

The Springfield Redeemer

The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

*I will praise God's
name in song and
glorify him with
thanksgiving.
Psalm 69:30*

www.redemptiongate.org

Oct. 1, 2014, Vol. 3, Ed. 9 Trust Jesus • Pray Daily • Read Your Bible • Go To Church • Seek Unity in Christ

THE CURSE OF HALLOWEEN

by Pastor Cooley

Halloween is one those odd holidays that is man-made, today celebrated strictly for profit. Historically, it was invented as a ruse by the Celts around 1200 BC, occurring at the end of the harvest, the biggest holiday of the year, called Samhain. They



believed that the dead could cross over into the land of the living on October 31 and could

harm them or the harvest, so many dressed in costumes in order to scare them away or hide from them.

This belief later migrated to Scotland and continued to spread from there. The celebration and fear of the dead was brought to America in the 1850s by Scottish emigrants.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Church celebrated All Hallows Eve or literally the Eve of All Saints Day followed by All Souls Day on October 31 and November 1. This was to honor the dead but was later combined with the ancient pagan festival, transformed into Halloween, and turned into a profitable venture.

Now this man-made holiday is the most celebrated time in America next to Christmas. It promotes greed and excessive commercialism. Its celebration of the dead has no foundation or relationship to Biblical principle.

It rejects Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verse 5b, "but the dead know nothing," and Mathew chapter 22, verse 32b, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." As Christians we should shake off the curse of Halloween and instead give that time to praising and magnifying God by bringing lost souls to our Savior Jesus, who will give them real eternal life.

Annual Thanksgiving to God Banquet

It's never too soon or too often to be thanking God for all His benefits and blessings! This year we are having our annual event on November 1, 2014, to celebrate our thanksgiving to God, enjoy a great meal at the Holy Grounds Coffee House, and at the same time raise funds for the coming year, 2015.

Here are the details: there will be three seatings for meals at the Holy Grounds Coffee House this year. We will be offering a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at 9 a.m., a lunch at 12:30 p.m., or dinner at 5 p.m. The lunch or dinner will feature a Pasta Bar with a variety of pastas and sauces. There will also be garlic bread, of course, and salad. Please use the enclosed Contribution Slip to indicate which meal you will be attending.

Tickets will be \$10 for your choice of meal. Volunteers will be needed, especially to prepare and



serve food. On the Contribution Slip, also please indicate how many tickets you want and your interest in volunteering for this event. Speakers to be announced, and a flyer

will be sent out soon. The goal for operating the Coffee House in 2015 is \$10,000.00, so we hope to raise a good portion of it on November 1. There will be free parking at STCC on Saturday, November 1.

Going Back to the Old Paths

September 4th and 5th took Pastor Cooley and Jackie back to Concord, New Hampshire, to follow up the revival meetings held there earlier this year. Originally planned for three days, it had to be condensed into two, but Pastor Cooley was able to get his message out in spite of the change.

Pastor Cooley began by talking about how so many churches have left their focus on the basics of God's Word. The main emphasis of the message was to show the people how to get back to the Old Path. Pastor Cooley referred to the familiar scripture passage, II Chronicles 7:14, using it as a road map to God. It says to seek His Face. Christians in America don't do that nearly enough now in the 21st century. We have become, instead, a nation dedicated to knowledge.

"We use knowledge as the path to God," Cooley said. "We turn out men who are literate, intelligent, who have academia. We focus on getting an education." These are men of God who are buying into the idea that you have to get academically sound before you can bring God's Word to others. Second Chronicles 7:14 clearly shows the first step to God: "seek His Face," it says. Seeking His Face includes studying, obedience, and especially letting the Holy Spirit of God lead you.

If we present our bodies as living sacrifices, as in Romans 12:1, we give God control of us. He will lead each one into the study of what they need in order to do the task and ministry for which He created that person. As a "living sacrifice," following the will of God, you won't neglect your education but pursue

the education that God wants you to have for His purposes.

Study is a means to an end, not an end in itself, which leads to pride. Paul, in the Bible, said that it is better to please God, rather than impress men. We need to get back to the old path of seeking a deep relationship with God, through Jesus, and cultivating an obedient spirit.

On Friday, the second day of the Cooley's trip to Concord, New Hampshire, they went out to do street ministry. At the nearby Steeple Gate Mall, they had a chance to speak to some local area people there. "It is a little different there than here in Springfield. People there aren't used to street evangelism, but they were more receptive than expected," Cooley said.

Jackie had a chance to speak with two young ladies about coming out to the revival. As she was witnessing to them about the old paths and the love of God, they were very responsive. "Thanks so much," they said, "we needed to hear that!" It was an exciting moment for them and for Jackie, knowing her words were planting seeds of the gospel.

There was another memorable moment when Pastor Cooley spoke to a young man who right away insisted he already had a church, a Jehovah Witness. Pastor said, "Well, that's great, come on out to the revival." He even agreed to take some flyers! It was unusual that he was so open, but it was a wonderful indication that God is working everywhere, in many hearts of all people. With the help of our supporters, we can all continue to reach folks like these.

Ongoing Events at Holy Grounds Coffee House

SUNDAY SERVICES 10 AM & 2 PM
MON THRU FRI MORNING BIBLE STUDY 7:30 AM
TUES & THURS PRAYER 11 AM
TUESDAY SOLID ROCK NIGHT MUSIC FORUM 7:00 PM
WED BIBLE STUDY 4:30 & CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:30 PM
SATURDAY LUNCH 2-4 PM WEEKLY
1ST SAT MONTHLY MARRIAGE SEMINAR 4 PM

~For more Information call 413-301-0918~

Saturday Night Activities

Oct. 4 –movie with Ellie and Ben:
The Blind Side
Oct. 11 & 25 – Open Mic with Brother Bruce
Oct. 18 – Total Surrender Band
Nov 1- Godspell the movie
Next 5th Saturday event
will be November 29 – All day!
Theme: Evangelizing the Holidays