

October 2002: Trick or Treat

by Aaron Greenway

As born-again believers, when we think of evil today, what comes to mind? How about Halloween? How about Satanism? The occult? Cults!? Harry Potter? Pornography? Child abuse? Or how about turning commercial airliners into missiles, killing thousands of people? Would all of this qualify as evil? I think it would. And the list goes on...

Talking about the Enemy of God is one of my least-favorite subjects. However, I have been hearing much about him recently and seeing him in action (the attack of the World Trade Center Twin Towers). Because of this, we cannot ignore -his- influence in our world and Paul said himself, that we ought not be naive or ignorant of his tactics and schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11). I will simply call him, "The Enemy" for we will not dignify him too much by calling him by his proper name (except what Scripture is quoted calling him). But first, what does the Bible say about him?

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

James 4:7 "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted

"In a world filled with evil and the upcoming Halloween holiday, what can we do to guard ourselves against the Enemy's tactics?"

1) Understand that Jesus' sacrifice protects you as God's child.

2) Put on the complete armor of God, especially God's true Word.

3) Pray for God's strength and power to fight the spiritual battle in which we find ourselves."

from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

By being a follower of Jesus, you have just become a target. Get out the red and white paint and put a big ol’ bulls-eye on your back, because the Enemy hates you and he is coming after you. And he is going to do everything he knows to do to destroy you. As Chuck Swindoll said recently, “His boys have been studying you and they are excellent marksmen.”

When it comes to the Enemy, many times, we do not give him his “proper respect”, because he has turned into nothing more than Mickey Mouse, or the circus clown. We think, “He’s not really after me.” We don’t take Jesus’ Archenemy very seriously. God has delegated to him some power. And then we read verses telling us to be sober and vigilant because your enemy is like a roaring lion, seeking to eat you up! I have a question: How does a lion stalk its prey? Does it run after you on sight? Or does it sneak up in the tall grass, crouching, coming closer and closer until he is close enough to overpower you where you can’t get away. This is how our Enemy attacks us. He slowly seduces us with images, with thoughts, with attitudes, with “innocent things”.

D.L. Moody once said, “The reason many Christians fail their whole lives is this: they underestimate the power of the enemy. We have a terrible enemy with whom we must fight. Don’t let Satan fool us, or else we will be dead! This is war. Nearly everything that surrounds us will take us away from God. We don’t leap from Egypt to the throne of God in one jump. There is a desert, a journey, and enemies in the land.”

In November, the second Harry Potter movie is being released into theatres. There has been much argument as to whether this little boy is representative of good against evil or whether the movie is a promotion of evil itself. I know from what I have seen in the trailers and from what my pastor has said that this character is nothing more than the glorification of Wicca, a form of rebellion against God (I Samuel 15:22). Interestingly, the first Harry Potter movie set Box Office records and is one of the greatest grossing movies of all time. J. K. Rollings, the author, is one of the richest people in Great Britain. While the hearts and minds of children and adults are being carried away, the people behind such foolishness are laughing all the way to the bank. Even

worse, while the Enemy may not be making a cent, he has at least drawn a heart further from the Creator.

In a world filled with evil and the upcoming Halloween holiday, what can we do to guard ourselves against the Enemy's tactics? First, we must understand that the Blood of Jesus stands between us and him. He cannot touch a child of God unless God gives him the authority to do so. By pleading the blood over our lives we are taking authority in Jesus' name over the Nemesis of the Universe. He cannot overstep his bounds. He answers to a Higher Authority! Second, we must put on the full armor of God to stand against his deceit, using the Word of God, the TRUTH, as the Sword. The Enemy must submit to the Word. Third, we must ask God to give us strength to fight the battle, being spiritually astute, because this is a spiritual war. And lastly, we must take back lost ground in Jesus' name. We can pray, "God take back that lost ground and fill that void with your love, with your guidance and your Holy Spirit." Surrender that lost ground to God. The Enemy cannot take what you do not have, but have surrendered (Ephesians 6:11-17).

Are there any holes in your armor? What is in your life that causes you to stumble? What causes you to doubt God? How has the Enemy gained a foothold in your life? Has he tried to destroy your marriage, your relationships? Has he tried to destroy your life through drugs, sex, money, hatred, bitterness? It could be anything. We do not have to heed one inch to this fiend, rather our trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ who has triumphed over him. Jesus has won! Jesus is the victor! He is the Conqueror of sin and death! His enemies will be defeated and it is only a matter of time.

"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15). Jesus reigns!