

## OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO HALLOWEEN

### TELL THE TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN!

Many Christians feel pressure to celebrate Halloween because they do not want their children to feel left out or cheated. But brethren how can we benefit our children by allowing them to take part in such an evil day? Our children are just as capable of understanding the truth as we are. And the truth is the only thing that we have that will free us from the bondage of sin, and empower us to stand victorious against Satan and his deceptions.

When Jesus was about to give His life for the sins of the world He prayed this prayer; "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil (The evil one - Satan). They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:15-17)". That word sanctify means "to set apart or to separate". The best way then to separate our children from Satan's influence is to tell them the truth! We must tell them the truth, according to the Bible, about Satan and Halloween. Brethren they will understand, especially when they know all the facts.

NOTE: Parents take care, that when you teach your children, not to allow them to become judgmental of their friends who take part in Halloween (1 Corinthians 8:1). But do give them enough understanding so that they will be able to stand, upon their own beliefs, when faced with certain opposition and possible ridicule!



### TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY!

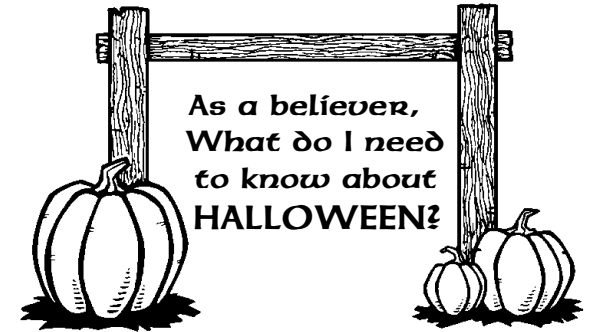
Christian, Halloween is not a night to keep yourselves hidden from the evil outside (John 17:18). The Bible tells us we are to be a source of light for those struggling in the darkness of this world. Brethren, every other night of the year we have to go to others to tell them of the Light - Jesus Christ (John 8:12). But on Halloween they come to us!

Think about the following suggestions when staying home this Halloween. First, get the best candy you can afford and attach a good gospel tract to it: The candy will help let them know that you care and are more than just a religious zealot. And the tract will be the best treat that they will receive all night. Second, when giving out tracts to children, a visually appealing, easily understood type tract works best. Graphics help capture their attention, and being written closer to their reading level, it will have a better chance of getting read and being understood! Third, make sure the tract has the name, address and phone number of the church on it. If the child that receives the tract has questions, or if they get saved, they will need to have a faithful resource to lead them in the truth, and a church home where they can serve their new found Savior!

**May the Lord richly bless you as you consider this important issue!**

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On the cold autumn evening of October 31st each year is celebrated the holiday known as Halloween. Children get dressed up in costumes ranging from Super-heroes to cute little cartoon characters, from devils to angels, and from monsters to any other thing that can be imagined. They then go door to door and receive candy from those who marvel at the efforts that went into each little costume.

All of this seems like good innocent fun, and yet, Halloween has a darker side. It is a time that celebrates death, horror, wickedness, and other things that are designed to put fear and thoughts of evil into the hearts of men, women, and children! (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

As Christians it is important for us to understand what to do about this issue. The most important thing to remember concerning Halloween is that it involves our children! The Bible says "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Satan also understands this truth! If Satan can impact our children's hearts while they are young, they will be more likely to follow his sinful ways when they are grown. Brethren, Halloween is a battle for the hearts and minds of our children! The best thing that we can do then is to educate ourselves on this issue. Once we know the facts we can then base our decision about Halloween upon a good solid foundation.

## THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

### HALLOWEEN'S BEGINNINGS

Halloween means "holy evening". It was named this because it is the night before All Saints Day (November 1). All Saints Day was a time established by the Roman Catholic Church to honor all saints. All Saints Day was originally celebrated in May, but in the year 834 A.D. it was moved to coincide with the Celtic festival called Samhain. (The Celts were Northern and Western Europeans who had recently been "converted" to the Roman Catholic faith. To help accommodate their reception into the Church, Samhain became All Hallows Eve, hence Halloween. Samhain was the rough equivalent to our New Years Eve, with the Celtic New Year beginning November 1st).

Samhain was a fire festival honoring those who had died the previous year (Hence the natural connection to All Saints Day). Fires were built in the fire places and meat cooked on spits in the belief that the departed dead would return to their homes to warm themselves and enjoy the aroma of the cooking food. It was also associated with death in that November brings in the darkest and most barren time of the year. Because of this it took on a sinister significance, and all kinds of evil practices soon became associated with it. Most of the things we do today to celebrate Halloween have their roots in this pagan holiday.

Today Halloween is a time for; mischief and pranks, celebration of death and the dead, and a time to explore all things evil. Things that would be condemned at all other times during the year are accepted as normal on this evil night. On Halloween we see; destructive pranks (slashed tires and broken windows), immodest dress (revealing costumes), and "dabbling" in the occult (ghost stories, vampires, black cats, witches, wizards, and crystal balls). All of this in the name of "innocent" fun.

## THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH HALLOWEEN

As Halloween has evolved it has taken on added meaning through the years. It started as a celebration to honor the dead, but has become associated with all things evil. Notice some of the following examples:

### Witches

These were women who had the ability to fly through the sky upon broomsticks. They were assumed to be women who had sold their souls to the Devil. On Halloween they were said to have danced on the hilltops, with goblins and imps, while the Devil himself played the bagpipes or castanets made of dead men's bones (skeletons). Men feared these wicked women with their evil activities and spells. Witches kept black cats who served as their familiar spirits. Familiar spirits are basically demons who keep the witches informed about the affairs of men (1 Samuel 28:7-8).

### Jack-o'-Lanterns

Two tales are given for these. First is that a stingy Irishman named Jack used to love to play tricks on the Devil. When he died he was condemned to wander the world, neither in Heaven or Hell. The second concerns the Druids (These were nature worshipers who made animal and human sacrifices along with other occult practices). They would go around asking for goods. If the desired goods were not given they would "trick" or curse the occupant of the house. If the goods were received they would leave a carved out turnip that would protect the house from the evil spirits active on that night (NOTE: This confuses the fact that Heaven and Hell are the only two places we can go after death (Luke 16:25-26). And it blasphemes the Passover account (Exodus 12:21-23).

### Bonfires

Bonfires were used in two ways. Initially they were placed on the tops of hills to protect them from the wandering spirits. But the name bonfire means "Bone Fire". Halloween (Samhain) was a festival to the "Lord of Death". The Lord of Death had to be appeased and animal or human sacrifices were made to satisfy this pagan deity (Leviticus 18:21).

### Divination

Since Halloween was the eve of the coming year, many people sought information about their future. They bobbed for apples, cut out the entrails of animals, and went to fortune tellers to learn; who they would marry, the condition of their crops, and other desired information (Isaiah 8:19-20).

## CURRENT EVENTS WE MUST CONSIDER

It is easy to ignore Halloween's past. We can simply say, "That is what it used to be but it does not mean that any longer". Well please think about the following modern day facts. Halloween is Satanism's most unholy night. Child and animal abductions increase at this time of year. Children every year end up in hospital rooms because of Satanic sacrifices made through tainted candy and treats. And the most tragic part is that, as Christians, and as a Nation, we choose to disregard the facts about Halloween by chalking it all up to childish pranks and mischievous fun.

Brethren wake up to the facts and take a stand for the Lord, for righteousness, and for your children!