

## **Dispatch 10.17.15 Sharing Christ Using The Gospel Pumpkin**

### **Attachments:**

- **Sharing The Gospel With A Pumpkin**
- **Halloween Trivia Test**
- **Worksheet From Testing The Spirits Workbook**

For other Holiday Resources for Bible study and evangelism simply follow this link and choose the Holiday.

<http://gciweb.org/2011/07/holidays-resources/>

### **In this dispatch...**

- I. Spiritual Harvest Time**
- II. Dispelling The Lies Of satan**
- III. A Gospel Halloween**
- IV. Prayer Requests: Please allow the accompanying passages to guide your prayers...**
  - A. Ephesians 6:11-12**

**11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

**12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
  - B. 1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**
  - C. James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Each year I put out this Dispatch especially for my American prayer warriors because Halloween has become almost a national holiday. It may be applicable for others as well and if so I trust it is a blessing.

### **Spiritual Harvest Time**

Well it is this time of year again – Spiritual Harvest Time!. Halloween is upon us and once again we have before us a great opportunity to share Christ, meet our children's friends and reach out with the gospel to our neighbors. October 31<sup>st</sup> begins a great period of spiritual harvest. First Halloween, then Thanksgiving, next Christmas and lastly New Years. In the Next three months you will have an opportunity to share Christ, invite to church and recruit to Bible study all those friends, neighbors and family members and you have been praying for these past ten months. Since this period of spiritual harvest begins with Halloween I thought I would send out a few tools in this dispatch to help you reach out with the gospel to those around you. As Pastor Tim Hawks at Hill Country Bible Church NW in Austin is fond of saying, "Halloween is

when your neighbors come to you! Why would we want to give them the cold shoulder?"

### **Dispelling The Lies Of satan**

Before we begin though lets dispel the great lie of satan concerning Halloween or any other day of the year. That lie is that where satanists, or witches, or demon possessed people, or cults or any other form of paganism gathers in mass their spiritual power is somehow increased. This of course is a satanic lie. I can remember talking to a pastor in Houston. We were discussing the subject he shared with me two anecdotes. First of a missionary who ministered in the Caribbean Islands. On this Island at a certain time of the year all the Voodoo Demonic Priests held a festival. He said this missionary and the church huddled in prayer, behind closed doors during this time because the forces of darkness were so great, being multiplied by the sheer numbers. He then shared that his church did the same thing knowing that at Halloween there were so many witches and warlocks at work that they met in the church behind closed doors praying for safety. This of course flies in the face of Biblical Revelation...

1. satan is defeated – He is not just defeated positionally in that he will be cast into the lake of fire as prophesied (Revelation 20:10) but he is defeated experientially in our day to day lives. We have numerous promises from God the Holy Spirit concerning this. ***1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.***
2. We have but to oppose satan to make him run ***James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***
3. satan is on a short leash as evidenced by the fact that he had no access to Job save through the permission of God. (Job Chapters 1 & 2)
4. Pagan holidays, festivals or gatherings do not increase satan's power by some dark gathering or harmonic conversion of the "force" We have numerous accounts in the Bible which bear this out...
  - a. Even though there were numerous pagan sorcerers in Pharaohs court and only Moses and Aaron to stand before them, the outcome was never in doubt.
  - b. Even though there were thousands of prophets of Baal and only Elijah, the one prophet of God, the outcome of the contest was never in doubt.
  - c. Even though there were thousands of pagan idols, temples, worshipers, priests and demoniacs arrayed against the early church, and particularly against Paul, the outcome was never in doubt
5. Remember this is not the Lord of the Rings nor Star Wars. The power of satan is revealed to us in one place and one place alone and that is the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. God the Holy Spirit in His inspired holy Word says nothing about satan being able to increase his powers through numbers, in fact both doctrine and divine revelatory history prove just the opposite.

When I told him that I gathered neighborhood children in my home every Halloween and taught the gospel through the pumpkin he was aghast. He exclaimed, "Don't you know that pumpkins are demon possessed!?" I replied that actually, I did not know this and if a demon ever tried to enter one of my pumpkins I would cast him out. (One good illustration of the spiritual impotency of pumpkins is an incident in Kenya. One year we were in the country over

Halloween and our host asked us to do a gospel presentation using the pumpkin for his children and neighborhood friends. We did just that. Each went home with their "Gospel Pumpkin". The next day we asked one of the children what they did with their pumpkin when they got home. She looked at me kind of funny and replied, "We ate it". So much for the fearsome pumpkin.

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be done out of fear.

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be done out of superstitions

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be guided by a lie of satan.

### **A Gospel Halloween**

As for us, when we had children in the home we had a Halloween party every year. We taught the gospel by having a pumpkin carving session and we taught the Bible by having a trivia contest. We set rules and guidelines on dress and behavior. The costumes were always on a theme such as "Noah's Ark" or "Your Favorite Pet". It was such a hit that our children's non-Christian friends all looked forward to it and their parents would call and around the first week of October and say, "You are having the Mahon Halloween Party again this year aren't you?" Each child was sent home with their Gospel Pumpkin and a sheet of paper explaining the plan of salvation as explained while making their Gospel Pumpkin. As the children got older we had a Halloween Trivia Test. We would give them the test and have prizes. There was always a pile of Bibles out for them to use to help get the right answers. There were many lively discussions as a result of this test and the gospel was always clearly presented. I can remember some of the kids really taking exception to my answers and can still see them in my mind's eye looking up the Bible verses with the help of our children. One of Sam's friends, Jesse Hicks started to come to a weekly Bible study at our home as a result of this test, he came to Christ, joined our church and is now a Youth Minister.

As for satanic covens that gather on Halloween, I don't know of any. If I did though I know what I would do. I would go over to the house, cast out the demons, lead the attendees to Christ and then send them all out as evangelists. Not a bad plan and I have a pretty good blueprint to follow...

#### ***Luke 8:26-39***

***26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.***

***27 And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs.***

***28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."***

***29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.***

***30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion "; for many demons had entered him.***

*31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.  
32 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.  
33 And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.  
34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country.  
35 The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened.  
36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well.  
37 And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned.  
38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying,  
39 "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

I close this email as always with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,  
II Corinthians 4:1  
Rev. John S. Mahon  
Grace Community Int. -

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...  
(*Psalms 104:33-34 "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD."*)

Link to music/tune for this hymn: <http://nethymnal.org/htm/m/i/mightyfo.htm>

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing; A helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe – his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hat, On earth is not his equal.

*Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing, Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing, Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He – Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same, An He must win the battle.*

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God hath will His truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him – His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure; One little word shall fell him.

*That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also – The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.*

(Martin Luther *Born:* November 10, 1483, Eisleben, Germany. *Died:* February 18, 1546, Eisleben, Germany. Luther began the Protestant Reformation in 1517, and the Lutheran denomination bears his name to this day. In addition to being a reformer, he was quite active in the area of church music.)