



# THE TRUMPET

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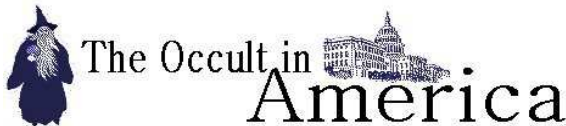
Voice of the LORD  
Ministries

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*Includes...*

Special Issue of The Trumpet

**“The Occult in America”**

Also includes 2 CD’s on the subject of the occult, witchcraft and halloween.

CD 01 Sermon - The Danger of Pitching Your Tent  
Toward Sodom

CD 02 - The Voice of the LORD Broadcast  
“The Occult in America”

Available for a love gift of any size

Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Ephesians 5:10-11

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.  
1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.  
1 Corinthians 10:20

## The Wealth That Endures

(Author Unknown)

You may lay up vast riches of silver and gold,  
Of precious jewels and treasures untold.  
When you come at last to the end of the road,  
Your wealth will be what you've given the Lord.

You may own countless acres--a lordly estate,  
You may dwell in a mansion costly and great;  
But the mansions in glory will only be given  
To those whose treasure is laid up in heaven.

Your name may be written on the scroll of the great,  
And your fame may extend to heaven's own gate;  
But the plaudits of God are reserved as reward  
For those whose riches have honored the Lord.

*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
Matthew 6:20*

## Not Called?

Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey - and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.

William Booth

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15*

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

Make sure you preach with your life  
as well as your words.



## CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



## Cousin Leroy

One day Leroy was left at home to look after their little 2 year old daughter Petunia. Petunia had been given a little tea set for Christmas and it was one of her favorite things to play with. Leroy was in the living room watching the evening news when she brought Pappy a little cup of "tea," which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise from Leroy for such good tea, and what a good little girl she was. Leroy's wife finally returned home. Leroy made her wait in the living room to watch little Petunia bring him a cup of tea. ("It's just the cutest thing!") Mom waited and sure enough, Her little feet came patting down the hall with a cup of tea for Pappy. She watched him drink it, then said (as only a mother would)... "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is from the toilet?"

Things You Don't Want to Hear During Surgery

"Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy."  
 "Wait a minute, if this is his spleen, then what's that?"  
 "Hand me that ... uh ... that uh..... thingie"  
 "Oh no! I just lost my Rolex."  
 "There go the lights again..."  
 "Ya know, there's big money in kidneys.. and this guy's got two of'em."  
 "Everybody stand back! I lost my contact lens!"  
 "What's this doing here?"  
 "I hate it when they're missing stuff in here."  
 "Don't worry. I think it is sharp enough."  
 "FIRE! FIRE! Everyone get out!"  
 "...And now we place the ape's brain in the subject's body."  
 "...ANYTHING!!!"

Praying

The adult Sunday school class was discussing formal and informal prayer, when one man remarked, "I do some of my best praying while I'm driving."

From the back of the room, in a quiet voice, the man's wife agreed, "I, too, do my best praying while you're driving."

TOP TEN SIGNS YOU MAY NOT BE READING YOUR BIBLE ENOUGH:

- 10) The Preacher announces the sermon is from Genesis and you check the table of contents.
- 9) You think Abraham, Isaac & Jacob may have had a few hit songs during the 60's.
- 8) You open to the Gospel of Luke and a WWII Savings Bond falls out.
- 7) Your favorite Old Testament Patriarch is Hercules.
- 6) A small family of woodchucks has taken up residence in the Psalms of your Bible.
- 5) You become frustrated because Charlton Heston isn't listed in either the Concordance or the Table of Contents.
- 4) Catching the kids reading the Song of Solomon, you demand: "Who gave you this stuff?"
- 3) You think the Minor Prophets worked in the quarries.
- 2) You keep falling for it every time when Pastor tells you to turn to First Condominiums.
- 1) The kids keep asking too many questions about your usual bedtime story: "Jonah, the Shepherd Boy, and His Ark of Many Colors."



**VOTL**  
Voice of the LORD

*From the Pastor's Desk*

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

### The Works of Darkness

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.  
Ephesians 5:11

I want to talk with you for a few minutes about the works of darkness, the occult, witchcraft and of course halloween. A wise man once said..."What one generation tolerates the next generation accepts." The truth of the matter is that the works of darkness and the celebration of halloween is so widely accepted because our nation has been fed a steady diet of "candy coated" witchcraft. That which the Word of God condemns over and over has become acceptable not only by the world but by the CHURCH! How did we reach this point? How did the church get so "dumbed down" that it cannot see the evil that is right before their eyes? The answer is not all that hard to find. It started out looking innocent enough. Through television as children we were taught that there was a good side of evil. With programs like "Bewitched" and "I Dream Of Jeannie" we were taught these lies of the devil. And the tradition continues today with shows like "The Good Witch", "Angel" and more. Cartoons and animated movies made it even easier to reach the minds of our children through things such as Scooby Doo, Casper The Friendly Ghost, The Smurfs, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Barney and his bag of magic and the list goes on. Little by little the seeds of the occult and Satanism have been planted in the minds of a nation that now thinks that you can play with fire and not get burnt. Today we can plainly see how all of this has escalated to things as wicked as Harry Potter, horror movies, zombies, and the devil himself being accepted whole heartedly by most of society! And trust me when I tell you that the devil leaves no stone unturned he uses advertisements, toys, books...and the biggest weapon of all today VIDEO GAMES! Games that include zombies, wizards, witches, devils, demons, violence, and murder! The callusing of hearts and minds to the works of darkness through the few things that I have made mention of in this article and trust me there are many more has conditioned our society to the place where they cannot recognize Satan even when he shows himself for the wicked deceiver that he is!! And the church...THE CHURCH! Where is the church in all of this exaltation of darkness?? It is one thing to see the world deceived by this and taking part in this darkness BUT sadly the church follows right along with them. Allowing their children to feed upon the same things that the lost feed upon. The same movies, the same games, the same books and of course taking part in halloween. We see more and more churches having halloween parties, putting on stage shows of a "christianized" version of Michael Jackson's musical "Thriller"!! Having haunted houses, dressing up like devils and demons themselves and all the while too spiritually ignorant to see the wrong in what they are doing. The Church that is suppose to be a city on a hill...THE LIGHT of the world...a beacon in the night has like Esau of ole sold their birthright for no more than a bowl of pottage to feed the lust and the hunger of their flesh! Instead of being a House of Prayer they have truly become a HAUNTED HOUSE because through their actions they have invited the powers of darkness and they have become that which they have fed upon!! You might read this and think "Preacher that's hard!" And my response to you would be this... We have enough money hungry, compromising, snake oil salesman that have infested our pulpits around this nation AND we need some preachers that are willing to say what needs to be said even if it sounds hard! This is far more than just an article about the celebration of halloween. This is an indictment on a modern day church age that has forsaken the Gospel...forsaken the cross...forsaken the TRUE LIVING GOD and has become so much like the world that you can no longer tell that they are the Church!! A Church that has become so used to the dark that they blend in so well that you can no longer tell the difference between the children of light and the children of darkness!! This is a clarion call, a VOICE crying out for the CHURCH to return to the CROSS! Return to the WORD of God! And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them!!** If you do not already receive our sermon of the month CD I would like to invite you to write us and request this months sermon entitled "The Works of Darkness" which deals with some of what we have covered here. I believe that it will be a blessing to you.

Until next time may the LORD Bless and keep you is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas



## Is The Seed Yet In The Barn?

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Scripture Reading: Haggai 2:10-19 - In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, 11 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, 12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. 13 Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean 14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean. 15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the Lord: 16 Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty. 17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the Lord. 18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid, consider it. 19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you. My text is a question: "Is the seed yet in the barn?" The implication is that the seed should have already been taken out of the barn and been planted. Notice what the Bible says is the true seed: Luke 8:11 - Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The Bible compares itself to seed that is planted in human hearts. This seed produces the new birth: 1st Peter 1:23 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. James 1:18 - Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Why did God give us the King James Bible? We Christian people are to be continually sowing the seed, the word of God. In particular, we should be sowing the seed of the gospel of Christ, found in 1st Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: I referred to the fact that most of us have several Bibles in our homes. Why do we have them? Are you sowing the seed? or is the seed yet in the barn? When the seed is left in the barn, two bad things are happening: \*CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS DETERIORATING. If the word of God is not going out into the world, then Christians are just fooling themselves. They are not serving God. Their mission is to get the gospel out to the world! If a church is not putting out the gospel, it is a church in name only. It is not serving God. \*CORRUPT SEED IS DISTRIBUTED. False "bibles" are being distributed by the cults and the compromisers. False religions are distributing their literature -- the Jehovah's False Witnesses, the Mormons, the Seventh Day Adventists, Word of Faith Doctrine, etc. False believers are getting into churches without getting born again because they are joining without having heard and believed the gospel of Christ. They are tares sowed among the wheat, as the Lord mentioned in Matthew 13:24-25 - Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. LET'S GET THE SEED OUT OF THE BARN! IN ORDER TO GET THE SEED OUT OF THE BARN, I. LET'S SPEND MONEY ON EVANGELISM Not only is sowing compared to putting out the word of God, but it is also compared to giving to God's work: 2nd Corinthians 9:6 - But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. A. Let's donate our treasure \*Tithes and offerings \*Love offerings and sacrifices B. Let's duplicate messages C. Let's distribute tracts and other literature \* Tracts with the gospel \* Tracts on other Bible subjects \* Church newspaper \* Flyers \* Signs \* Bumper stickers D. Let's disseminate the truth! \* If we don't put the true gospel out, the only gospel received by unbelievers will be the FALSE gospels of the CULTS! \* Use every means that we can -- television, radio, the Internet, etc. IN ORDER TO GET THE SEED OUT OF THE BARN, II. LETS SUPPORT MISSIONS Galatians 6:7-9 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Philippians 4:15-17 - Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. A. Let's go to the field if God calls us B. Let's groan over our missionaries in prayer C. Let's give to the support of home and foreign missions IN ORDER TO GET THE SEED OUT OF THE BARN, III. LET'S SPREAD THE MESSAGE OURSELVES 1st Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. This is not a reference to a man standing behind a pulpit and preaching to a bunch of Christians at church. It is taking the gospel to people publicly and one-on-one: Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. A. Let's live to win souls - Psalm 126:5-6 - They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Proverbs 11:30 - The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. \*Why are you here? \* Christ left us here to be His ambassadors - 2nd Corinthians. 5:18-20 - And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 9 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. B. Let's look to win souls \* Go soul-winning weekly on purpose. \* Look at people as God does -- sinners on the road to hell! \* Witness daily! Keep a New Testament with you at all times! Keep tracts in your pocket, your purse, your notebook, your car! \* Let's get the seed out of the barn!!!



## An Old Testament Call to Modern America

Pastor Steve Huston - 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412

America has many needs today. Perhaps we've never been richer materially but like the church at Laodicea we are truly "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked," and clueless of it. We are in need of our Constitutional freedoms which are becoming increasingly limited through political correctness, liberal license, and self-gagging fears of being labelled. We are in need of unifying after eight years of Presidential divisiveness, false pastors but real pawns ever-widening the gap at every opportunity, a congress that legislatively continues to actively and passively protect the invasion of our borders and shores while refusing to shore up our own interests, and a judiciary that ignores the rule of law and the legal boundaries to which they are supposed to conform. Lawlessness abounds on every level, whether it be governmental (federal, state, and local), ecclesiastical (denomination, local church, and individual Christian), educational, or national past times. America needs to become a rule of law nation once more. Above all these things, America has an even greater need today. She needs a call back to her founding principles and a return to the God who raised her up. We need to learn the difference between the holy and the profane and care that there is a difference. America needs to return to righteousness. America needs to bless God again. With these things in mind, I say, America needs a gospel awakening and the church needs reviving! Oh that God would send holy men to uncompromisingly and unapologetically preach truth from the pulpit, granting us also the conviction of the Holy Spirit! Oh that He would grant us the gifts of conviction and repentance, so that the church would humble herself, and pray, and seek God's face, and repent from sin! Oh that the church would walk in holiness of heart and life, spreading the truth and the light within the nation! America needs a God-fearing, holy church in her midst and the church needs an Old Testament call to the old paths. Shhh, listen closely. Can you hear these men speaking to us as clearly as they did to Israel in their day? Can you hear the searching and pleading voice of Jeremiah calling out in wonderment to his people? "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:11-13) First president of these United States of America and founding father George Washington recognized that it was the one, true God who was responsible for raising us up and making us a sovereign nation: "May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian Oppressors planted them in the promised land—whose Providential Agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent Nation—still continue to water them with the dews of Heaven and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah." Do you hear the query of Jeremiah? "Who has heard of a nation changing their God for that which is no god?" As we watch a rise in Islam, paganism, and atheism, not to mention the false unbiblical gods that abound within the church and the imaginations of "believers," this prophet of old cries out a warning, "Have you NO FEAR? How can you turn your back on the true and living God? Stop forsaking the truth, stop trying to please yourself with your own inventions; there is no lasting pleasure to be found there." Friends, turn your ear again; hear the words of old Elijah: "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (1 Kings 18:21) America, you cannot afford to remain silent any longer. Christian, no longer can you allow judges to answer for you; congress cannot be your chosen representative in this matter. As the prophet, who recognized that he was constantly standing before the Lord, asks the following question, an answer is demanded from each one of us who would claim the name of Christ. "How long will you remain undecided between the Creator, Jehovah God almighty and any other god? If the god of this world and this age, or the god you have made yourself to be, be god, then follow him; if Jehovah is God, follow Him wholeheartedly and diligently! Get off the fence and stop playing around!" If America is to receive what she truly needs then we must boldly and unswervingly give the resounding answer that Jehovah IS God and there is NONE other! If that is your response, put your hands diligently to work at rebuilding the altar of God within your heart, family, church, and nation. He who has ears to hear what the Spirit says, let him listen a last time to Joshua, one of the two faithful spies who entered Canaan, trusting God to be bigger and mightier than any foe. Turn your ears from all other sound and tune into his call to and personal decision. "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:14-15) Again from times of old we hear the admonition, "Fear God; get off the fence and choose. Decide definitely one way or the other; choose, Choose, CHOOSE! Choosing God is a choice for personal holiness and faithful living. It's so hard to imagine that people in the church have no desire for holiness or faithfulness. They want power...they want blessing; but blessing follows obedience and there's power in purity. Many say that they've chosen Christ; but so often it looks and sounds like they've chosen the world! You cannot serve two masters; you'll end up hating one of them. Paul calls them enemies of the cross. What did Jesus say? Deny SELF! Take up your CROSS!! FOLLOW ME!!! That is what the choice boils down to. A call from three Old Testament men of God; three different yet same calls; CHOOSE TODAY!



## REESIE'S RECIPES

### Chicken Pot Pie Soup

- 4 chicken breast halves, or 2 cups cooked chicken
- ground pepper and salt - to taste
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 quart (4 cups) heavy cream
- 4 teaspoons chicken base
- 1 cup water (for dissolving the chicken base)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/2 small yellow onion, minced
- 1 cup frozen green peas, cooked
- 1 cup chopped cooked carrots
- Pinch (about 1/4 tsp) fresh grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350° F. Season chicken with seasoned salt and pepper. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken and saute until cooked through.

Remove from heat and cut into chunks. Dissolve the chicken base into 1 cup of water. Stir until fully dissolved.

Then into the same large skillet, melt butter and saute the onions until they soften; about three minutes. Then slowly add flour, stirring until consistency of peanut butter, but do not brown like a roux -- you want it to remain a golden color. Slowly add cream and keep stirring. Add chicken base ( to taste), and garlic, and stir until thickened. Add peas, carrots, nutmeg (optional), and cut up chicken. Remove from heat. Thin to your desired consistency

### Cream Cheese Cinnamon Sticks

- 1 loaf thinly sliced white bread, crusts removed
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 cup confectioners sugar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup butter, melted

Flatten bread with a rolling-pin. In a bowl, combine cream cheese and confectioners' sugar. In another bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon; set aside. Spread about 1 tablespoon of cheese mixture on each slice of bread. Roll up, jelly roll style. Brush rolls with butter, then roll in cinnamon-sugar. Place on a lightly sprayed baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

### Cinnamon Apple Crumb Cake

#### For cinnamon streusel crumb:

- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 cup butter -melted
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 large (or 2 small) tart apples-peeled and chopped

#### For the cake:

- 4 Tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

#### For apple cider glaze:

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 -2 Tablespoons apple cider

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease 8 inch springform pan and line the bottom with parchment paper, set aside. **To make cinnamon streusel crumb** in a bowl, whisk together dry ingredient, add melted butter and vanilla and stir until the mixture is evenly moist, set aside. **To make the cake** in a large bowl, cream together 4 tbsp butter with 1/2 cup sugar until light and fluffy, add egg and beat well, then add vanilla and sour cream and beat again. In another bowl, stir together 1 cup flour, baking soda, salt, and baking powder and add to the butter mixture, stir until just combined. Spread half the batter at the bottom of the pan ( it will be very thin layer). Spread the apple chunks evenly over the batter, then sprinkle about 1 cup of the cinnamon streusel crumbs over the apples. Spread the remaining batter over the crumbs and on top spread the rest of the cinnamon streusel. Bake 35-40 minutes or until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Before remove the ring of springform pan run a thin knife around the cake. **To make the glaze** whisk together powdered sugar with apple cider and drizzle over the cake.



## But We Preach Christ Crucified

Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart

But we Preach Christ Crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), Christ the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:23–24).

The story of the Bible is the story of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. Every Sacrifice in the Bible points toward that coming event. The entirety of the Tabernacle and Temple, with all of its furnishings, ceremonies, and rituals, all and without exception, point to Christ in either His Atoning, Mediatorial, or Intercessory Work. In fact, the entirety of the Law pointed to Christ in some manner. That's why Paul said, "We preach Christ Crucified." He didn't merely say, "We preach Christ," but rather "We preach Christ Crucified." Many presently are preaching Christ, but, within itself, that is not enough. Why isn't it enough? The Virgin Birth of Christ was an absolute necessity; however, had it stopped there, not one single soul would have been redeemed. The Perfect Life of Christ was an absolute necessity, but had it stopped there, not one soul would have been redeemed. The healings and miracles were an absolute necessity, but had it stopped there, not one soul would have been redeemed. Jesus had to go to the Cross. The Cross was ever His goal. Some 750 years before the fact, Christ said, "I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them who plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting. "For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed" (Isa. 50:6–7). His Face was set like flint for the Cross, meaning that He would not be deterred. The preaching of Christ Crucified is the Doctrine of the Atonement. It is the very heart of the Gospel. Remove that and there is no Gospel, but merely the ramblings of demented minds. Why is Christ Crucified a stumblingblock to the Jews? The Jews knew that anyone who was hung on a tree for committing a dastardly crime was cursed by God (Deut. 21:22–23). Jesus was hung on a Cross. So in the mind of the Jews, He was cursed by God. Consequently, He could not be the Messiah, or so they thought. For how could one who was cursed by God be the Messiah? Christ was, however, not cursed by God, but rather was made a curse, which is altogether different (Gal. 3:13). He had to be "made a curse" because He had committed no crime or sin of any nature—ever! The reason His death had to be on the Cross is because He had to pay for the very worst sins that could ever be imagined; He therefore had to die even as the worst sinner would die, but not because of any sin that He Himself had committed, because, as stated, He never committed any. In effect, He actually became a "Sin Offering." But all of this was a stumblingblock to the Jews. Regarding the Greeks, i.e., "Gentiles," the idea of a naked man hanging on a wooden gibbet, thereby redeeming the entirety of mankind, was, in their thinking, "foolishness." Those problems remain even unto this hour! But in spite of all that, if "Christ Crucified" is faithfully preached, whether to Jew or Gentile, to those who accept Christ, He becomes "the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God." No other Message will bring about these twin attributes. We must "preach Christ Crucified," i.e., "Christ Crucified" must be the underlying foundation of all that we believe and preach.

*Taken From The Expositor's Word For Every Day*

## The Author And The Finisher

Pastor Don Ragsdale

Gal 2:20-21/KJV - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

The Righteousness of God is made of none affect (Gal. 5:4) in a believers life when they depend upon their performance and not the performance of Christ. Yet most only see the Cross as the starting point of Salvation, however the Hebrew writer told us in Hebrews 12:2 KJV Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. It was Jesus Who began our Salvation as we looked to Him by Faith in what He did at the Cross and as we continue to do so (Col.2:6) He continues to work in our lives, so with assurance we are confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6 KJV, yet we loose that confidence and assurance when we look to other things. While the Work of the Cross was a completed work, we will not experience the fullness of it until our last dying breath or the rapture of the Church, this is why we must not loose focus (1 Cor. 2:2) and continue to keep looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

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## The Occult & Witchcraft

Pastor Scott Corbin

Like so many children in America, I was raised thinking that Halloween was a fun holiday, with costumes, jack-o-lanterns, and trick-or-treating. Though the things we did to observe Halloween seemed harmless enough at the time, as I later learned the true meaning and background of the holiday, I realized that I could not claim to be a Christian but also enjoy dabbling in the world of the occult. That may seem like a strong statement, but it is an accurate description of what we do when we observe Halloween. It was when I was about 25 years old that I listened to a tape from an alleged former Satanist who was warning Christians about Halloween. I could not get that out of my mind, even though I was not even where I needed to be in my relationship with the Lord. So I began to research it further, the true meaning and history of Halloween. What I found is that what I had considered innocent fun as a child, teenager, and young adult, had no place in the life of a believer in Christ. I found out that the things in the world of the occult and the things done to observe Halloween, were all things that were an attack on what God has said and on the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Twenty years ago, I began a Christian website and in the fall of that year, I posted a short article about what I had learned about Halloween. It was written for people who were in the same place I was years earlier, observing a holiday in ignorance. However, I was shocked when I began receiving emails from people directly and deliberately involved in witchcraft. They tried to correct me on a few things, but basically they said that the information in the article was correct, and that I was right to say that the holiday had no place in the life of a Christian. It was indeed "their" holiday, they said. That's why I find it so interesting today when Christians try to defend Halloween, when the very ones who invented it say otherwise. Yes, the Roman Catholic institution tried to "Christianize" it and incorporate it into "church" teachings and observances, as the Catholic church is known to do in order to swell their ranks, but we must look at the facts rather than at traditions. In the years following, I have tried to learn a little more each year about not just Halloween, but the occult in general. Each fall, we take the Wednesday night services at our church and teach on the occult, in an effort to inform and warn Christians about these dangers. And this may surprise some, but we also teach on how occult and pagan beliefs have crept into the church, not just in Catholicism or with trunk-or-treat and things of that nature in Protestant churches, but with un-Biblical doctrines that are taught throughout the year that have roots and ties to the dark side of the spirit world. For example, one Charismatic preacher said years ago on television, as he was teaching (based on the false Word of Faith doctrine) that we can have what we want if we say it, that some might protest and say "well that sounds like witchcraft". His reply was, "well it is, if you're a witch!" Well I'm sorry preacher, but you are wrong to teach that and claim it to be Biblical as long as we attach the Name of Jesus to it and take some Scriptures out of context to try and support it. A Christian doesn't need to borrow from the world of the occult in order to have blessings!! It's all around you...occultism and paganism, that is. A few weeks ago in one of the Wednesday night services, I brought up many common superstitions that people believe. There is not space to go into detail here, but I just respectfully remind the reader that everything in our lives should be brought into focus in light of God's Word. Sometimes that means traditions have to go, in favor of loving and serving a Holy God with all of our heart and being, and adhering to His Word with our theology and faith.

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"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20

"Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." 1 Corinthians 10:18-21

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 20:6-7

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 1 Timothy 4:1





# A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

**Verse for Today:** Hebrews 13:12-13 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

**Additional passages for Today:** Acts 5:41; I Peter 4:13

**Thought for Today:** How far will you go with Christ?

**Story for Today:** Janna sat down on the cold musty floor. She didn't have much time to dwell on her current predicament, as she could hear the keys to the cell rattling as the guard drew closer. She drew in a deep breath as she quickly said a prayer for strength to be faithful. The door was opened and she was grabbed by strong hands that tossed her through the opening, causing her to stumble to her knees. She was quickly yanked back to her feet and pushed along to the bright sunlight where the firing squad awaited her. She was given one last chance to recant. Deny her faith in Jesus Christ and she could live; refuse and she would face death. As the sound of the guns exploding rocked her world, Janna felt herself falling. She woke with a start and struggled to untangle herself from the blankets as she realized she had just fallen out of bed. What a nightmare! Janna had fallen asleep praying about the situation at school that was her real current predicament. Janna loved God. Since she had given her life to Jesus last fall things had been different. She had a peace that was unexplainable, but, she also was made fun of and was put in spots where she felt like she would stand out if she chose the narrow way that led to heaven. It wasn't like Janna was the only girl in school that went to church. However, sometimes she felt like she was all alone in her walk to live a life that glorified God. Making a conscious effort to make sure that all of her actions would reflect her love for God and would bring Him glory was a full time job as Janna realized how much the world consumed her life. Janna realized she needed time every morning to read her Bible and pray but, she needed so much more than that. She had spent time trying to determine what clothing needed to be removed and what she could keep while still honoring God. Somethings that she needed to change were easy and very obvious, but others were not as obvious and much harder to deal with. Janna knew all that Christ had done, how He had bore her sins and carried that shame; how He had suffered and gave up the glory that He deserved so that she could have her relationship restored with God and could bring Him glory with her life. She remembered how He had risen from the dead and had conquered death so that we all could have victory in Him. And so she prayed for strength that she might be faithful. She prayed that she wouldn't compromise even in the smallest area. She prayed that God would keep her pure and unblemished from the world. She prayed that Christ in her would point others to the cross and that they would find the way to life everlasting. And she purposed in her heart right then and there that these little trials that made her uncomfortable would be growth stones for her to step across that would help her have a stronger foundation in the Lord. She did not want to abandon her Lord as the disciples did that night so long ago. She knew that compromise in just a little area would lead to that! She must stay alert and on guard. She didn't want to give the devil any room to ruin her witness to those around that were looking at her to see Christ. She would do well to think of the dream with the guns all trained on her and walk boldly remembering that each step in faith leads closer to the master and an eternity with Him. It may not be easy, but it will be worth it all!

**Questions for Today:** How about you? Will you determine to walk with Christ, going all the way with Him? Will you trust Him and be more concerned about whether your words, thoughts and actions are glorifying God or will you compromise to have an easier life here in this world? Will you bear His reproach or abandon Him as the disciples did? Please take the time to look at your life and see what things glorify God and what things are unprofitable, destructive or harmful?

**Song:** It will be worth it all when we see Jesus! Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ. One glimpse of his dear face, all sorrow will erase. So, bravely run the race till we see Christ.



# Ministry Resources

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## PRAYER LIST

If you would like to send a picture of a loved one, a special prayer request or when you send a name to be added to our prayer list we will place it in our Prayer Box. Our Prayer Box sits on the altar at VOTL Tabernacle and your prayer requests are prayed over daily and in our services.

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Rodney Howell	Johnny Ford	Judy Hillard	Amanda & Jeremy Edgell
Ann Hinton	Danny & Janet Willis	Mike & Laurie Heltsley	Lisa Kluck
Jamey Howell	Terry & Phyllis Dickenson	Pennie & Logan Heltsley	Amy Kluck
Harvey & Betty Willis	Nathan Walls	Rachel Brown	April & Jeremy Chenault
Bill Johnson	Billy & Reesie Douglas	Timmy Ford	Tiffany Young
Kelly & Carolyn Ralph	Scott Sheriff	Irene Baker	Thomas Kidd
Bill & Kathy Willis	Tommy Willis & family	Anthony Stevens	Becky Fleming
Samantha Ashby & family	Eric & Cassie Dickenson	David Peters	Anna Sue Kluck
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	Ashton Henderson	Dillen Whitehouse	Nancy Slinker
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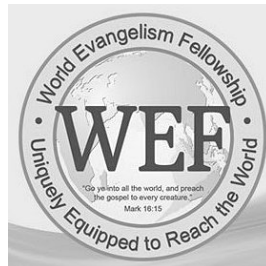
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And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15



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