

WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN?

Due to the fact that there is so much confusion in the world today about Halloween, I thought I would share with you some things I have learned through the years about this wicked holiday, and why we as a church family do not celebrate this occasion, but instead offer a "Halloween Alternative." Much of this material is quoted from other sources. Please pay close attention and then you decide whether you agree that it is a wicked event to be avoided by every Christian, or one we should help the world celebrate.

Ralph Linton's booklet- "Halloween Through 20 Centuries" says, "Halloween can be traced to pre-Christian times. Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half seriously, its beginning was quite otherwise. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead whose festival fell on November 1."

Who are the Druids? They are an occult order of soothsayers, seers, and satanic priests. An example of their weird practices happened in New England some years ago: A man named Palmer led a Druid Society in New England. They met in Newberry, 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 five 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 gallows. Others were shot. This is all certified by the Justice of the Peace of Newberry, N.Y. (God is truly not mocked!)

Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 12, pp. 857-58- It was the Druid's belief that on Halloween, "Samhain, lord of death, called together the wicked spirits (souls) that within the last 12 months had been condemned and allowed them to inhabit the bodies of animals."

World Book Encyclopedia (1959 Edition), pp. 3245-46, says, "Druids believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, 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.

Why Jack-o-lanterns? World Book Encyclopedia (1977), vol. 9, pp. 24-25 says, Jack-o-lantern is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. "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."

Therefore, we as a church family will have no symbols of Halloween here at our church or in our church activities. Please bring no skeletons, ghosts, witches, cats, jack-o-lanterns or anything associated with the occult and use it in your classes or activities. We will celebrate the Fall season with our Halloween alternative, the "Fall Festival". If anyone dresses up, please make sure that the costumes are Bible characters or other appropriate wear. Please help us keep demonic influences away from our children , and instead of celebrating death, we will celebrate "Life", **REAL LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST!**

I love you in the Lord,

Pastor Stan