

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON THE DARKNESS OF HALLOWEEN

God says His people perish for lack of knowledge. We'd like to share some information with you about the origin of Halloween and what the Bible says. The association of evil with Halloween, and all those things that are not of God, including the devil, witches, bats, sorcery, tricks, skeletons, spirits, ghosts, demons, and the list could go on, is obvious.

First of all, Halloween is not an American tradition. In fact, it was not "celebrated" in this country until around the 1900s. The origin of Halloween can be traced to the Celts of Britain and Ireland, and their priests, the Druids, who celebrated a festival called Samhain that marked the eve of the Celtic New Year, which began on November 1.

The Celts believed that on October 31, the veil separating the living from the dead was at its thinnest, and that souls of the dead passed through the barrier and entered the world of the living. They lit great fires for protection and sacrifices... including human ones. They believed that if they did not get a human sacrifice from a household, then someone in the household would die that night. The Celts also presented offerings (the "treat") to the spirits that visited their homes, as a way of appeasing them and ensuring that no harm would come their way (the "trick") and that they would have a good year.

Samhain picked up the name "Halloween" from the feast of All Hallows and many popular Halloween activities actually come from paganism and demon-worship, including:

- **Trick or treat:** families would put out food for the ghosts and the demons so that they (the demons) would not harm them.
- **Costumes:** used as disguises so that wandering spirits would mistake people for one of their own and pass them by without harming them.
- **Skeletons, skulls and corpses:** naturally represent death.
- **Jack-o-lanterns:** started out as carved images of spirits. A light was put into a turnip or potato with an ugly face carved into it. The purpose was to frighten the spirits who were thought to invade the earth on Halloween night.
- **Bobbing for apples:** began as a technique for divination, which again deals with the spirits, soothsaying and fortune telling. It was believed that the person who retrieved the apple would have a lucky year.
- **Bonfires:** were used to help the "sun" survive the winter, to frighten off evil spirits; for animals and possibly, human sacrifices.

The Bible tells us that we should avoid wicked customs (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). When you stop to consider all this, it's easy to understand why violence and mayhem are a part of the current-day Halloween "tradition." It's a day of evil, plain and simple. In Detroit, they call the night before Halloween, Devil's Night, and they literally burn things like cars and property. And even until this day, there are still reports about poisoned candy and razor blades in apples.

You should know about the evil associated with this day and we are committed to share this truth with you. Following are some Biblical Scriptures you may read for yourself to gain a better and more knowledgeable understanding of what God has to say about all those things associated with Halloween, including witchcraft, sorcery and divination and most importantly, why we should not partake in them.

Exodus 20:4-6
Leviticus 19:26,31; 20:6,27
Deuteronomy 18:10-14
1 Samuel 6:2; 15:23
2 Kings 17:17; 21:6
1 Chronicles 10:13
2 Chronicles 33:6
Isaiah 8:19; 44:25; 47:9, 12

Jeremiah 14:14; 27:9; 29:8
Ezekiel 12:24, 13:6, 23; 21:21
Malachi 3:5
Micah 5:12
Zechariah 10:2
Acts 8:11; 13:6; 16:16; 19:19
Galatians 5:19-21
Revelation 9:21, 18:23, 21:8

May God bless you and keep you as you come into the knowledge of His will.