

2 Cor. 6:14, Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Light has come into the world through Jesus, Matt. 4:16; Luke 1:79; John 1:5, 3:19. God dwells in unapproachable light, 1 Tim. 6:16.

Do we follow our culture or our new nature? 2 Cor. 5:17 tells us we are a new creation, old things have passed away, and all things made new.

Short History of Halloween: Called "All-Hallows-Eve" (Oct. 31), followed by "All Saints Day" on November 1. Secular psychologists consider Halloween to be useful to help the world cope with and rationalize death. Fear and anxiety are alleviated by laughing at the consequences of sin and death.

Facts About Spirits: 1) They do not wander the earth. They wait in Sheol (Hades) for judgement, Is. 14:9. 2) You cannot speak to the spirits of the dead. There is a great chasm referred to in Luke 16:19-31. 3) Spirits of the dead are done interacting with men because of sin, Heb. 9:27.

>>In 1 Samuel 28:3-25, Saul contacted a medium after Samuel's death. Only time recorded that contacting a dead spirit works and Samuel tells Saul he would die the next day in battle.

>>From the root "wika" witches or wizards are ones who use sorcery or drugs to try to induce visions and/or loss of consciousness trying to subvert the sovereignty of God or create control over various events or situations. Those that practice sorcery, from which we get the word "pharmacy" in our language, will not inherit the Kingdom of God, Ex. 22:18, Gal. 5:20-21, Rev. 9:21.

>>Witchcraft is an attempt to gain power outside of God's sovereignty. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, there is no other power given to conquer sin and death, Rom. 1:16-17.

>>The Great White Throne judgement of Rev. 20:15 sends the spirits with resurrected bodies into Hell, which is the final and eternal Second Death, Rev. 20:14.

4 Reasons the World Needs an All-Powerful Savior and King from Matthew 8:28-34:

1. **Revealing of Supernatural Helplessness:** V28, Jesus is on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and has just calmed the storm (V23-27). He is on the south shore in the region of the "Ten Cities" or Decapolis, see also Mark 5: 1-20 & Luke 8:26-39. Demonic activity has increased since Jesus' ministry began. It will again before His return in Revelation.
 - a. **Facts about Demons:** 1) They were created as angels but fell with Satan. 2) Given certain powers and abilities. 3) They are spiritual beings at war with God. 4) They recognize Jesus as God. 5) They are the principalities and powers of Eph. 6:12. 6) They are **not** the spirits of dead humans. 7) They are responsible for paranormal activity. 8) They can dominate or control human unbelievers but **not** those filled with the Holy Spirit. 9) Jesus distinguished between the demon-possessed and sick. 10) Non-Christians are completely vulnerable to covert or overt demonic activity.
 - b. Angels and humans are created beings, but angels cannot be redeemed. God has made a way for humans to be saved through the blood of Christ.
 - c. Humans and angels who reject Christ are of their father the devil, 1 John 3:10.
 - d. All of us are helpless to supernatural powers.

2. **Revealing of Future Relief:** V29, the demon called to the Son of God, "Have you come here to torment us *before* the time?" There is a future judgement of demons, the time is coming when Jesus will judge them. They didn't protest their innocence, Jesus is their God, James 2:19. They will be bound for 1,000 years in the Abyss according to Rev. 20:1-3.
3. **Revealing of Demonic Intentions:** V30-31, they were sent into the pigs, and they rushed to the waters and drowned. Mark 5:13 records about 2,000 pigs were in the herd. Grace is given to men, not demons. Satan is a deceiver of all who are not Christ's. God keeps us from hell and judgement.
4. **Revealing of Spiritual Rebellion:** V33, the herdsman ran away, and the city asks Jesus to leave the region, Matt. 8:34, Mark 5:17. The man who was healed asked to join Jesus in the boat. Jesus commanded him to tell the those in the Decapolis what He had done for him, Mk. 5:18-19. All the people were amazed at his transformation, Mk. 5:20. He became a Gentile evangelist to his family and the cities around.
 - a. Jesus is the King over all powers and demons and makes us overcome the world. 1 John 5:4 tells us our faith in Jesus makes us overcome.

Further Discussion and Application

James 3:13-18 gives a contrast between the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God. What demonstrates a regenerate heart and life? What wisdom does the believer possess that gives them the ability/power to walk righteously in this world? What fruit does a believer bear vs. an unbeliever? How might we be able to recognize a true convert of Jesus from a false one?

Sorcery is a damnable sin (Gal. 5:20-21). It is deception that a person would believe they can overcome or subvert God's will. What are Christians called to pursue and to practice? What aspects of humility does a Christian possess vs. someone who practices sorcery or uses drugs to have an experience? Why is the human experience faulty and weak compared to the power of the truth? What are the blessings for the believer found in John 8:31-36?

We as humans have the nature of our father the devil. Paul gives us certainty of our depravity in Romans 3 (Psalm 14) and Ephesians 2:1-3. What is the Gospel message of Titus 3:5, 2 Cor. 5:17 and 1 Cor. 2:6-16 for those who are bound by sin and darkness? Jesus has brought light to the world, what will the unbeliever who comes to faith in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit do because of their new birth according to John 3:19-21? As believers how can we recognize those whose hearts have been converted? What fruit should we see in their lives? How can we love them and disciple them?