

Sermon Mark S. Aites
WITCHCRAFT

TEXT: 1 SAM. 15:23 *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*

INTRODUCTION:

1. Ideas people have when thinking of a witch; “Wizard Of Oz,” “Bewitched”, “Halloween.”
2. Superstition surrounding witches; Middle Ages, Joan of Arc, Witch hunts, Salem.
3. Modern witchcraft two-fold: violent, and non-violent.

DISCUSSION:

I. PAGANISM.

- A. Ancient paganism was polytheistic embracing numerous gods as in mythology.
- B. Modern paganism respects the goddess as well as the god.
- C. Modern paganism in the west includes Wicca, Druidism, and Shamanism.
- D. Modern paganism believe spiritual substance in 4 elements: air, fire, water, and earth.
- E. Modern paganism has seen a revival mainly due to Wicca (witchcraft).
- F. Modern pagans celebrate festivals or sabbats:
 1. Four solar quarters (two solstices and two equinoxes).
 2. The Celtic year ends with Samhain (pronounced “sow in”), honoring the dead.
 3. The New Year is celebrated with All Hallows Day, the day before Halloween.
 4. Then comes Yule (winter solstice), and Imbolc (festival of lights) celebrates spring.
 5. Ostera (Easter), the spring equinox, celebrates the union of the god and goddess.
 6. Beltane (May Day), celebrates new life and the marriage of the god and goddess.
 7. Litha (summer solstice); thanks is offered to the god of nature for everything green.
 8. Lughnasad or Lammasend (August), celebrates the first corn harvest.
 9. Mabon, the Autumn Equinox (Sept. 21), celebrates second harvest.
- G. Paganism, from a more violent standpoint, is termed as “Satanism.”

II. WICCA.

- A. Witchcraft means, “Craft of the Wise Ones,” and also is referred to as the old religion.
- B. Wicca is not paganism, however, it embraces paganism as its religion.
- C. The Wiccan Rede: “If it harms none, do what you will.”
 1. It opens the door for lying, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, profanity, etc.
 2. The Wiccan Rede permits you to be your own god, deciding your own actions.
 3. Three-fold law: “Whatever you do comes back upon you three times over.”
 4. Their concept of evil is not the same as that from Scripture.
- D. The Pentagram (a five point star in an upright, one-point-up position).
 1. The top point symbolizes Spirit (the Creator) being above or ruling.
 2. Lower points are the four elements of life: air, fire, water, and earth.
 3. The circle symbolizes the deity encompassing the star within it.
 4. Together it represents the Creator’s protection and wisdom.
 5. Inverted is the symbol of Satanism.

III. SCRIPTURE.

- A. Wicca seeks supernatural power and knowledge from a source apart from God.
- B. *Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23; Exod. 22:18; Deut. 18:10-12).*
- C. **Gal. 5:19-21**; idolatry, witchcraft (sorcery), *and such like* are against Wicca.
- D. Why is it a concern? The danger of spreading in the church (**cf. 1 Cor. 5:6-7**).
- E. Note also **Acts 20:29-30; Rom. 16:17-19; 1 Tim. 6:3-5**; concern with false teaching.

CONCLUSION: We cannot support or condone a religion contrary to Scripture.