



Paganisms Promises?

Witches, warlocks, bards, ovates, and druids: you're probably thinking that Halloween is over for this year, so why the strange list? Well, according to Reuters news service, pagans are celebrating Samhuin, the Celtic new year, and "a time for remembering dead ancestors before the darkness of winter" explained one pagan priestess. According to the article, paganism is on the rise in Britain where they claim to have nearly 100,000 adherents to the religion. The same priestess explained the phenomena: "People are not finding enough insight with a Christian God. Christianity is all about having rewards when you are dead, druids are all about living life fully and reaching out." Does Christianity offer insight? Is it merely about getting rewards after one is dead? Does being a Christian mean that you have to have a dull and boring life?

Christianity offers insight which no other religion can offer, namely, God's insight. Of course, paganism doesn't believe in one God, per se; paganism believes in the existence of multiple gods. Every living and non-living thing has a "spirit" in paganism; and these become the things that are worshipped. The same Reuters article quoted a pagan gathering chant: "We call upon the powers of the south, the inner fire of the sun and the island of fire. We seek the blessing of the great stag in the heat of the chase. Spirits of the south join us now in this our sacred circle. Hail and welcome." Does paganism have insight that Christianity doesn't have? The American Heritage dictionary defines "insight" as follows: "The capacity to discern the true nature of a situation; penetration." How can one have more insight (discern the true nature of a situation) than the one who created everything to begin with? When you have a question regarding the operation of your car, do you consult the "spirits" of the motor, doors, windows, and wheels? Or do you read the operator's manual, written by the manufacturer? From what source does true insight come? Really all that paganism does is replace God with a system of

idolatry that has no insight to offer other than what one personally feels, and that is no insight at all. The prophet Habakkuk wrote, "Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach!" (Habakkuk 2:19).

Is Christianity merely about getting rewards after one is dead? Are we just wrapped up in some big cosmic game show so that if we play the game right we get the prizes at the end? That seems to be what is being suggested and it's a fundamental misunderstanding of the situation. Heaven isn't a reward, per se; it's the continuation of life. Paganism claims to value life fully, but doesn't understand that there is no value in life when sin has marred one's soul. Sin takes life away by enslaving individuals to its mindless grasp (2 Peter 2:19, 20) and dumping them into eternal death (Revelation 21:8). Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). True life; real life; eternal life comes from Jesus and walking in His footsteps, not from some personified spiritualization of rocks.

Does being a Christian mean that you have to live a boring and dull life? I suppose that depends upon what one considers boring and dull. If you find it exciting to talk to trees and worship boulders, then I guess Christianity might be boring! However, if one is discussing whether or not Christians are allowed to enjoy the benefits of life, the answer is, "of course!" God made the world and all the things that are within it for man. He has provided "fruitful seasons filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17). He has blessed Christians richly with every blessing that he can provide (Ephesians 1:3). He has given all things for us to eat if we receive them with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:3). He has blessed man with friendship, companionship, and wonderful relationships (Ephesians 5:31). He is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). He has given to us freely all good things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). He's told us that all things are ours (1 Corin-

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The “Barely or Won’t” Christians — Who Are They?

It seems that we are seeing a new breed of Christians appearing everywhere in the local congregations of the Churches of Christ. They also think that we are saved right now and don't worry about later, because since they are baptized, they "know" that they will go to Heaven.

How did they develop?

While they recognize that there is the need to hear, believe, repent, confess, and baptism in order to receive salvation, there are some that forget that we all have more to do than that. As we read in Revelation 2:10, we must "be faithful unto death". They feel that they are already saved now...and that is their downfall.

What do they think?

For those who think they are saved, but are doing anything that they think is fine with God or good in their own sight, they are just what we would call "barely won't" Christians.

And if you are a "barely or won't" Christian...then you are still a slave to Satan. What do I mean a "barely or won't" Christian?

How do you spot them?

They are those who have heard the Word of God, believed what they have heard, repented (or seemed to repent but end up reporting) of their

sins, confessed with their own mouths that Christ is the Son of God, and have been baptized into the one true church, which is the church of Christ.

But now....

...they **barely attend or won't attend** the worship services especially Sunday Morning Bible Class and/or Wednesday Night Bible classes or any of the church functions...

They **barely come or won't come** to the worship services on time...

They **barely pray or they won't pray** to God (but do it out of routine and it is not meaningful)...

They **barely give or won't give** as God has prospered them...

They **barely sing or won't sing** praise to God...

They **barely examine or won't examine** their heart when the Lord's Supper is passed...

They **barely fellowship or won't fellowship** with anyone in the church who is supposed to be their spiritual family...

They **barely tell others or won't tell others** about the church of Christ because they don't want to lose any friends and must be ashamed of being a Christian...

They **barely obey or won't obey** God's commandments and do whatever they want thinking they will be

able to ask for forgiveness later...

They **barely study or won't study** and just read the Bible and in so doing they are not learning like they should according to 2 Tim. 2:15...

And finally, they **barely live or won't live** their lives for Christ but for their own selves and even though they may gain everything in this life...they lose everything in the eternal life!

In so doing any or all these things...they have become the "barely or won't" Christians!

If you see yourself becoming one of these...realize this: **With God you either "are" or you "aren't". There are no "barely or won't" 's with God...because if you "barely" stay on the true path, you "won't" make it to Heaven!**

Dwayne White
Muskogee, OK

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Jesus, Revelation 2:15, 16 ESV)

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 11/21/04

Morning	Enrobed in Thanksgiving
Scripture.....	Colossians 3;15
Evening	Christian Righteousness
Scripture.....	Romans 4:3-6
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	The Book of Nahum

Weekly Record

Week of 11/14/04

Sunday Class.....	49
Sunday A.M.	67
Sunday P.M.	48
Wednesday	60
Contribution.....	\$1404.51
Budget	\$1778.13

If Jesus Came To Your House...

If Jesus came to your house
To spend some time with you,
If He came unexpected,
I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room
To such an honored guest
And all the food you'd give to Him
Would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him
You're glad to have Him there -
That serving Him in your home
Is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming,
Would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome
To your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes
Before you let Him in
Or hide some magazines
And put the Bible where they'd been

Would you hide your worldly music
and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right
in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder - if the Saviour
spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing, the
things you always do?

Would you go right on saying, the
things you always say?
Or would life for you continue
as it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus with you
everywhere you go?
Or would you maybe change your
plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him
meet your closest friends?
Or would you hope they stay away,
until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him
stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great
relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know,
the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person, to spend
some time with you.

Author Unknown

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thians 3:21). And promised blessings not only in this life, but in the world to come (Mark 10:30). With all of these things at our disposal, what cause does anyone have to claim that the Christian can't have a full, rich, wonderful, and blessed life now? The problem is not that Christianity can't provide these things. The problem is that most "Christians" don't know what true Christianity is, much less pagans!

The Reuter's news service article ends with a story about a man who went to one of these pagan "stone circles" and chipped off a piece of the stone to take with him. About a year later, he mailed the chipped-off piece back to the owners of the "rock circle." In his letter he told them to glue it back onto the stone as it had only brought him "bad luck." The same mentality that caused him to value such, ended up causing him to condemn it. What a fickle standard by which to judge reality. Paganism offers no true insight to life; it has no value for this life; and can provide no lasting life beyond the grave. It is merely another excuse on the part of man to do that which is right in his own eyes (Deuteronomy 12:8).

Kevin Cauley

Kevin's Korner

My wife commented to me that she was ready for Thanksgiving week so that we could have a break. Every single evening this past week, we have had an event of some kind. With Cub Scouts and basketball, we've been staying very busy.

The scouts participated in this year's Christmas parade through downtown Berryville. I saw a few of you out there at the parade and we appreciate the smiles and waves that you gave us. The boys had several boxes full of candy when they started, but they couldn't contain their enthusiasm. The kids watching the parade had quite a time scrambling to get the candy. Our boys threw handfuls with each toss. By the time we got to the end we had empty boxes, but full smiles on all the boys faces.

As you all know, this coming week is the thanksgiving holiday. I enjoy thanksgiving more than any other holiday. It's not just the food, either. I'm all for the food, mind you, but thanksgiving is such a great family event and there are really great football games on Thanksgiving as well. Seriously, of all the national holidays that we could have, independence day, president's day, labor day, memorial day, etc. thanksgiving, in my mind, is the most godly. It takes a truly humble heart to acknowledge the fact that one is dependent upon others. Thanksgiving helps remind us of this dependence and it celebrates that dependence in a pure and holy way, through thankfulness. Not everyone can be president; not everyone can win a Nobel prize; not everyone can achieve world wide fame through good deeds, but we can ALL be thankful and that is a deed worthy of all the accolades the world can offer.

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley ...870-423-6707

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- We extend our sympathies to the family of Ruby Hand who passed away last week. Her memorial was held this past Tuesday.
- We also extend our sympathy to the family of Gary Bragg who passed away last Monday. His memorial was held yesterday.
- Let us remain instant in prayer for the following individuals: Pat Foster, Donna Henderson, Shelba Miller, Neva Welch, Glenn Quigley.
- Remember our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler.
- The children's home truck will be here on Monday, November 29th to pick up clothes, supplies, and food. Please have everything cleaned, boxed and ready to sell. They sell these items in their thrift store to raise funds for the home.
- Today is our monthly potluck! If you are visiting with us, we invite you to join us for lunch downstairs.
- There will be no youth devotional next week due to the holiday week-end.
- Next Sunday evening after services, we will sort and address House to House and Heart to Heart for mailing.
- Believe it or not, Leon was NOT scheduled to do announcements this month. However, since he could not do announcements two months ago, he and I swapped duties. It was not intentional, therefore, that he should have to announce the pantry item for this week, which is, Canned Peaches.



Happy Thanksgiving!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

November 21st, 2004 November 28th, 2004

	November 21st, 2004	November 28th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Ken Smith	John Gass
	Jerry Roller	Brent Moore
	Jack Gentry	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Jack Gentry
Lord's Table	Jerry Roller	Leon Duncan
	Dale Pinkley	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Bill Fort
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	John Gass
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle

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