

Halloween Party Tips

What to do about Halloween is always a problem for the modern evangelical parent. We chose to use this as a ministry or outreach opportunity. The parents in the neighborhood and the parents of our children would call and ask, "Are you having the Mahon Halloween Party again this year?" That is because we provided a safe environment both physically and spiritually for the children.

We began with a theme. To keep the goriest costumes out of the mix we would have a theme. Disney Characters, X Men, Historical Figures, Hollywood, Noah's Ark, Disco/Retro, Star Wars, Hobbit, the list is endless but by doing the theme you keep out the scary stuff.

The time needs to be fast paced. The modern child has a very low toleration for dead space. One game or event must be followed immediately by another. The children - from pre-teen to single adult should leave the party saying, "Boy, that went really fast".

Next the games need to be a mix of the traditional as well as contemporary. Get on top of this early and have more games than time allows. From the time they enter your home they need to be active and winning quality prizes. (For game ideas go to our website at

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

This will give you an idea of the types of games you can play. Your Halloween Party should be a very real alternative to the ones the world is offering. The next day at school those who come to your party will have fun things to share.

There needs to be quality prizes. This depends on the social and economic group of the participants. The child though should respond, "WOW". This is especially true with any games that entail the Bible.

There should only be one spiritual game in terms of the gospel. This way both child and parents will not feel tricked into a Sunday School class. If the spiritual game is quality and rewarding then there will be no complaints. If on the other hand they leave thinking their parents, church or authority figures are "of the devil" you probably will not see them again.

For the younger children, in addition to the traditional games, we did the Pumpkin of Salvation and each went home with a pumpkin. For the older we did the Halloween Trivia Test. This is featured in today's blog. Jr Highers and Teens will really get into this as well as college students and yes, even adults. Thy Christian and secular apocryphal myths are so ingrown that the truth is captivating. We would put a pile of Bibles on the floor, give out the test, have them fill it out and then give the answers. There would immediately be an outcry as the truth collided with myth. Bibles would then be opened, passages read and debated. Remember - they key is to have prizes so good that the participants have a stake in winning.

Last but not least - FOOD. There needs to be plenty of food. God the Holy Spirit is very cognizant of the role of eating and spiritual relationships. This is either by design or reality. In the Garden the issue of fellowship with God turned upon eating, Jesus describes salvation with the visual picture of eating (Revelation 3:20) and our eternal relationship with God is pictured in terms of eating (Revelation 19:9) to name but a few. Make sure there is a festive atmosphere which makes a later invitation to church a real possibility.

Halloween Trivia Test

Separating Fact From Fiction

The Bible says...

1. To find out about demons, spirits, the devil, we should command them to speak "In Jesus Name" and then use this power over them to learn all we can and pass this information on to others. *1 Timothy 4:1; John 8:44; Jude 1:8,9; Matthew 17:15-19*
2. There are mummies, ghosts and zombies. *Job 14:5, 11, 12; Hebrews 9:27; II Corinthians 5:10; Job 7:7-10; Luke 16:26*
3. There are servants of the devil called sorcerers and there are people that the devil gives the power of divination? *Exodus 7:11; 7:22; 8:7; Deuteronomy 18:10; Acts 16:16*
4. The devil is the equal and opposite of God. *Genesis 3:13 – 15; Romans 16:20; James 2:19; I John 3:8; Revelation 20:2, 10;*
5. The night is ruled by the evil/ the devil and day by good / God. The night is a bad time, it is a fearful time, a time when satan and other devils are at work. *Genesis 1:5 & 31; Psalm 42:8; 74:16; 139:12; 119:148;*
6. Evil spirits can snatch children or get them. *Job 1:10; Psalm 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Luke 18:15 & 16; I John 4:4*
7. One of the reasons that satan is more powerful at Halloween is that his servants are all together. When you get satan's servants together and all those demons together, satan is more powerful. *I Kings 18: 20 – 35; I John 4:1 – 4; James 4:7; Romans 16:20; Hebrews 2:14*
8. Hell is ruled by satan where he and his demons torture people and he can take people there. *Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10 - 15; Revelation 14:10 & 11;*
9. The devil is an ugly creature with pointed tail, horns and a wicked evil smile. *Ezekiel 28:13-15, 17; Job 1:6; II Corinthians 11:14*

10. We should be afraid of the devil. He is more spiritually powerful than us and we should gather together for protection and hope for the best. *James 2:19; 4:7; Hebrews 2:14 – 16; I John 4:18;*
11. The Devil and Hell are not real places, but just symbolic representations of evil on earth, therefore spirits and demons are all just in peoples' imaginations *Job 1:1 – 12; Revelation 20:1 – 15; Matthew 8:28 – 34*
12. The Devil is everywhere. When I am in a movie, or alone in the dark, or experiencing something scary and I sense something nearby, then it is the devil. *Job 1:7, 10 – 12; I Peter 5:8*
13. The number 13 is an unlucky number and should be avoided at Halloween. *Deuteronomy 29:29; Revelation 22:18 & 19; I Timothy 4:7; II Timothy 2:16, 17 & 23; Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; II Corinthians 10:5; Genesis 3:1*
14. Black cats are possessed by the devil on Halloween and are bad luck. *Deuteronomy 29:29; Revelation 22:18 & 19; I Timothy 4:7; II Timothy 2:16, 17 & 23; Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; II Corinthians 10:5; Genesis 3:1*
15. You should avoid cemeteries at night during Halloween because ghosts will be wandering and you might wake the dead. *Job 14:5, 11, 12; Hebrews 9:27; II Corinthians 5:10; Job 7:7-10; Luke 16:26*
16. The devil and his demons are afraid of the Bible. God supplies us with the Bible and other religious symbols to protect us. We can hold up the Bible and the devil will flee. We can sleep with the Bible under our pillow to keep us safe. We can also hang religious symbols around our neck and place them in strategic places to keep the devil and his demons away. *Genesis 3:1-5; Luke 4:10-11; II Peter 2:1 – 3; I John 4:1 & 2; Leviticus 17:7; Revelation 13:14; Matthew 8:32*
17. Now read I John 4:1-10, what can we learn about the Christian, his relationship with God and the power of the devil? What if a person is not a Christian? What about you?

(Leaders Guide)

Halloween Trivia Test

Separating Fact From Fiction

(The following section is to be of help to the teacher in answering the questions posed in the Halloween Trivia Test. It should be noted that not all questions are answered full as some are repetitive in part. Thus for a full understanding of the issue the questions should be answered one at a time beginning with the first and continuing in numerical order. This explains in part why the early answers are much longer than those that follow. For the teacher to be able to address all the issues he should first acquaint himself with all the answers.)

The Bible says...

TEACHER: This is where it all begins. God the Holy Spirit clearly teaches us that all information pertaining to the spiritual realm is to be received by Him from His holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word. It will be important for the teacher to familiarize himself with the passages associated with each question or statement as well as the study guide provided below. In some cases you the teacher may discover that you have held a wrong belief or conviction. It is therefore important that you align your convictions with the plumb line of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God, before presenting this material to your Bible study, home group or Halloween Party gathering. (James 31).

Deuteronomy 29:29 makes a clear distinction in the area of truth. The secret things belong to God, that which is revealed belongs to man, all men, for all generations, as the Word of God is easily understood and divinely protected. Thus, when it comes to the spiritual world we are not left to our own devices. Again in Deuteronomy 30:11 - 14 we do not need to run here and there seeking spiritual truths, we do not need to seek out mystics, we do not need to attend Holy Spirit Deliverance Conferences where the specially anointed will reveal to us the secrets of the spiritual world, we do not need to buy their books where they reveal truths only their anointing and power has made possible, rather, we have only to open our Bibles. In fact we are forbidden in I Timothy 3:1 - 3 from receiving any teachings from demons or spirits and we are forbidden from passing on these teachings to others. Thus we do not read books, listen to messages or go to meetings where the deceived and the deceivers are gathered to hear the words of demons and teachings of demons - on satan, demons, heaven and hell. No, we go to the eternal, inerrant, holy, written Word of God. Revelation 22:18 - 22 could not be more clear. The Word of God is our only Revelation until the return of Christ.

1. To find out about demons, spirits, the devil, we should command them to speak "In Jesus Name" and then use this power over them to learn all we can and pass this information on to others. II Peter 1:5 & 6 I Timothy 4:1; John 8:44; Jude 1:8,9; Matthew 17:15-19

TEACHER: God the Holy Spirit teaches us in II Peter 1:5 & 6 that to our knowledge we are to add discipline. Just because something can be known does not mean we may know it. It is possible to know what it feels like to murder, but we are forbidden by God from this knowledge. It is possible to know sexual experiences from many different people, but we are forbidden from God from this knowledge. It is possible to know slander and gossip, but again, we are forbidden by God from this knowledge. It is possible to know what demons have to say about the spiritual world, but we are

forbidden by God from this knowledge, either directly or by second hand reading and recounting of experiences. This was in fact the temptation that brought sin into the world, to have knowledge which is forbidden by God. (Genesis 3:4 - 6). satan's temptation is no different today. "Why should you be limited to the Bible - talk to my demons, have spiritual experiences, then you will know more than the people who only have the Bible!"

In I Timothy 4:1 & 2 pastors, leaders and yes all Christians are forbidden from speaking to, learning from and passing on the doctrines and teachings of demons. Simply because Jesus can do something does not mean that we may do it. There are many attributes of God, some of which are manifested by Jesus in the Holy Scriptures, which are forbidden to us. Vengeance and Judgment are but two of many. God is a God of both Judgment and Vengeance, yet we are forbidden from both. Jesus manifested this in the cleansing of the Temple, yet we are forbidden by God from any such activity. For a pastor to make a whip and drive Jews from their synagogue or apostate Christians from their church building would be a sin, even though Jesus did this very thing. Even so Jesus may speak to and interact with demons while this is forbidden to us.

It is true that in Luke 8:30 Jesus spoke to the demons, they responded and we indeed learn something about demons from this interaction. That though is not a mandate for us to do the same. In Job chapter one satan enters into the throne room of God mingling with the other angels. He interacts with God and we learn things about him, that is not a mandate for us to do the same. In this same chapter of Luke Jesus stills the raging storm, that is not a mandate for us to do the same. Jesus raises the dead, Jesus meets with Elijah and Moses at the transfiguration, Jesus Himself, rises from the dead, Jesus ascends into heaven, Jesus lives a sinless life, Jesus does many things which are as a result of His deity. Some we will never do simply because of the fact that we are not God. Others we should never do because we are forbidden by God from doing them. The commanding of demons to speak and then passing on this information to the church in the form of teachings and doctrines of demons falls into both categories and should be absolutely avoided.

Yet despite these two facts - First: That we are forbidden from interacting with demons and Second: That just because God has done something in the Bible that it is not a mandate for us to do the same - despite these two facts ministers still promote extra-Biblical knowledge based on interaction with demons and the spirit world. An illustration of this is the prevalence of books and meetings of so called Holy Spirit Deliverance Crusades. In these books and meetings we find out all sorts of things about demons, satan, heaven and hell that are not found in the Bible. For instance we discover there is a "demon of greed". Now the Bible does not teach this so where do we find this information. We find it from the so called minister or prophets interactions with demons. They teach him about the demon realms and then he passes these "doctrines of demons" on to us. This is forbidden by God. It is possible to know but it is forbidden. What are you to do if a minister begins sharing publically gossip and slander he has heard from others? What are you to do if a minister should begin describing how he successfully carried out a murder? What are you to do if a minister begins describing the most intimate details of his latest sexual conquest? In each case you are forbidden from learning these things from the minister - you are to leave, to run. In the same way what are you to do if a minister begins relating to you information he has learned from demons? What are you to do if a minister begins to teach you spiritual truths which are not found in the Bible? In each case you are forbidden from learning these things from the minister - you are to leave, to run.

2. **There are mummies, ghosts and zombies. Job 14:5, 11, 12; Hebrews 9:27; II Corinthians 5:10; Job 7:7-10; Luke 16:26; 23:42 & 43**

TEACHER: Many people needlessly fear the dead. All the depictions of the world of the dead come back to life are false. The Bible clearly teaches that when people die they enter immediately into the presence of God. If they are Christians then they are judged innocent and enter heaven. If they are non-Christians then they are judged guilty and enter hell. In those two states there is no going back. God has created a great gulf over which no man may travel. No man, no witch, no sorcerer, no occult figure, no prophet, no curse, no incantation, no spell, no nothing - no one has the power to bring back the dead. The fact that God, upon occasion has raised the dead for his divine purposes, is not by any stretch of the imagination cause to believe that man can do the same. God has done, upon occasion actions which should be viewed as singular events in history and are in no way meant to be universalized by man. The earth has stood still in its rotation, fire has fallen from heaven, and yes, the dead have been raised. All this has been done on and by the instigation of God during the period of divine Revelation that it might be recorded in the Word of God. None of these actions/powers are promised to or given to man. They each stand alone as distinct events in time and are not to be universalized.

3. **There are servants of the devil called sorcerers and there are people that the devil gives the power of divination Exodus 7:11; 7:22; 8:7; Deuteronomy 18:10; Job 1:10 - 12; 2:6; Luke 22:31 & 32; Acts 16:16**

TEACHER: Satan is given certain latitude by God on earth. He is on a short leash but nevertheless he has power. This power however is only given within the absolute sovereignty of God. There are many things Satan would like to do, but God restrains him. We need never fear that God will allow Satan or his demons unrestricted access to us. We must realize though that Satan and his demons can do miracles and can tell the future. Thus we must never equate miracles or spiritual power with God the Holy Spirit. A prophecy, a miracle a spiritual or mystical event or experience is not in and of itself evidence of the workings of God the Holy Spirit. Satan's magicians reproduced the miracles given by God to Moses to perform before Pharaoh. Without the Word of God, simply by relying on the scientific method, we would not be able to discern who was from God, the magicians or Moses. Both had the same miraculous powers. It is only because of the Word of God that we know Moses' miracles were as a result of God the Holy Spirit and the magicians were as a result of deceiving spirits. That is why we must rely upon the Word of God. By our own cognitive reasoning we will never be able to tell the difference between God the Holy Spirit and a deceiving spirit.

4. **The devil is the equal and opposite of God. Genesis 3:13 - 15; Romans 16:20; James 2:19; I John 3:8; Revelation 20:2, 10-15**

TEACHER: This is categorically false. Satan is a created being. He is an angel who is in rebellion against God. He is spiritual as all angels are but he is not the equal and opposite of God. Just as angels are far below the Holy Spirit in their spiritual abilities so is Satan far below the Holy Spirit in his. He is nothing more than a rebellious angel. There is no question of the outcome of the struggle - Satan will be defeated, judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire. Satan is not in charge of Hell, rather Satan is in Hell being tortured with all the others.

5. The night is ruled by the evil/ the devil and day by good / God. The night is a bad time, it is a fearful time, a time when satan and other devils are at work. **Genesis 1:5 & 31; Psalm 8:1 – 9; 42:8; 74:16; 139:12; 119:148;**

TEACHER: Nothing could be further from the truth. God created the night and it was good. Night does not exist as a result of the fall but as part of God's plan for Adam as he lived in the perfectly created world. The nighttime is a time of praise and worship, a time when we can see the stars, moon and other created elements of physical beauty made for the glory of God and enjoyment of man. The night stars instruct man and teach him humility. The evening hours are no less spiritual than those of the daylight hours and the sovereign God rules over both day and night.

6. Evil spirits can snatch children or get them. **Job 1:10; Psalm 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Luke 18:15 & 16; I John 4:4**

TEACHER: Again, foolish superstition. God protects children, as He protects man. As we learned in the preceding questions/statement numbers three and four, satan is on a leash. He may only go and do what God allows. Children need not fear satan at night, nor fear his demons. God and His holy angels watch over children. Parents are to be vigilant in safeguarding their children. They are to be vigilant against physical predators such as wild animals. They are to be vigilant against human predators – such as kidnappers. They are to be vigilant against spiritual predators – such as demons. But a careful parent need not live in fear and certainly children of Christian parents need not live in fear. There is not a single teaching, nor a single example in the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God concerning the snatching of children by demons or spirits.

7. One of the reasons that satan is more powerful at Halloween is that his servants are all together. When you get satan's servants together and all those demons together, satan is more powerful. **I Kings 18: 20 – 35; I John 4:1 – 4; James 4:7; Romans 16:20; Hebrews 2:14**

TEACHER: This is a common myth that results from learning our doctrines from books, TV and movies rather than God the Holy Spirit through the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. It is true that in books, TV and movies that the more evil that gathers, the more mystical or spiritual power that evil has. This however is simply not true in the real world. It is not taught in the Word of God and there is no example of this in Holy Scriptures. In fact just the opposite is revealed through the Word of God. I cannot think of a time in history when the world was more ruled by the occult in terms of sheer numbers than during the period of the writing of the Holy Scriptures. Yet in the Old Testament times, such as Elijah and the New Testament times such as Paul, we see a complete indifference to the overwhelming numerical advantage of the worshipers of satan. In fact the saints of old found it ludicrous. Both Paul and Elijah could not refrain from laughing at their opponents though they were both outnumbered thousands to one. (I Kings 18:27 & 27; Acts 17:23) Christians who huddle together during pagan festivals, be it Halloween or any other pagan festival, who huddle together in fear of the "spiritual power" which is out and about are an embarrassment to the faith and a source of ridicule to satan. You play right into his hands. For his only hope is to intimidate you since he has no power over you or against you.

8. Hell is ruled by satan and he can take people there. **Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10 - 15; Revelation 14:10 & 11;**

TEACHER: Hell is not ruled by satan. Hell is ruled by God. satan does not take people to hell, God casts the unregenerate, those who do not know Christ as Savior into Hell. satan does not torture people in Hell, God tortures those who are in Hell. satan and his demons are all in Hell being tortured by God, in the presence of Jesus and the Holy angels along with all those who have not received Christ as their Lord and Savior.

9. The devil is an ugly creature with pointed tail, horns and a wicked evil smile. **Ezekiel 28:13-15, 17; Job 1:6; II Corinthians 11:14**

TEACHER: All descriptions of satan are that of beauty and awe. We do not know what he looks like in his fallen state but we do know that he disguises himself to be attractive to man. Those who claim to have spoken to angels, to Mary the mother of Jesus or to Jesus Himself are deceived. satan or some demon has appeared to them and deceived them. I have but one question to ask them, "What are the five facial characteristics that distinguish Jesus from satan?"; "What are the five facial characteristics that distinguish a demon from an angel?" "What are the five facial characteristics that distinguish Mary the mother of Jesus from the demon goddess Aphrodite?" The answer is of course, "I don't know" and the answer to those who claim to have spoken or seen Jesus, or an angel or Mary, do not know who or what they saw.

10. We should be afraid of the devil. He is more spiritually powerful than us and we should gather together for protection and hope for the best. **James 2:19; 4:7; Hebrews 2:14 - 16; I John 4:18;**

TEACHER: satan is afraid of us. One Christian is more spiritually powerful than a thousand satan worshipers. We have nothing to fear of satan. We fear him no more than we fear any other created fallen creature, whether angelic, animal or human. They all can do damage but only in the context of the sovereignty of God. We are not to be foolhardy but neither are we to give them the respect of fear.

11. The Devil and Hell are not real places, but just symbolic representations of evil on earth, therefore spirits and demons are all just in peoples' imaginations **Genesis 3:1 - 12; Job 1:1 - 12; Revelation 20:1 - 15; Matthew 8:28 - 34**

TEACHER: No, the devil, demons, hell, witches and the rest are all real and not symbolic. The passages of Holy Scripture which speak of them make this clear. If they are symbolic then God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and Heaven must also be symbolic as they occur also in the immediate context of the discussion of satan, demons and hell. This of course is ludicrous. All are revealed as real in Scripture.

12. The Devil is everywhere. When I am in a movie, or alone in the dark, or experiencing something scary and I sense something nearby, then it is the devil. **Job 1:7, 10 - 12; I Peter 5:8**

TEACHER: The devil is a fallen angel as are demons. They are not the equal and opposite of God. They are not omnipresent. They experience the limitations of time, space and movement. It is clear from the holy Scriptures that satan must move about. He is not all places at once. Thus satan can only be attacking one person at a time. Unlike God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who can be 100% present and conscious and attentive and at work in an infinite amount of locations in the exact same point of time, satan is limited by time and space. God can be ministering to and protecting all Christians at once, satan can only attack one person at a time.

13. The number 13 is an unlucky number and should be avoided at Halloween.

Deuteronomy 29:29; Revelation 22:18 & 19; I Timothy 4:7; II Timothy 2:16, 17 & 23; Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; II Corinthians 10:5; Genesis 3:1

TEACHER: All numerology is superstitious and apocryphal in nature. The holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God gives no credence nor sanction to numerology. There is no teaching in Scripture concerning lucky and unlucky numbers nor concerning symbolic numbers. Not only does the Bible not say that 13 is an unlucky number, it does not say that 7 is a perfect number, nor that 3 is the number for God, nor does it teach on the meaning of the number 12, nor any other number. Even the number 666 has no evil spiritual power in and of itself but is rather an identifying number of historical prominence in prophecy. If your phone prefix is 666 you are not under a curse. At one point in my ministry I served in a church where the prefix for all phone numbers in that particular geographic area was 666. It was a regular question at church business meetings on whether we could petition the city to have the prefix changed as it was viewed as unlucky or unspiritual or somehow giving satan a spiritual opportunity to have to dial 666 in order to reach someone at the church office. Similarly hotels never have a 13th floor. All numbering jumps from 12 to 14. It is to their shame that many Christians would hesitate to stay on the 13th floor or sit in the 13th row or submit to any other fear based on numerology. These fears simply reveal the suppositious nature of all numerology. There are not unlucky or cursed numbers – if your phone number is 666, if you stay on the 13th floor of a hotel, you are no worse off than if any other number was associative with your phone or room number. If your phone prefix is 7, 3 or 12 you are not under the blessing of God. The Word of God does not teach numerology and as such we reject all forms.

14. Black cats are possessed by the devil on Halloween and are bad luck.

Deuteronomy 29:29; Revelation 22:18 & 19; I Timothy 4:7; II Timothy 2:16, 17 & 23; Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; II Corinthians 10:5; Genesis 3:1

TEACHER: There is not a single reference to cats in the entire holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. Thus this is simply a superstition unworthy of the children of God.

15. You should avoid cemeteries at night during Halloween because ghosts will be wandering and you might wake the dead.

Job 14:5, 11, 12; Hebrews 9:27; II Corinthians 5:10; Job 7:7-10; Luke 16:26; Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20; 12:6 & 7

TEACHER: Absolutely untrue (see number two). Cemeteries are the creation of man and there is not mention of cemeteries in the Word of God nor of church sanctioned cemeteries in the Book of Acts or writings of the Apostles. The belief that cemeteries are the dwelling place of dead spirits

and somehow cursed or to be feared or that the property around churches is holy ground and the dead there are more blessed are equally superstitious. The desire to be buried with family, in a church plot so that you might be close to them. The desire to not be buried next to people you do not like, or next to pagans or religions you do not like, are equally superstitious, dating back to the Roman Empire and are unworthy of the children of God.

It should be a great embarrassment to Christians that in some denominations the funerals of those who commit suicide or of family members not associated with that church, will not be conducted in the church nor are they to be buried on “church ground” or “holy ground”. Of equal embarrassment should be the practice of some denominations in maintaining cemeteries for the exclusive use of their denominations for “the eternal rest and fellowship of the departed”. Equally so should be the selling of space in church walls, “that they might be always near”. The Word of God gives no spiritual significance in the place a person is buried. There is no command in Scripture for the burying of bodies in cemeteries, for the placing of tomb stones and memorial stones and for the conducting of a funeral service. These things are not wrong but they are not commanded in Scripture. Those who have loved ones who have died in war, at sea or in other circumstances where a funeral was not conducted, the bodied not placed in a coffin or urn, a stone or memorial marker not erected, Scriptures not read and prayers not said – these do not reside in a second class state, their spirits are not restless waiting to be properly interned and the families should feel no guilt, no shame nor fear. We are not Mormons who go about being baptized for the dead because they did not have a “Christian Funeral”.

The location of the dead is of no spiritual consequence to the dead nor to the living, nor does the dead person’s spirit nor any mystical or spiritual presence reside at that spot. If you do not know where the dead body of your loved one lies or if you live too far to visit that spot, you are not missing out on fellowship, nor does your love one feel neglected. When a person dies he immediately enters the presence of God. He stands before the judgment seat or Christ. If he is a Christian he is pronounced “Not Guilty” and enters heaven. If he is not a Christian he is pronounced “Guilty” and enters hell. Both are eternal states. As long as the present heaven and earth exist, the souls of men and women dwell in those two states. Where their physical bodies reside is of no spiritual consequence what-so-ever – they return to dust and are nothing more than a part of the decaying physical world. In God’s perspective dead bodies have no moral or spiritual nature whatsoever and the spiritual life, identity or personality of the person is in no way attached to it nor to its location.

16. The devil and his demons are afraid of the Bible. God supplies us with the Bible and other religious symbols to protect us. We can hold up the Bible and the devil will flee. We can sleep with the Bible under our pillow to keep us safe. We can also hang religious symbols around our neck and place them in strategic places to keep the devil and his demons away.

Genesis 3:1-5; Luke 4:10-11; II Peter 2:1 – 3; I John 4:1 & 2; Leviticus 17:7; Revelation 13:14; Matthew 8:32; II Timothy 4:3 & 4; Leviticus 17:7; Revelation 13:14; Luke 8:27; Matthew 6:7

TEACHER: Nowhere in the holy Scriptures is satan depicted as afraid of the Bible, neither its physical appearance, nor its written Word, nor the chanting or incantations of it’s spoken word. From the very first encounters with man satan has both known, spoken and distorted the Words of God.

During the church age he raises up false teachers and prophets who will use the Bible to their ends. The Word of God knows of no mystical or magical power of the Bible as a physical object, nor of any Christian symbols including the bread and wine used in the Lord's supper. There is no indwelling of the Holy Spirit in inanimate objects nor in animals. There is no indwelling of inanimate objects, animals nor people by angels. The use of "holy water"; the elements of the Lord's Supper; so called blessed objects such as icons or religious medals, items taken from Israel or other physical locations associated with the historical work of God throughout the world, Bibles, pages of the Bible, etc. are completely worthless in terms of combating satan, warding off evil or acquiring the blessing of God. God, angels or blessings do not associate, indwell or impute power to inanimate physical objects. This however is not true of satan and his demons. Demons associate themselves with, indwell and animate inanimate objects (Leviticus 17:7; Revelation 13:14). Demons can indwell animals (Matthew 8:32) and demons do indwell people (Luke 8:27). This practice then of spiritualizing physical objects plays right into the hands of satan and his demons.

17. Now read I John 4:1-10, what can we learn about the Christian, his relationship with God and the power of the devil? What if a person is not a Christian? What about you?

TEACHER: The teacher at this point has three goals in concluding the study

First: To help the students see the importance of basing their beliefs on the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God and not on experiences, the media, superstitions or fables (as passed around by word of mouth in their extended family, in the Christian and in the non-Christian community).

Second: To give the students confidence in their position in Christ and the spiritual power and authority that comes with this position. With this comes a freedom from fear. The Christian life should be one of confidence and joy and not overshadowed by superstitions, especially those associated with pagan rites or the calendar year.

Third: This should be a time of reflection as the students take stock of their relationship with God. It is here that the teacher gives a clear presentation of the gospel with the exhortation that only those who know Christ as Savior can face the spiritual world in a fearless and confident manner.