



REPENT AUSTRALIA

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

VOLUME:9:10

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HARMLESS FUN?

Schools are not what they used to be. As the influence of Christian standards is steadily diminishing more and more radical novelties appear in the classroom. One of these will be observed later this month. On the evening of 31 October many children across Australia (and other lands) will happily skip from door to door shouting “trick or treat”, expecting to receive gifts of sweets, fruit, coins or other goodies. If nothing is given they will play some sort of nasty trick on the householder. In the name of Halloween each year children are plunged into a world of jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins, witches on broomsticks and black cats. Furthermore, Halloween parties are held which feature such activities as fortune-telling, story telling about ghosts and witches and bobbing of apples – just innocent expressions of make-believe, mere harmless fun. Or are they? The celebration of Halloween has become a regular feature in schools and clubs for the last twenty years. However, once accepted as harmless fun more and more people are becoming concerned that this “innocuous” activity has sinister overtones that become more so every year. In view of these concerns it behoves us to look more closely into its origins and see if there really is something sinister about this seemingly harmless activity.

Druidic Tradition

Stemming from Irish, Scottish and British folk customs Halloween was celebrated as the Druids’ autumn festival honouring Sambain the lord of the dead on 31 October (the end of summer). The Druids believed that on this date Sambain called all the wicked souls that had been condemned within the last year to live in animal bodies and then released them in the form of spirits, ghosts, fairies, witches and elves. According to Druidic tradition these souls of the dead roamed the city on Halloween night to haunt the homes where they once lived. And the only way the current occupants of the house could rid themselves of these creatures was to lay out food and give the spirit shelter for the night. If they refused to do so it would cast a spell on them. This is where the phrase “trick or treat” originated: they would be tricked if they did not offer a treat.

Jack-O-Lantern

The jack-o-lantern was also part of this belief system. According to an Irish legend a hollowed-out pumpkin with a face cut into one side symbolised a damned soul named Jack who was barred from entering heaven because he was a miser. Neither could he enter hell because he had played jokes on the devil. As a result he was compelled to wander around in the darkness until Judgement Day. Fearful people hollowed out turnips (and later pumpkins in America), carved an evil face on them, and then lit a candle to scare him and other evil spirits away. The Druids also had other outlandish beliefs which have evolved into tradition. For example, they feared black cats because they believed that when someone committed evil they would be turned into a cat. Consequently cats were considered to be evil. In order to scare them away the Druids decorated their homes with witches, ghosts and the like. They also decorated them with cornstalks, pumpkins and other items in offering of thanks and praise to their false gods.

Involvement with Witchcraft

With the advent of Harry Potter the influence of the occult has spread throughout Australia and the world, and more and more people are becoming involved in witchcraft. Halloween is another step leading children into the occult with its accompanying sexual abuse and devil worship. It teaches that witches are harmless, that the occult is acceptable, even desirable. Instead of celebrating All Saints Eve (which is what Halloween really is, *All Hallow e’en*) the evening before All Saints Day and a festival of light, children are being led to commemorate a festival of darkness and evil.

Dungeons and Dragons

Another novelty to be introduced into schools over the past decade or so is the fantasy game, Dungeons and Dragons (D&D). Though evolving from war games D&D is not played on a battlefield but in the minds of the participants with each one assuming a different character, either good or evil. Throughout the game these characters must negotiate a series of dungeons filled with dragons, monsters etc in search of treasures, armed with potions, spells, magical trinkets, daggers, swords and axes. A game may continue for ages, from hours to even years and the longer it goes on the greater the likelihood of a player identifying with the character, sometimes blurring the line between fantasy and reality. One authority on D&D has said, "The stuff that makes me nervous is over identification with characters. I've seen people have fits, yell for fifteen minutes and hurl dice at a grand piano when their character dies." Even harsher criticism comes from a Christian ministries group which asserts that "D&D, instead of a game, is a teaching in demonology, witchcraft, voodoo, murder, rape, blasphemy, suicide, assassination, insanity, sex perversion, homosexuality, prostitution, Satan worship – and many more teachings brought to you in living colour direct from the pit of hell."

Gifted and Talented Programs

D&D is found in many schools, especially in gifted and talented programs and is generally accepted by teachers as harmless fun. In fact, role playing as incorporated into the game is seen as advantageous to a child's growth. May-be so, but that would depend on the role played. If the game were developing honesty, courage, kindness, courtesy, truth, integrity, justice and goodness it could certainly help develop these virtues in a young person's character. But to implant thoughts of violence, sadism, demonology and insanity into the minds of children is diabolical. For we become what we think, as the Book of Proverbs attests: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

Well-Adjusted Adults

If we want our children to develop into successful, happy, well-adjusted adults we must give an emphatic NO to these innovations that are labelled "harmless fun" by so many teachers and youth leaders. Both Halloween celebrations and Dungeons and Dragons (along with Harry Potter) will most certainly draw many of our young people from the true values that create strong, worthwhile character into a murky world of gloom and despair and even destroy their faith in God. How much better to fill their young, impressionable minds with "whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely and gracious, and whatever things are worthy of praise." (Philippians 4:8) And that goes for every one of us, young or old.

PRAYER

Almighty God of infinite grace, mercy and Spirit of Life and Light; Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of the Universe, the Great I Am, Faithful and True, hallowed be Your name. Loving Father, as joint-heirs in Christ, we reverently come united in faith to thank You for the finished work on the cross of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We thank You too, Omniscient Father, that through the shed blood of Christ, salvation from sin and the principalities of darkness was made available to all mankind – that in Christ we have the redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. May all who believe and desire eternal life sincerely repent, have their minds renewed and be set free from the "harmless fun" of deception that breeds satanic worship, witchcraft, evil and destruction in the kingdom of darkness to enter Your glorious kingdom of light and partake of Your free gift of life and truth. Merciful Father, we pray that Your Spirit of truth and righteousness will give parents a spirit of discernment as they hold fast to Your Faithful Word which is a lamp to guide them and their children. May they walk in the light of Your Living Word, obey Your commandments and live in Your Will in these perilous times.

Abba Father, we thank You for Your Spirit of truth and the blood of Jesus to renew the minds of parents, granting them a strong faith to know You personally in this dark age of deception. Sovereign Lord, we pray Your truth will unmask the counterfeit in so-called "harmless fun" as Your Holy Spirit guides believing parents into the truth of the 'Virtual Reality' technology that deceives many of their children. Eternal Father, in the matchless name of Jesus we seek the power of Your omnipotent Spirit to pull down all strongholds of darkness behind this "harmless fun" that leads many young people into deception, counterfeit values, unbelief, drugs, immorality, violence, suicide, murder and lawlessness. In Your mercy, Lord Most High, release Your blessed assurance of the blessings that come through the cross to set free all who receive JESUS CHRIST as their Lord and Saviour who is the Way, the Truth and the Life – and no man comes unto God but by Him. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Come quickly, we pray, for You are the world's only hope of salvation. Let Your light shine upon us all for the glory of God. Amen.

R.A.: Lead by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen.

REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.