

HALLOWEEN! (Hell-O-Ween!)

Halloween is one of the strangest days of the year. Parents dress their children up as witches, ghosts, goblins, skeletons, demons and send them thru the neighborhoods knocking on doors chanting "trick or treat" and holding out sacks for candy, fruit and goodies. This is also a time of strange parties at work, school, and at home, where people decorate with jack-o-lanterns, witches on brooms, black cats with arched backs, and orange and black streamers.

HALLOWEEN'S ORIGIN AND MEANING

The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead. Druids are an occult order of soothsayers, seers, and satanic priests. *World Book Encyclopedia - (1959 edition), pp 3245-6* -- says: Druids believed that on Halloween ghosts, sprites, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They thought the arched back scared cat had once been a human but had been changed into a cat as punishment for evil deeds. It is from these Druid beliefs that come the present day use of witches, ghost and cats in Halloween festivities.

An example of their weird practices happened in New England some years ago: A man named Palmer led a Druids in New England. They met in Newbery, N.Y. to perform their annual blasphemous deed against God. They baptized a cat, burned a Bible, fed a dog the Lord's Supper, and mocked God. That night, the man who fed communion to the dog died with a violent inflammatory sickness with eyes protruding out and his tongue swollen. Next morning, another was found dead in bed. Within the next 5 years, all died strange and unusual deaths: One died of terrible swelling -- just swelled up like a balloon and burst. Another died of convulsions. One froze to death. Five committed suicide. Seven were hanged on the gallows. Others were shot. This is all certified by the Justice Of Peace of Newbery, N.Y. ***"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"***. Galatians. 6:7

PAGAN BELIEF: The pagans believed that on this night the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. *"Folklore" by James Napier, pp 11* -- Among all pagan nations there was the "belief that at death the souls of good men were taken by good sprites to Paradise; but the souls of wicked men were left to wander in the space between earth and moon, (*This is why the moon plays such important part in Halloween decorations.*) or were consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in habit of haunting the living... "In order to free one's self from their haunting one would have to set out food and give them a treat. If they were satisfied with your treat, they would leave you in peace. If they were not satisfied, it was believed they would trick you by casting an evil spell on you and cause you havoc.

TRICK OR TREAT: Where and when did the modern custom of trick or treat begin? *"Mildred Arthur's "Holidays of Legend," pp 87* -- "The modern custom of 'trick or treat' began in Ireland hundreds of years ago. A group of farmers went

from house to house begging food for village Halloween festivities in the name of their ancient gods. -- Good luck was promised to generous donors, and threats were made against those who would not give." This ancient pagan tradition continues today as children masquerading as ghost, skeletons, devils & demons go "trick or treat" holding out sacks for goodies, promising to refrain from evil deed if they are generously treated.

JACK-O-LANTERN: Why Jack-o-lanterns? *World Book Encyclopedia* (1977). vol. 9. pp 24 & 25 -- Jack-o-lantern is an ancient symbol of a damned souls. "Jack-o-lanterns were named for a man named Jack, who could not enter heaven or hell. As a result, he was doomed to wander in darkness with his lantern until Judgment Day." In later years, *Marquette Ickis*, in his book "Festival Holidays" pp (25-26) -- says that folks fearful of spooks "began hollowing out turnips and pumpkins and placing lighted candles inside to scare evil spirits from the house."

WHY OCTOBER 31? *World Book Encyclopedia; quoted by Assoc. Press, Oct.16, 1977* -- The Celts chose this date for their New Year's Eve, and intended it as celebration of everything wicked, evil, and dead. During their celebration, they would gather around a community bonfire and offer as sacrifice their animals, their crops and sometimes themselves. And wearing masks and costumes made from the heads and skins of other animals they would also tell one another's fortune for the coming year.

SHOULD GOD'S PEOPLE CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN?

Many Christians will dress their children as ghosts, witches, skeletons, and demons, and send them out to trick or treat again this year! Many churches and Sunday schools and youth groups will practice the occult traditions of this ancient festival again this year! **Can any Blood-bought, born-again, God-fearing, devil-hating Christian give one scripture that endorses such a thing?** Anyone in their right mind has to see that Halloween undoubtedly is associated with paganism, witchcraft, and devil-worship! See what God says to you " ***There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord.***" Deut. 18: 10-12

COMMON EXCUSE: There are those who will say "But we don't worship demons on Halloween, and it doesn't mean the same thing today as it did in the past. Today it's harmless innocent, a time of fun for the children and young people." Then what about this Bible verse from *1 Thessalonians 5:22* -- ***Abstain from all appearances of evil.***" If we are not a part of Satan's kingdom, why carry the flag? We may have been ignorant in past; but how many of us will continue to be willingly ignorant?

CHANGE YOURSELF: *"Many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of those also who used magical arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men." Acts 19:18-19. The results of their obeying God, is verse 20: " So mightily grew the Word of God, and prevailed."*

IN CONCLUSION: If you are a true child of God, avoid every thing that represents and supports Halloween. Do not worry about how your co-workers, neighbors or friends will feel, if you don't participate in the department Halloween party or potluck, or don't open the door to give candy, or not going to their Halloween party. But think how GOD will feel if you willfully ignore His warnings, and what answer you will have when you will face the judgment. See what Bible says in Romans 13: 12. ***"Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."***

**Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:21,22**

Note: Historical Facts and some information from the article written by Bro. Tom Stout