been a struggle, but not one time did I or have I ever thought that Almighty God has forsaken us. I know that it was and is the enemy (devil), and we will overcome because of the shield we have. The shield is the ARMOR OF GOD.

Finally, Ephesians 6:11 reminds me of being in a war. When you are in a physical war the enemy is constantly trying to defeat you. The enemy uses different weapons in trying to defeat us. Well, in the spiritual war of life, the devil is constantly throwing situations which are his weapons to cause us to surrender to him. With all these different weapons/situations coming, the devil is hoping that we feel that God has not protected us from him.

However, we as believers in Christ know that God did not promise that we would not be tested. He gave us His Word and in His Word is a solution to every problem. With the Word we have the ARMOR of GOD to protect us. It is our responsibility to speak victory, live victorious, keep the faith, and continue to walk in the ways of our Lord and Savior. The ARMOR OF GOD is our Shield to defeat the enemy.

*Glendora Alexander-Muhammad*  
Editor



**Hints for the Worship Quiz**

1. Genesis 22:5
2. Job 1:20-21
3. Daniel 3:18
4. Matthew 4:9
5. Matthew 15:9
6. Matthew 28:17
7. Luke 2:37
8. John 4:24
9. Acts 17:23
10. Romans 1:25

## **MAN 2 MAN Ministry**

by  
**Elder Michael Barfield  
President**



In our trying times of issues and struggles, we find daily challenges facing our Christian stand. In the Man 2 Man men's ministry we are in discussion on the moral decay of our society. Too many times we as Christians point out the problem, but never put fourth any effort to correct it. Many times, because of the lack of knowledge we are defenseless against this ever growing issue. We find in the book of Joshua and Deuteronomy several occasions where it was important to remind the leaders of the responsibility of the commandments of God (Joshua 23:1-8, Deuteronomy 32:5-7, 31:28). The world is watching you, what kind of example are you setting? In the book of Titus, chapter 2, that is a very good place to start the process of turning this thing around.

## **TITUS 2:1-12**

*Saints should live righteously, deny ungodliness, and seek the Lord.*

1 But <sup>a</sup>speak thou the things which become sound <sup>b</sup>doctrine:

2 That the aged men be <sup>b</sup>sober, grave, <sup>c</sup>temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behavior as becometh holiness, not <sup>a</sup>false <sup>b</sup>accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young <sup>a</sup>women to be sober, to <sup>b</sup>love their husbands, to love their children,

5 *To be* discreet, <sup>a</sup>chaste, <sup>b</sup>keepers at <sup>c</sup>home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, <sup>a</sup>gravity, <sup>b</sup>sincerity,

8 <sup>a</sup>Sound speech, that cannot be <sup>b</sup>condemned; that he that is <sup>c</sup>of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 *Exhort* <sup>a</sup>servants to be obedient unto their own masters, *and* to please *them* well in all *things*; not <sup>b</sup>answering again;

10 Not <sup>a</sup>purloining, but shewing

all good fidelity; that they may <sup>b</sup>adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

11 For the <sup>a</sup>grace of God <sup>b</sup>that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying <sup>a</sup>ungodliness and <sup>b</sup>worldly <sup>c</sup>lusts, we should live <sup>d</sup>soberly, <sup>e</sup>righteously, and godly, in this present world;

## **“YOU MEAN THE WORLD TO ME”**

by  
**Minister Mario J. Radford**



The love of God is so amazing, how He sent His Son to die just for me. Have you ever pondered on the love of God and how we should respond to it? John 3:16 states, **“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** (KJV) The question is asked once, “How do I worship God?” Though we could answer it in a complex outline according to scripture,

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## **“You Mean the World to Me” Con’t.....**

let's look at worship from a shopping perspective. Now brothers, don't stop reading; we can all relate to this. In the retail market we have varied stores to choose from. They fluctuate in market value and price range according to personal preference. Many times we choose a Family Dollar, Dollar Store or lesser value item over a name brand because of its similarity to an official brand. In daily shopping this idea is a great cost saving idea however, in Godly worship it doesn't measure up. We must be careful not to present our God with a cheap or lesser value worship that cost us little to nothing, when He gave us a gift that cost THE LIFE OF JESUS. Yes, we can lift our hands, sing songs to Him, and even kneel in awe of His majesty. Those are all outward gestures that relate to worship. However, in the simplest terms, worship is presenting God with something that says, “I'm living my life for you with my whole heart.” And when He asks you why, your answer will be, “Because God, you mean the world to me.”

*Mario J. Radford*

## **Deaconess Ministry**

by  
**Elder Sharon Bradford**



Greetings Everyone,

It's that time again! The Deaconess Ministry is excited about our annual Down Home Sunday event. For the past few years, Down Home Sunday has been sponsored by our Deacons and it is a community event. Various festivities are held here on the church grounds and you don't want to miss it!

We need your support to make this event a success. Lunch is served on site and we need everyone to bring a side dish. Throughout the month, we will remind you to sign up to bring a dish and help make Down Home Sunday an even greater success. Pull out your favorite recipes, turn on those ovens and let's get cooking!

This is your opportunity to showcase your cooking skills. Also, please don't forget to join in and enjoy all the festivities. Horseback riding,

four wheel rides, volleyball, football, space jumps, dominoes, etc will cover the New Hope campus for your enjoyment. This is the time we kick off our shoes and let our hair down, so don't you dare miss it!

## **Nursing Home Ministry**

by  
**Elder Julia Griffin**



The Nursing Home Ministry would like to invite anyone who have not found a place to work or have a heart for those in the nursing home; to come out and help us encourage the patient's hearts, and lift up Jesus so they will know they have not been forsaken.

We are gearing up for the holiday season, of singing and passing out fruit and gifts. Come and join us.

*Elder Katie Beamer  
Elder Julia Griffin  
Minister Shirley Berry*

## Joy Station Children's Ministry

by  
Minister Gloria Gray



On September 13, 2011 The New Hope Joy Station Children Ministry visited the Adams County Nursing Home. Mr. Joy Bear also went with the children to help spread the love and joy of Jesus. The residents of the nursing home were beaming when Mr. Joy Bear and the children entered the doors of the nursing home.

The Joy Station choir rendered three songs, read scriptures and gave prayer. Then, I gave a brief word of encouragement. The team at the children church is trying to instill the need to go outside of the church, because there is where the lost are, and they that are whole need not a physician. I want to personally thank all of the parents that came out along with the children, and a special shout out goes to Aronte Patten for working with the children's choir.

If you would like your child to become part of the Joy Station

Choir. Rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

The Joy Station will have a movie; and pizza day Saturday, October 8, 2011 in the fellowship hall. We will have a time of relaxing and fun together as a church family.

The time of this event is 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

If you are looking for some where to serve in the church. The Joy Station is always looking for volunteers.

Minister Gloria Gray, Pastor  
Minister Vick Thomas, Ass't Pastor  
Sis. Carlin Glen –Teacher  
Sis. Kathy Chatman, Teacher  
Sis. Natasha Nelson, Teacher

*Elder Gloria Gray*

## S.T.A.N.D Youth and Young Adult Ministry

by  
Elder Stanley B. Searcy Jr.



Greeting from the youth department. I am writing to inform you of the exciting things going on in the youth depart-

ment. First, I would like to give accolades to the youth. I have been visiting Natchez High School and going into different classes and have been getting nothing but great news about the behavior and grades of our students.

Also, I would like to give a shout out to Sis. Melody Radford for doing such a wonderful job with the Praise Dancers. Job well done ladies! Keep up the good work!

On Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. the youth department have been studying the book of Psalm. We have been studying hard to find the correct answers to the questions.

Special thanks to parents for allowing your child or children to be in attendance.

Thanks,

*Elder Stanley Searcy Jr.*



## A Celebration Of Devils

By David N. Taylor

### Halloween - It's History and Origin

Three hundred years before Jesus was born, a civilization of people called the Celts lived throughout the British Isles, Scandinavia, and Western Europe. They were a common group, much like many segments of society today, but they were controlled by a secret society of priests and pagans called the Druids.

The Druids were Satanists who worshipped and served the demonic god of death—Samhain (pronounced Saman). These satanic priests literally controlled people's lives through the mechanism of fear, and much death, disease and destruction came upon the Celts as a result of the Druids and their practices.

Each year on October 31st, the Druids celebrated the eve of the Celtic new year in honor of their pagan god, Samhain. The "Festival of Samhain," more accurately called "The Festival of Death," was officially known, and is still recognized today by all satanists, occultists, and devil worshippers as the eve of the new year for witchcraft.

Anton Lavey, author of "The Satanic Bible" and high priest of The Church of Satan, says there are three important days to satanists: 1) Their birthday, 2) April 30th, and 3) THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY—HALLOWEEN.

Lavey say it is on this night that satanic, occult and witchcraft powers are at their highest potency level, and any witch or occultist who has been having difficulty with a spell or curse can usually achieve success on October 31st because Satan and his powers are at their best that night.

OCTOBER 31ST, HALLOWEEN IS THE EVE OF THE NEW YEAR FOR WITCHCRAFT. The World Book Encyclopedia says it is the beginning of all that is "cold, dark, and dead!" When you send your little children out

to go "trick or treating" you're actually telling them to celebrate all that is cold, dark, and dead!

### Trick-or-Treat

The Druid priests would go from house to house demanding all sorts of strange foods for their own consumption and to offer later to "Lord Samhain" at "The Festival of Death." If the village people would not give them the foods demanded they would speak a demonic curse over the home, and history claims that someone in that family would die within the year. Thus you have "trick-or-treat"!

The Druids would carry with them a large turnip, which they had hollowed out on the inside and carved a face on the front, to represent the demonic spirit they depended upon for their power and knowledge. This spirit is called "a familiar spirit". (See Acts 16:16-18) The turnip, lighted by a candle from within, was used as a lantern for the Druids as they went from house to house at night. Now, it was believed by the Druids that their familiar spirit would inhabit these turnips and assist them in carrying out the spells spoken over the homes and lives of those refusing the Druids' demands.

When this practice came to America in the 18th and 19th centuries, turnips weren't that prominent, but we did have a vegetable native to this country that was soon substituted for the turnips. That's right—the pumpkin. The name given to the spirit which inhabited the turnip was "Jock," and upon arriving in America it became "Jack, who lived in the lantern" or "Jack-O-Lantern".

As you can clearly see, there is NOTHING Christian about Halloween. It is today what it has always been—A day dedicated to the devil.

### **How Did It Get Into The Church?**

When Constantine became Emperor of Rome, he made a law declaring Christianity (which was Catholicism at this particular time in history) to be the official state religion. Having been recently converted by a tremendous martyr of that time, Constantine was zealous in his new found faith and demanded as emperor that everyone become a Christian, or face the penalty of death. This was the old “throw them to the lions” that the Christians had been facing for years.

Well, you can imagine what happened. The churches were flooded with pagans. Not converts, but rather pagan people forced to join the Catholic Church or lose their lives for defying the Emperor. As this happened, the priests and especially the Pope faced some serious problems. These people were bringing all their pagan practices and ideas into the church including “The Festival of Samhain”. They wanted—no demanded—that this festival remain a part of their lives.

Since the church was unsuccessful in getting the pagan practices out of the people, it was decided to sanctify some of them. Especially this October 31st ritual called “The Festival of Samhain”. In the 9th century the Pope declared a new day to be celebrated by the church on November 1st, called ALL Saints’ Day. This day is in honor of all the martyred saints of the church, and October 31st became the eve of All Saints’ Day. Now, the church contended, the people could still have their festival on October 31st because November 1st was a holy day.

The Mass said on All Saint’s Day is the “all-

Hallowmas” and over the years the evening before became known as: All Hallow’s Eve—All Hallowed Eve—All Hallow E’en—and finally Halloween. But, the problem was that nothing changed. The people didn’t lay down their pagan rites and worship of devils for this “new eve” established by the church. They didn’t have prayer meetings or worship services to thank Almighty God for the saints already gone. What it was in the beginning, it now still is. Halloween is a day that honors and promotes all that is cold, dark and dead. When you start making preparations for a “Halloween Party”, you don’t go to the store and purchase pictures of Joan of Arc, the disciples of Jesus, or any other Christian saint. You look for ghosts, witches, black cats, ghouls, etc. Halloween is a day for devils—not saints.

What the Pope attempted to do in the AD 800’s backfired, because in making “Allhallowman” holy, Halloween became recognized by the church as a religious holiday, and nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, all Halloween is and ever will be is “The Festival of Samhain”, the Lord of Death. Halloween has no roots in the Church, but is firmly rooted in the occult, witchcraft and Satanism.

Doreen Irving, who was the ruling witch of Western European and the British Isles and was the mistress of the high priest of Satan over that same area, is now a born-again, spirit-filled Christian. She says, “If Christian parents had any idea of what Halloween really is, they wouldn’t even mention the word around their children.”

### **What Should Our Position As A Christian Be?**

The most common complaints about anyone taking a stand against Halloween is: (#1) - “You’ve trying to take all the fun out of little children’s lives,” and (#2) - “You’re trying to make something out of nothing because we don’t believe in that stuff.”

Now listen! Just because you don’t believe in something does not mean that it’s not real. I know some people who don’t believe we’ve ever landed a spaceship on the moon. They believe that those television pictures are just make up. But, tell me something. Does that change the fact that man has walked on the surface of the moon? Of course not! Facts are facts regardless of what some people choose to believe. Just because you don’t visualize Halloween as “really” demonic and as something dangerous to your life does not keep you or your children from Satan’s intended desire which is to instill FEAR! DEATH! DESTRUCTION! In people’s minds.

Think about it. What is Halloween besides fear, horror, ghosts, witches, goblins and devils? Just because you don’t “worship Satan,” does that give you the right to train your children to serve him one night out of the year in the name of fun? That’s what we do if we allow our families to participate in common Halloween practices.

The Bible says, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (*Prov.22:6*) How can we righteously instruct our children in the ways of Halloween when everything about Halloween is of the devil? The Bible says, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (*2Tim.1:7*) It further states, “Perfect love casteth out fear.” (*1John 4:17*) Does Halloween cause our children to be at peace, or does it cause them to become terribly afraid? Remember going through the “house of horror” at the Halloween carnival at our school or church when we were growing up and the fear that gripped us as we felt and heard all kinds of mysterious things? As adults today, maybe it’s funny, but to a little child it’s terror that causes nightmares and very unpleasant memories when alone or in the darkness of night.

The Bible says, “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is thee between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with unbelievers? What

agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate,’ (says the Lord, “touch no unclean thing and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughter, ‘ says the Lord Almighty.” (*2Cor.6:14-18*)

Why should Christians not honor Halloween? Because it is paying homage to the devil! It’s the spirit behind Halloween which makes it wrong.

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (*Eph.5:11*)

“Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord, and abhor those who rise up against you? I have enemies. Search me, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (*Psa. 139:21-24*)

“Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sin.” (*John 13:17*)

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (*Rom. 6:23*)

If we really desire to honor the Lord in our lives and family, then we must teach our children concerning the truth about Halloween, and provide them with an alternative to “trick-or-treating”. Don’t just take away the bad, give them something to take it’s place that will honor the Lord instead of honoring the devil.

**God desires for children of all ages to have fun, but fun at the expense of serving the devil is not fun at all.**