

Halloween and Samhain : No Room For Compromise : Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2012 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : October 31, 1998

Last Updated : August 22, 2012

Halloween Challenge, Catholic Practices - All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Day Of The Innocents, Day Of The Dead, Marigold: Flower Of The Dead, Ancient Pagan Rituals Of Mexico, Queen Of The Underworld: Mictlantecuhtli, Lady Of The Dead, Catrina, Santa Muerte: Saint Death, Jose Guadalupe Posada, Experiences With Shintoism, There Is No Conscious Thought In The Grave, Warnings Against Necromancy: Speaking To The Dead, Challenge For Our Children, Faith And Conviction Built On God's Word, Start While They're Still Young, Faith To Stand On Their Own, Is Wearing A Nice Costume A Valid Compromise Solution?, Bible Is Our Body Of Laws And Code Of Ethics, Give No Place To The Devil, Spirit Of Compromise, Contend For The Faith, Separated From The World, Lights In The World, Halloween And Samhain, Theories Regarding Origin Of Celtic Race, Celtic Polytheism, Misinformation Concerning The Name Samhain, No Celtic "God Of The Dead" "Lord Of The Dead" Or Dark "Lord Of Death", Samhain Was A Major Celtic Festival Celebrating End Of The Harvest And Arrival Of Winter Season And Means Summer's End, "God Of The Dead" Theories By Charles Vallency And Godfrey Higgins

Every year, in the United States and elsewhere, sincere, Bible-believing, Christian parents are faced with the challenge of having to explain to their children why they are not allowed to follow the ways of the world, and don a costume on the evening of October 31st, which is known as "All Hallow Eve", or more popularly, as Halloween. Exactly what are Christian parents supposed to tell their young children so that they can begin to understand the long, dark history which lies behind this annual holiday? Perhaps the following information will be of help to you as you tackle this issue with your children.

Halloween marks the eve of All Saints Day, which occurs on November 1st, and is set aside in Catholic countries as a day in which to honor Catholic saints both living and dead. It is followed on November 2nd by All Souls Day. In some Spanish-speaking countries, such as Mexico, together, these two days are known as "El Día de los Inocentes" -- or "The Day of the Innocents" -- and "El Día de los Muertos" -- or "The Day of the Dead". On these two days, typical observers build private altars which are used to honor the deceased. Infants and children are honored on the first day, while the second day is set aside for honoring adults. Objects which are used in the rituals include sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and drinks of the departed. These objects are taken to the graves of the deceased. The marigold is of particular importance in these rituals, and is referred to as "Flor de Muerto" -- or "Flower of the Dead" -- and is believed to attract the souls of the dead to the offerings.

While some people may erroneously assume that these unusual

beliefs and rituals find their origin in ancient Christian teachings, this is most certainly not the case. In fact, the truth of the matter is that, in the case of Mexico at least, they can be traced back to pagan rituals that were performed by the ancient inhabitants of Mexico as far back as 2,500 to 3,000 years ago. These include the Olmec, Zapotec, Mixtec, Aztec, Maya and other native cultures. It seems that the use of sugar skulls in the modern festivities is a throwback to the ancient practice of keeping skulls as trophies, and then displaying them during these rituals, as a symbol of death and rebirth. To emphasize the pagan origin of this festival, consider that in ancient times, the "Day of the Dead" fell in the ninth month of the Aztec calendar, and was celebrated for the entire month.

This festival was dedicated to the goddess Mictecacihuatl, who was the wife of the Aztec god Mictlantecuhtli. In her role as Queen of Mictlan -- or the underworld -- Mictecacihuatl ruled over the afterlife and watched over the bones of the dead. In fact, according to the tradition, it is believed that she was born, and then sacrificed as an infant. Thus, Mictecacihuatl was known as the "Lady of the Dead". In our modern times, she is known in Mexico as both "Catrina" and "Santa Muerte", which means "Saint Death". During the past few decades, the worship of this demoness of darkness has increased, and it is believed that there are some two million worshippers of "Santa Muerte" in Mexico, and in some Mexican communities of the USA. This demoness is usually displayed in the form of a skeleton which is clothed in a long robe. The idol is usually holding one or more objects, the norm being a scythe and a globe.

Concerning "Catrina", this modern name for the Aztec goddess Mictecacihuatl originated with the engravings of a nineteenth century Mexican engraver, illustrator and artist by the name of Jose Guadalupe Posada. In his satirical engravings, Posada depicted "Catrina" as a skeleton wearing fancy clothes. This particular engraving -- titled "La Calavera de la Catrina" -- was meant to serve as a parody of Mexican upper class women, but more recently, it became associated with the "Lady of the Dead" -- Mictecacihuatl -- and the "Day of the Dead" events.

What also bothers me concerning the festival of the "Day of the Dead" is the blatant attempt to attract and communicate with the dead. The Wikipedia website states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Many people believe that during the Day of the Dead, it is easier for the souls of the departed to visit the living. People go to cemeteries to communicate with the souls of the departed, and build private altars, containing the favorite foods and beverages, as well as photos and memorabilia, of the departed. The intent is to encourage visits by the souls, so that the souls will hear the prayers and the comments of the living directed to them. Celebrations can take a humorous tone, as celebrants remember funny events and anecdotes about the departed."

----- End Quote -----

Regarding offering food and drink to the deceased, I am also reminded of my almost three-year stay in Japan almost three

decades ago. As you may know, practitioners of Shintoism -- who basically worship their deceased relatives -- have small altars set up in their homes. These altars contain images of their deceased relatives and other objects. In addition to performing a ritual which involves clapping one's hands and ringing a bell, a Shintoist leaves food and drink for the deceased. I observed this on a regular basis in the home of my guest at that time. In my view, it was a dead, meaningless ritual, because the Bible informs us that the dead are quite unconscious in their graves, as we read here:

"For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?"
Psalms 6:5, KJV

It is my opinion that the reason why there is no remembrance of the Lord in the grave, is because the brain is dead, and there is therefore no conscious thought. In fact, you may be interested to know that in Psalm 88 -- which also speaks of death and the grave -- this state of being is referred to as "the land of forgetfulness", as we see here:

"Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?"
Psalms 88:12, KJV

The author of the Book of Ecclesiastes confirms these very same thoughts when he writes the following:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; or there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV

If there is no knowledge or wisdom in the grave, it can only be because there is no conscious thought. While this is the fate of our physical bodies following death, what about our spirits? For the saved Christian, the scenario is actually quite different. As the Apostle Paul informs us:

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8, KJV

"But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."
Philippians 1:22-24, KJV

As I explain in other articles, the Bible strongly condemns any attempt to communicate with the dead, and refers to it as necromancy, wizardry, witchcraft and sorcery. Consider the following verses:

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."
Leviticus 19:31, KJV

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar

spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."
Leviticus 20:6, KJV

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer."
Deuteronomy 18:10-11, KJV

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"
Isaiah 8:19, KJV

"But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments . . . Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee."
Isaiah 47:9, 12-13, KJV

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
Galatians 5:19-21, KJV

But let us return our attention now to the annual event that we refer to as Halloween; that is, the evening which occurs just prior to the aforementioned Catholic holidays. For some Christian children, particularly those who happen to be of school age, the fact that they must stand out from amongst their peers by not being allowed to wear a Halloween costume to school, can present quite a challenge for them. They may feel uncomfortable and embarrassed; particularly if they do not fully understand why mommy and daddy won't allow them to simply follow the crowd and do as the rest of the children do. However, this doesn't need to be the case, if we take the time to properly prepare our children for this yearly event.

While some Christian parents may feel that a short, simple explanation regarding the ancient, pagan origin of Halloween will suffice, as a Christian parent myself, I believe that it is important, and that we in fact owe it to our children, to strengthen their Christian faith. Blind obedience to our word is not enough. We need to establish a strong conviction in their hearts regarding why we choose to not observe this worldly holiday. The way that we do this is by giving them a strong foundation in the Word of God from the time that they

are young. As God's Word plainly informs us:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6, KJV

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
Romans 10:17, KJV

As I point out in other articles, such as "The Public School System and School Prayer", and "The Plight of the Children", while our children may currently believe as we tell them to believe, someday soon, they are going to have to stand upon their own faith, upon their own moral convictions, and upon their own knowledge of God's Holy Word. Thus, I believe that it is imperative that we begin to establish that foundation while they are still young. We should not procrastinate. We need to start doing it right now. Satan certainly won't wait until we have firmly established our children's faith before he starts to destroy any concept of God that they may have, so why should we be so foolish as to wait on building and strengthening their Christian faith? It is my hope that with this article, I will help you parents to lay that foundation of faith for your children; at least insofar as Halloween is concerned.

In discussing Halloween with a number of my online Christian friends, one man asked me for my opinion concerning the idea of reaching a compromise solution. In other words, he was wondering if it would be alright if Christians simply avoid dressing up in costumes which are obviously symbolic of the negative nature of Halloween -- such as witches, goblins and vampires -- and dress up instead in what he regarded as more "innocent" costumes, such as farmers, cowboys and "Indians", famous movie stars, famous movie and book characters and the like. My immediate reaction to such a question is to ask the following questions:

In arriving at such a decision as this, what was and is your standard of reference? What was and is your department of weights and balances? What moral foundation do you rely upon in order to make such a decision?

For me personally, the answer to these questions is clear. The world has its laws and code of ethics, and we Christians have ours as well. As I explain in a number of my articles, our central Body of Laws which defines the Christian mode of thinking and behavior is quite simply the Word of God; that is, the Bible. So then, if our standard is truly the Word of God -- as it should be -- then according to the Scriptures, we are not to compromise our faith or water down our beliefs in the least. As the Apostle Paul informs us, we are to give no place to the devil, and we are to stand fast in the faith. The Apostle James also admonishes us to submit ourselves to God, and to resist the Devil. Finally, Jude tells us that we are to contend for our faith. Consider the following verses:

"Neither give place to the devil."
Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be

strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13, KJV

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Galatians 5:1, KJV

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

Philippians 1:27, KJV

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."

Philippians 4:1, KJV

"For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 3:8, KJV

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

2 Thessalonians 2:15, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Jude 1:3, KJV

By simply choosing to wear costumes which we feel are less offensive, or which remind us less of the evil nature of the Halloween celebration, we are in essence compromising with Satan instead of outright resisting him. We are likewise compromising with the world and lowering our standard. We are not truly standing fast in our Christian faith, and much less contending for our faith as we have been instructed to do.

We are clearly told throughout the Scriptures that we are a called-out people. We are a separated people from the world. In other words, we are not to think like them; we are not to act like them; we are not to talk like them; we are not to follow their latest fashion of dress simply to fit in with them; and we are most certainly not to follow their pagan customs, traditions and rituals. In short, as I have shared many times before, and as James and Paul both wrote, we are not to be friends of the world; because this is committing spiritual adultery against our true spiritual Husband; that is, Jesus Christ. Please consider the following verses:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

John 17:14-16, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

Please ask yourself this: How can we shine as lights in the world, as the Apostle Paul writes in the previous verse, if we do everything in our power to blend in with the rest of the world? Obviously, we cannot. In fact, we are doing the exact opposite of what Jesus told us to do, as we see by the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38, KJV

As a sincere Christian, surely you the reader can agree that the Word of God is the primary Standard that all Christians should follow; and that all of the verses I have shared thus far are a part of that Standard. That being the case, there should be absolutely no doubt then that there is no room for celebrating Halloween -- or any other pagan, secular holiday for that matter -- in the lives of Bible-believing Christians. Even if we endeavor to do away with the evil nature of the occasion -- that is, the increasingly-realistic, evil costumes which portray witches, demons, warlocks, the walking dead and other ghoulish things -- it still does not dismiss the simple fact that the origin of the Halloween holiday is steeped in the occult, and is not rooted in the doctrine of Christ and the Christian faith.

Let us now take a more in-depth look at the source of this gruesome holiday. Halloween finds its origin in an ancient Celtic -- properly pronounced "Keltic" -- festival known as Samhain. According to historical sources, the Celts were an ancient, pre-Christian, tribal people of central Europe who in time migrated as far north and west as Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Brittany. Today, these areas of Great Britain are referred to as the "Six Celtic Nations" because the ancient Celtic culture and languages of Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton are still practiced and spoken to some degree in these regions.

There are also some remaining Celtic influences in Portugal and Spain; although the Celtic languages are no longer spoken there. In ancient Roman manuscripts, the Celts are referred to as Gauls. They inhabited what is today known as France and northern Italy. The Romans, in fact, waged a series of wars against the Gauls/Celts -- known as the Gallic Wars -- at the time of the Caesars.

While this is the predominant view concerning the origin of the Celtic race, over the decades a few other theories have been proposed as well, which haven't received quite as much traction. These theories place the Celts' origin in Armenia, Iran and India, and possibly even in Greece; although it is supposed that the similarity to the Greeks may possibly be a result of their original, alleged migration from Iran.

In a religious sense, the Celts were polytheistic; that is, they worshipped many gods. In fact, some sources state that they worshipped literally hundreds of gods and goddesses. A few of their more notable gods and goddesses include Lugh, Dagda, Boann, the Morrigan, the Fomorians, the Tuatha De Danann, Ogma, Brighid and Epona. But at this point in our discussion, there is one name in particular which I wish to discuss with you. That is the name "Samhain".

According to my research, apparently for quite some time now -- many decades in fact -- certain erroneous information has been propagated regarding the name "Samhain", by a number of Christian writers and Christian websites. According to these writers, Samhain was supposedly the name of one of the gods of the Celts. More specifically, Samhain was the Celtic "God of the Dead, "Lord of the Dead" or the dark "Lord of Death". At least so say these particular Christian writers.

When I first came upon this information, I found it unusual; because in the years that I have been a Christian writer, I had never heard this before. So, being a careful writer who endeavors to present only the facts as clearly, accurately, and honestly as possible, as is my usual custom when writing a new article, I researched the matter for myself. I surfed the web looking for any credible information that might link the name "Samhain" with these various phrases; that is "God of the Dead, "Lord of the Dead" or "Lord of Death".

Contrary to what was being stated by these other Christian writers, I found absolutely no historical or archaeological evidence to support the belief that Samhain was the name of a so-called Celtic "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead", or dark "Lord of Death". What I did find was information which confirms what I had already learned previously concerning Samhain, which I will now share with you.

Samhain -- pronounced "so-win", "sah-van" or "sow-in" -- was one of the four major festivals that was celebrated by the ancient Celts. It occurred at the time of the Fall harvest, and marked the arrival of Winter. Samhain was celebrated on October 31st, and was followed a day later by the Celtic New Year on November 1st. According to McBain's Etymological Dictionary of the Gaelic Language, "samhuinn" -- which is the the Scots Gaelic spelling -- literally means "summer's end". Other sources confirm these very same facts, as we can easily determine by the following:

Patrick Dineen's "An Irish English Dictionary", published in Dublin, Ireland in 1927 by the Irish Texts Society, states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Samhain, All Hallowtide, the feast of the dead in Pagan and Christian times, signaling the close of harvest and the initiation of the winter season, lasting till May, during which troops (esp. the Fiann) were quartered."

----- End Quote -----

Malcolm MacLennan's "A Pronouncing and Etymological Dictionary of the Gaelic Language", published in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1979, states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Hallowtide. The Feast of All Souls. Sam + Fuin = end of summer."

----- End Quote -----

J.C. Cooper's "The Dictionary of Festivals", published by HarperCollins now-defunct imprint Thorsons in London, England in 1995 states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Samhain or Samhuinn: (Celtic). 31 October, Eve of 1 November, was the beginning of the Celtic year, the beginning of the season of cold, dearth and darkness."

----- End Quote -----

As you can see, all of these sources confirm that Samhain was the name of a Celtic festival which occurred at the end of the harvest; bid farewell to the Summer and welcomed the arrival of the Winter season; and celebrated the Celtic New Year on November 1st. It was also a festival to honor the dead. It was by no means the name of a Celtic "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead" or dark "Lord of Death", as has been erroneously promoted by certain misguided and overly zealous Christian writers. Furthermore, I also discovered that neopagans such as the Wiccans -- who celebrate eight annual festivals which they refer to as "Sabbats" -- don't acknowledge the existence of a "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead", or a dark "Lord of Death" named Samhain in their modern belief system.

According to one theory -- which I was not able to fully confirm, because certain web pages are no longer online -- the idea of Samhain being associated with a Celtic "God of the Dead" or "Lord of the Dead" may have originated during the Eighteenth Century. This theory posits that in 1770, a certain colonel named Charles Vallency authored a series of six books -- the name of which I do not know -- in which he endeavored to prove that the Irish originated in the nation of Armenia. Whatever this man wrote, apparently, some of his ideas regarding Samhain being a Celtic god were picked up a few decades later in a book that was written by one Godfrey Higgins in 1827. In his book, Higgins endeavored to prove that the Druids originated in India. It has been suggested that Higgins may have become confused with an ancient god that is found in the Hindu sacred scriptures -- the Vedas -- by the name of Samana.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Halloween and Samhain : No Room For Compromise : Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2012 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : October 31, 1998

Last Updated : August 22, 2012

Lady Francesca Wilde And "Ancient Legends, Mystic Charms And Superstitions Of Ireland", November Spells: Raising The Dead Lady Wilde On Baal Fires Moloch Worship And Human Sacrifices, Wilde Used "Prince of Darkness" And "Evil One" For The Devil, The Marriage Of Irish Celtic Paganism And Roman Catholicism, Misguided Christians Promote Samhain As A "God Of The Dead", Festival To Celebrate End Of The Harvest And Honor The Dead, Origin Of Wearing Costumes And Masks On Halloween, Warding Off Evil Spirits And Garlic Bulbs, Necromancy Divination And

Other Evils, Wiccan Celebration Of Samhain, Druids: Celtic Priesthood, Violent Head Hunters And Homosexuals, The Roman Catholic Church's Compromise And Marriage To Pagan Beliefs, Saint Patrick And The Shamrock, Our Modern Bastardized And Hybridized Form Of Christianity, Babylon The Great Is The Mother Of Harlots, All Saints Day And All Souls Day, Eve Of All Hallows, Sanctify Saints And Holy, Halloween Observance Arrives On American Shores, Becoming One To Win People To Christ, Celtic Bonfire Purification Ceremonies, Evil That Is Disguised As Harmless Innocent Fun, Very Profitable Holiday, Wearing Innocent Costume Is Still Compromise, Don't Be Double Minded, Choose Your Side, Don't Fellowship With The Darkness

Six decades later in 1888, Jane Francesca Agnes -- an Irish poet and nationalist later to be known as Lady Wilde, Lady Francesca Wilde and "Speranza" -- published "Ancient Legends, Mystic Charms and Superstitions of Ireland, with Sketches of the Irish Past". This book delves deeply into Irish legends regarding the Sidhe; that is, the fairies of Ireland. In some of the stories and legends which are contained in the work -- which number many dozens -- Wilde amply discusses the Devil, the walking dead, curses, a Baal festival during midsummer at which time bonfires are lit, and other topics related to the dead and dying. For example, in "November Spells" she writes as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The ancient Irish divided the year into summer and winter; Samrath and Gheimrath; the former beginning in May, the latter in November, called also Sam-fuim (summer end). At this season, when the sun dies, the powers of darkness exercise great and evil influence over all things. The witch-women say they can then ride at night through the air with Diana of the Ephesians, and Herodias, and others leagued with the devil: and change men to beasts; and ride with the dead and cover leagues of ground on swift spirit-horses. Also on November Eve, by certain incantations, the dead can be made to appear and answer questions; but for this purpose blood must be sprinkled on the dead body when it rises; for it is said the spirits love blood. The colour excites them and give them for the time the power and the semblance of life."

----- End Quote -----

Hoping to find some specific mention of Samhain being a "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead" or a dark "Lord of Death", I read close to a dozen of Lady Wilde's stories and legends. However, I was not able to find anything which supported the claim. But I persisted, and eventually I found the following quotes in different sections of her lengthy introduction to the book. As you can see, she mentions lighting fires to the false god Baal, offering human sacrifices to the Prince of Darkness, sacrificing animals to Moloch -- or Molech -- and serpent worship:

----- Begin Quote -----

"There is also a belief that every seven years the fairies

are obliged to deliver up a victim to the Evil One, and to save their own people they try to abduct some beautiful young mortal girl, and her they hand over to the Prince of Darkness . . . The Baal fires are still lit at Midsummer, though no longer in honour of the sun, but of St. John; and the peasants still make their cattle pass between two fires; not, indeed, as of old, in the name of Moloch, but of some patron saint. . . . We are told also by the ancient chroniclers that serpent-worship once prevailed in Ireland, and that St. Patrick hewed down the serpent idol Crom-Cruadh (the great worm) and cast it into the Boyne (from whence arose the legend that St. Patrick banished all venomous things from the island). Now as the Irish never could have seen a serpent, none existing in Ireland, this worship must have come from the far East, where this beautiful and deadly creature is looked upon as the symbol of the Evil One, and worshipped and propitiated by votive offerings, as all evil things were in the early world, in the hope of turning away their evil hatred from man, and to induce them to show mercy and pity; just as the Egyptians propitiated the sacred crocodile by subtle flatteries and hung costly jewels in its ears."

----- End Quote -----

While I only read a small portion of Wilde's book -- about a dozen legends, plus her introduction -- my impression is that in employing phrases such as "Prince of Darkness" and "Evil One", she is in fact referring to the Devil and not to a "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead" or "Lord of Death" who is called Samhain. In fact, in the previous quote that I shared with you, she even uses the phrase "others leagued with the devil". Therefore, it is safe to assume that when she writes "Prince of Darkness" and "Evil One", she is also using these as descriptive terms for the Devil.

This view that Wilde is referring to the Devil, and not to a Celtic god named Samhain, is supported by the fact that in her book, not only does she repeatedly refer to the Christian faith, but she informs her readers that when Christianity -- or more specifically, Roman Catholicism -- was introduced to Ireland by Saint Patrick during the second half of the Fifth Century, it was embraced by the Irish people. However, in her introduction, Lady Wilde writes the following in which she makes it clear that embracing Roman Catholicism did not mean forsaking the old Celtic pagan belief system:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Christianity was readily accepted by the Irish. The pathetic tale of the beautiful young Virgin-Mother and the Child-God, for central objects, touched all the deepest chords of feeling in the tender, loving, and sympathetic Irish heart. The legends of ancient times were not overthrown by it, however, but taken up and incorporated with the new Christian faith. The holy wells and the sacred trees remained, and were even made holier by association with a saint's name. And to this day the old mythology holds its ground with a force and vitality untouched by any symptoms of weakness or decay."

----- End Quote -----

As you will see momentarily, this marriage between Irish and

Celtic folklore and pagan rituals and Roman Catholicism has been an ongoing practice within the Roman Catholic Church for many centuries now, and it is a worldwide phenomenon. At any rate, as a result of the aforementioned writings by these different authors, during the course of the past one hundred plus years, a number of religiously conservative Christians have made the mistake of not seriously researching the matter concerning the origin and significance of Samhain. Instead, they have simply embraced the false belief that Samhain was the Celtic "God of the Dead", "Lord of the Dead" or "Lord of Death". While like its Roman Catholic counterpart -- the Day of the Dead -- Samhain is a festive period which is in part dedicated to honoring the dead, let me reiterate again that, as far as I know, there is no god named Samhain involved in this pagan festival.

Please note that my purpose in sharing this information with you is not to in any way downplay the demonic influences that are associated with Samhain, or Halloween, as they are easily apparent to any Bible-believing Christian. Rather, it is to make you aware of the fact that in their desire to condemn Halloween -- as we obviously should -- some of our misguided Christian brethren are promoting ideas which appear to be at the very least inaccurate.

To reiterate what I stated in part one, in Irish-Gaelic and Scottish-Gaelic cultures, Samhain marks the supposed death of the Sun at the beginning of Gheimrath -- that is, the Winter season in November -- and the beginning of the long period of darkness, while Samrath marks the beginning of the Summer months -- or Samrath -- the following May when days are long and sunny. It is a festival and observance which is very much tied to agriculture and the end of the harvest, and preparing for the cold Winter months. The Wikipedia website notes the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The medieval Goidelic festival of Samhain marked the end of the harvest, the end of the "lighter half" of the year and beginning of the "darker half". It was celebrated over the course of several days and had some elements of a Festival of the Dead. Bonfires played a large part in the festivities. People and their livestock would often walk between two bonfires as a cleansing ritual, and the bones of slaughtered livestock were cast into its flames."

----- End Quote -----

In addition to lighting bonfires which were used as a means of purification, the ancient Gaelic customs associated with the Winter festival of Samhain also included wearing costumes and masks. This was apparently an attempt by these ancient peoples to either copy the evil spirits, or perhaps to ward them off. As I have mentioned before, in some Latin American countries, wreaths made out of garlic bulbs are used for the very same purpose of warding off evil spirits to this very day. The Wikipedia website notes the following, and explains how these pagan rituals became a part of the annual American tradition called Halloween:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Guisers -- men in disguise -- were prevalent in the 16th century in the Scottish countryside. Children going door to door "guising" (or "Galoshin" on the south bank of the lower Clyde) in costumes and masks, carrying turnip lanterns, offering entertainment of various sorts in return for food or coins, was traditional in the 19th century and continued well into the 20th century. At the time of mass transatlantic Irish and Scottish immigration, which popularized Halloween in North America, Halloween in Ireland and Scotland had a strong tradition of guising and pranks."

----- End Quote -----

At the same time, as we have already seen, people of Celtic origin believe that Samhain marks a time when the invisible veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead is thinner, thus permitting the spirits of the departed souls to socialize with living humans. Therefore, the dead are invited to enjoy meals with them, and they honor them on this day, just as many Roman Catholics do on the Day of the Dead, or "El Día de los Muertos", as we learned in part one.

In other words, in its original form, the festival of Samhain clearly involved practices which are condemned in God's Word, including necromancy -- that is, communicating with the dead -- and divination, or endeavoring to foretell one's future. Furthermore, as Lady Wilde noted, in ancient times, prior to the arrival of Roman Catholicism, Celtic religious rituals also involved worship of Baal, human sacrifice every seven years to appease the Prince of Darkness, and honoring the god Moloch, or Molech.

As I briefly mentioned in part one, modern neopagans such as the Wiccans celebrate eight annual festivals each year which they refer to as "Sabbats". Of the four "greater Sabbats", Samhain is considered the most important by many Wiccans. The Wikipedia website notes the following concerning the Wiccan belief system:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Samhain is one of the eight annual festivals, often referred to as 'Sabbats', observed as part of the Wiccan Wheel of the Year. It is considered by most Wiccans to be the most important of the four 'greater Sabbats'. It is generally observed on October 31 in the Northern Hemisphere, starting at sundown. Samhain is considered by some Wiccans as a time to celebrate the lives of those who have passed on, and it often involves paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets and other loved ones who have died. In some rituals the spirits of the departed are invited to attend the festivities. It is seen as a festival of darkness, which is balanced at the opposite point of the wheel by the spring festival of Beltane, which Wiccans celebrate as a festival of light and fertility."

----- End Quote -----

Allow me to share additional information with you concerning the practices and beliefs of the Celts. As should already be clear to you, similar to a number of other ancient cultures,

many Celtic beliefs and rituals were based upon the worship and observance of nature. The priests of Celtic society were known as the Druids. They were considered to be intellectuals insofar as class structure was concerned. The Wikipedia website states the following concerning the Druids:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Druids fulfilled a variety of roles in Celtic religion, as priests and religious officiants, but also as judges, sacrificers, teachers, and lore-keepers. Druids organized and ran the religious ceremonies, and they memorized and taught the calendar. Other classes of druids performed ceremonial sacrifices of crops and animals for the perceived benefit of the community."

----- End Quote -----

There are some other rather disturbing aspects regarding the ancient Celtic culture. For example, according to the German scholar Paul Jacobsthal, whose area of expertise was Greek vase painting and Celtic art, the Celts had a reputation for being notorious head hunters. In his 1944 study entitled "Early Celtic Art", Jacobsthal states that "Amongst the Celts the human head was venerated above all else, since the head was to the Celt the soul, centre of the emotions as well as of life itself, a symbol of divinity and of the powers of the other-world." This reminds me of what we learned in part one regarding the ancient native tribes of Mexico keeping skulls as trophies, and then displaying them during their rituals, as a symbol of death and rebirth.

In reality, Jacobsthal was only reiterating what had been stated earlier by Greek historian Diodorus Siculus; who in his First Century work entitled "Bibliotheca Historica" -- that is, "Historical Library" -- had this to say concerning Celtic head hunters:

----- Begin Quote -----

"They cut off the heads of enemies slain in battle and attach them to the necks of their horses. The blood-stained spoils they hand over to their attendants and striking up a paeon and singing a song of victory; and they nail up these first fruits upon their houses, just as do those who lay low wild animals in certain kinds of hunting. They embalm in cedar oil the heads of the most distinguished enemies, and preserve them carefully in a chest, and display them with pride to strangers, saying that for this head one of their ancestors, or his father, or the man himself, refused the offer of a large sum of money. They say that some of them boast that they refused the weight of the head in gold."

----- End Quote -----

It seems that necromancy, divination, human sacrifices, the worship of the false gods and head-hunting were not the only dark aspects of ancient Celtic society. According to Greek and Roman writers such as Aristotle, Ammianus, Athenaeus, Diodorus Siculus and Poseidonius, while Celtic women were said to be quite beautiful, nevertheless, homosexuality was quite rampant within Celtic society. Men preferred to sleep

with other men, rather than with their own women. In fact, some of these writers state that Celtic men freely offered themselves to passers-by.

As I briefly mentioned earlier, and more amply point out in such articles as "Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed" and "Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope", many centuries ago, in order to expand their sphere of power and influence, the original founders of the Roman Catholic Church -- that is, Emperor Constantine I and the wayward Christian bishops who associated themselves with him during the Fourth Century -- chose to compromise our faith, by adopting -- and in fact absorbing -- many pagan beliefs and practices.

In other words, these irresponsible men "Christianized" some of these pagan feast days and practices, in order to attract the pagan masses into the Roman Catholic fold. Rather than risk offending the masses, by telling them that they had to forsake their ungodly pagan ways, the Roman Catholic Church preached a socially-acceptable Gospel. They preached a Gospel which would be popular, and which would thus be embraced by many people, because it did not involve personal sacrifice, and it did not require one to forsake his erroneous beliefs. It was a non-offensive, feel-good religion, just like we see being preached and practiced in the so-called "Christian" United States of America today.

As we discussed earlier, in her book, Lady Francesca Wilde notes that one reason why the ancient Irish -- the Celts -- found it so easy to embrace Roman Catholicism, is because it did not require them to forsake their own pagan beliefs regarding fairies, communicating with and entertaining the dead, etc. They merely combined these two very different belief systems into a new bastardized form of Christianity.

One simple example involves the shamrock, or what we in the United States refer to as the three-leafed clover. No doubt many of you are familiar with the false belief that finding a four-leafed clover will bring a person luck, as if luck is a real thing. In ancient Ireland, where this all began, the three-leafed shamrock was regarded -- and continues to be regarded -- as being sacred. Many people saw its color and shape as symbols of rebirth and eternal life. Furthermore, the number three was also regarded as a sacred number; and within their pantheon of gods and goddesses, a number of so-called "Triple Goddesses" existed. These include Brighid, Eriu and the Morrigan. Eriu was the daughter of Ernmas of the Tuatha De Danann. To this day, she is in fact regarded as the matron goddess of Ireland, and the nation is named after her.

When St. Patrick returned to Ireland during the latter half of the Fifth Century as a Roman Catholic bishop, rather than frown upon the beliefs surrounding the three-leafed shamrock, according to legend at least, he instead informed the Irish that it symbolized the Holy Trinity of the Roman Catholic Church. In other words, as I explained a moment ago, Patrick "Christianized" what was clearly a pagan belief; and this is but one of many examples. In similar fashion, the pagan gods and goddesses were simply replaced with the worship of Roman Catholic saints. I won't even get into how the Catholics use the so-called "relics" of saints. It is rather disgusting.

As a result of the compromised evangelization tactics which were employed by the early Roman Catholic Church, holidays such as Easter, Halloween, and Christmas came into existence, and that is just the tip of the ice berg. For many centuries now, this wayward church has used the very same methods to expand its power base throughout the world. It has created a hybridized, bastardized form of Christianity where just about anything is allowed -- or at least purposely overlooked -- as long as Roman Catholicism remains the dominant religion in a nation. The Roman Catholic Church is very much like Babylon the Great who has compromised with the world, and who rides the Beast in the Book of Revelation. Sadly, she is called the "Mother of Harlots" for a reason. Many of her daughters now do the very same thing. They promote a bastardized and compromised form of Christianity, and people love it.

In the case of Samhain -- or Halloween, if you prefer -- as we discussed in part one, the Roman Catholic Church declared that the first day of November would be celebrated as "All Saints Day". This edict was then followed by November the 2nd being declared "All Soul's Day". It should be noted, however, that "All Saints Day" really began at sundown on the evening of October the 31st. Thus, the night of October 31st became known as the "Eve of All Saints Day", or as the "Eve of All Hallows".

The word "hallows" is actually derived from the Greek word "hagiazō". This word signifies "to sanctify" or "to be holy". Similarly, the Greek word "hagios" means "saints", or "most holy thing". This explains why when the Lord was teaching His followers how to pray to our Heavenly Father, in the English King James Version of the Bible it is translated as "hallowed be thy name"; that is, "holy be thy name", or "sanctified be thy name", as we see in these two verses:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."
Matthew 6:9, KJV

"And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."
Luke 11:2, KJV

In the Old Testament, the word "hallowed" is derived from the Hebrew words "qadash" and "qodesh". These words have the very same meaning; that is, to sanctify, to consecrate, to hallow, or to dedicate. That is why we are the Saints of the Most High God. That is, because we have all been set aside from the world, and have been consecrated and dedicated to God's service. For more information regarding this topic, please refer to such articles as "Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?".

But to continue, "Eve of All Hallows" was eventually shortened to simply "Hallow Even", then to "Hallow E'en, and ultimately today, to our current form of "Halloween". This then is how an ancient, pagan, Celtic festival called "Samhain" -- with all of its attachments to necromancy, human sacrifices, head hunting, homosexuality, spells and curses, fairies, Baal and Molech worship, bonfire purification rituals, costumes and

masks, grotesque carved pumpkin heads -- they were originally carved from turnips -- witches, pranks, etc., arrived on our American shores. Rather than discourage these pagan beliefs and practices, when the Roman Catholic Church's emissaries arrived in Ireland, as we have seen, they did what they have always done -- and continue to do -- for the sake of power and expanding their religious and material empire. They in fact compromised our faith.

Please understand that becoming one with the people as the Apostle Paul instructs us to do in order to win souls to the Kingdom of God is one thing. Compromising, corrupting and polluting our faith with pagan beliefs and practices for obviously selfish reasons is quite another. As Paul writes:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you."
1 Corinthians 9:19-23, KJV

Regarding the ancient Celtic bonfire purification ceremonies, I am reminded of the huge bonfires that our high school used to make just prior to our football games. I am not even sure if such high school bonfires are still permissible, being as they could be quite dangerous if not managed properly.

With the knowledge that I possess now, it really makes me wonder if behind all of the high school fun, there may have been a more sinister and unspoken purpose for our bonfires, such as making an offering to the false gods, in the hope that our team would win the game. As crazy as that may sound to some of you, you just never know. We all need to recognize that there is a lot of evil in the world today which has been cleverly disguised as harmless, innocent fun; just like the annual Halloween celebration. I can only wonder how much more demonic Halloween has become since I was a kid so many years ago.

Considering the dark, pagan history that is behind Samhain, or Halloween, perhaps you can now begin to understand why I -- as well as many other Bible-believing Christians -- am strongly opposed to allowing our children to participate in this annual holiday; which, by the way, has become extremely profitable for merchants. Unless I am mistaken, after the Christmas holidays -- and possibly Easter -- Halloween is the most profitable holiday for merchants. Young or old, a lot of people simply enjoy dressing up and pretending to be someone else. They also enjoy allowing the darker side of their personality to reveal itself when it is permissible to do so, such as on Halloween.

In my opinion, just because a person chooses to wear a more innocuous outfit instead of a witch's costume doesn't really change a thing. It is still participating in a worldly event

which has pagan origins, which is not condoned by God, and which most certainly does not glorify Him in the least. This holiday -- Samhain or Halloween -- only glorifies the forces and works of darkness. To wear a less foreboding costume is a cheap compromise. Furthermore, as I have already pointed out, compromise and political correctness happen to be two of the primary sins of the modern Christian Church.

It seems to me that to simply wear a nicer costume instead of an evil-looking one, is akin to the Biblical practice of trying to switch light for darkness, and darkness for light. It is also being double-minded, and trying to have one foot in God's Kingdom, while the other is still set in the world and the Devil's Kingdom of Darkness. As you may know, the Prophet Isaiah wrote some very serious words regarding this issue. Jesus, as well as the Apostles John, Peter and Paul, and other Biblical figures likewise warn us of the serious nature of fellowshiping with the works of darkness, and advise us to choose our side. Consider these verses:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"
Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."
Matthew 12:30, KJV

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."
Romans 13:12, KJV

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."
1 Corinthians 10:21, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? . . . Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:14, 17-18, KJV

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
Ephesians 5:8, 11, KJV

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"
Colossians 1:13, KJV

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5, KJV

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."
James 1:8, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"
1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"
1 John 1:6, KJV

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15, KJV

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."
1 Kings 18:21, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Halloween and Samhain : No Room For Compromise : Part 3

Copyright 1994 - 2012 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : October 31, 1998

Last Updated : August 22, 2012

Spiritually Blinded And Hardened Of Heart By The God Of This World, We Are Not Of This World, Entangled With The Affairs Of This Life, Don't Be Ashamed Of Your Faith, In The World But Not Of The World, Keep Ourselves From The Evil, Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil, Engulfed By Toxic Spirit Of The World, Love Not The World, Be Sober And Be Vigilant, Come Out From Among Them, Glorify God In All Things, Be Not Conformed To This World, Think Different, Spiritual Adultery With The World, Distribute Gospel Tracts, Temples Of The Holy Spirit, Candy Or Natural Treats?, Make Your Opposition Clear, Decide For Yourself, Irate Parents And Possibility Of Persecution, Sharing The Series, Let Your Children Learn Through Personal Witnessing To Let Their Spiritual Lights Shine, Reading List

For those of you who may still be having a problem with this issue regarding Halloween, in spite of the many Scriptures I have shared with you, not to mention the dark history of the Samhain festival, allow me to ask you a few questions: Are you a part of the Kingdom of God, or are you a child of the world who follows the god of this world; that is, the Prince of the Power of the Air, who is also known as Satan and the Devil? Is it possible that you have been blinded to the truth due to the hardness -- or spiritual blindness -- of your own heart? Have you become a child of disobedience due to your own self-imposed deception? Again, please carefully consider the truth that is found in the following verses:

"He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."
John 12:40, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

While the previous Scriptures are dealing more directly with faith in Jesus Christ, the lesson they share can really be applied to any Scriptural truth which we choose to ignore or resist. As I clearly pointed out in part one, Jesus and some of the other writers of the New Testament said that while we are in this world, we are most certainly not a part of it. Let me remind you again that the Apostle Paul shared this wise counsel with Timothy concerning our war of the spirit, and our need to remain separated from the world:

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

So allow me to ask you: Are you entangled in the affairs of this life? Have you compromised your faith so much, that you have hidden your spiritual light under a bushel? Is it even possible that you have blended in so well with the world that your family and friends, and even strangers, don't recognize that you are a follower of Jesus Christ? If so -- and I don't know that it is, because we each find ourselves in different situations -- is it possible that you have sunk so low in a spiritual sense because you are ashamed of your faith, and of your Lord and Savior? Is celebrating Halloween -- or Samhain -- just one of the many things that you do in order to blend in with the world? Or do you do it just because it is fun, even though you know that it is wrong to do so? That amounts to rebellion.

As we learned in part one, if there is one thing that Jesus and the writers of the New Testament teach us, it is that we must not be ashamed of our Christian faith. Please consider the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
Mark 8:38, KJV

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
Romans 1:16, KJV

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."
2 Timothy 1:12, KJV

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,"
Hebrews 2:11, KJV

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."
Hebrews 11:16, KJV

As you can plainly see, if we are ashamed of Him, then He will likewise be ashamed of us. In contrast, if we boldly proclaim our Christian faith, and don't hide our spiritual light under a bushel, He will not be ashamed to be called our God. It is as simple as that. We either do one or the other.

In the previous verses I shared with you from the Gospel of John, in addition to saying that His followers were not a part of the world, Jesus also prayed that His Father would not take the Apostles out of the world; that is, He would not take them to be with Him through physical martyrdom, or by some other means. Rather, Jesus prayed that His Father would allow His followers to remain in the world for the time being, so that they could be a witness for Him. Let me share those verses with you one more time:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They

are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."
John 17:14-16, KJV

I have seen a number of Christians misinterpret what Jesus said in these verses. In a word, being in the world, but not of the world, is simply no excuse for behaving just like the rest of the world. We are supposed to stand out. As children of the Lord, we are supposed to be different. As we saw in part one, the Apostle Paul wrote:

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
Philippians 2:15, KJV

We are certainly not letting our spiritual lights shine, or being blameless before the Lord, if we are celebrating the ancient, pagan Celtic festival of Samhain each year, are we?

Notice what else Jesus prayed for in the previous verses. He asked His Father to keep His followers from the evil of the world. That word "keep" is translated from the Greek "tereo", which actually means to guard, or to preserve. The Apostle Paul takes this even a step further and writes that we must also avoid the appearance of evil. In his first Epistle to the Thessalonians, Paul writes as follows:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."
1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV

So please ask yourself this question: If you are a Christian, and if you participate in the annual Halloween celebration in any way, shape or form, are you truly being kept from evil? Are you really guarding and preserving yourself from evil? Are you avoiding the appearance of evil? Most certainly not! You are in fact going right along with the rest of the pagan world in a subtle way; even if your costume may be a little nicer and not as dark or grotesque. It is still a compromise. As I said a moment ago, it is like trying to have one foot in the Kingdom of God, while the other is planted firmly in the Devil's Dark Kingdom. You simply cannot serve two masters as Jesus plainly teaches us in the following verse:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
Matthew 6:24, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, I fully understand that we each find ourselves in different kinds of situations. We each have our own responsibilities and priorities. Not everyone is called to be a foreign missionary, or a preacher, pastor or priest. Some of us are married, while others are not. Some of us are parents of young children, while others are not. Some of us are employed at secular jobs, while others are not. However, regardless of our personal situation, there is one thing we are all required to do by the Lord. That is to avoid evil, and to not bring reproach to the Name and Cause of Christ. How does celebrating Halloween fit into this Christian code of ethics?

It should be clear to you by now that we Christians should

not engage in the world any more than what is necessary for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While we must be faithful emissaries to the world of the message of God's Love and Salvation, we must also strive to remain a separate and holy people unto the Lord. This means that we must avoid engaging in worldly ways and conduct, as much as lies within us. I know; it is not an easy task; because the spirit of the world is like a toxic gas all around us, and presses in on us at every possible turn. While we can in large part control this negative spiritual onslaught within our own homes -- if we so choose -- the minute we step out the door, it is quite another story. We are immediately engulfed in the Babylonian world of sight, sounds, colors and every possible pleasure of the flesh. Of course, this is by Satan's design; for as we read in part one:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."
1 John 2:15-16, KJV

And then there is this as well:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
1 Peter 5:8, KJV

The point is, there are already enough negative influences working against us in the world, even without us purposely engaging in certain activities which are displeasing to our Heavenly Father; such as celebrating Halloween, or Samhain. As I shared with you in part two, in his second Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul wrote the following:

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"
2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

While Paul was referring to pagan idol worshippers in the previous verse, the principle still applies to Halloween; because it too is an ancient form of pagan worship which was introduced to us by the Celts -- or Irish -- with the help of the misguided Roman Catholic Church. As we have now learned, Samhain worships and glorifies -- and in fact entertains -- the forces of darkness, and the spirits of the dead; and we are not to fellowship with such things. Paul writes "touch not the unclean thing". Is there any doubt that Halloween is an unclean thing? It is even celebrated after dark. It does not glorify God -- who the Scriptures tell us is the Father of Lights -- in any way whatsoever. Following are some more verses for your personal consideration:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
James 1:17, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord

commendeth . . . Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:17-18, 31, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."
2 Corinthians 10:17, KJV

In his Epistle to the brethren at Rome, Paul likewise writes something which directly relates to the idea of Christians remaining separated from the world. In the second chapter of that Epistle, Paul states the following:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:2, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "conformed" is derived from the Greek word "suschematizo". This word is pronounced as soos-khay-mat-id'-zo. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon it means to conform or to fashion one's self; that is, one's mind and one's character, to another's pattern. In other words, as I explain in other articles, what Paul is actually saying is "Don't think like the children of the world. Think different. Let God's Spirit transform and renew your mind, so that you may know what His perfect Will is for your life."

It is clear that by participating in Halloween, we are doing exactly what Paul advises us not to do. We are not thinking differently, and we are in fact conforming ourselves to the ways of the world. We are demonstrating to the people of the world that we are their friends -- please remember James 4:4 -- and that we are just like them. We are not coming out from among them -- as Paul advises us to do -- or being Christian witnesses who uphold Biblical truth. In contrast, if we have the mind of Christ, we will not do this. We will endeavor to not make ourselves the enemies of God by committing spiritual adultery with the world. In reality, this rule applies to any other secular holiday as well, because most of them are of pagan origin, or else they worship some human figure, which is likewise strictly forbidden in the Bible.

To reiterate an earlier point, trying to sanitize Halloween by dressing up in less offensive costumes which don't remind us of the festival's dark, pagan history is still a complete compromise. Even if your children don't wear such costumes, other children -- and adults -- more than likely will. Thus, nothing has really been gained. Those Christian parents who do allow their young children to wear nicer costumes, are still demonstrating their support for a heathen holiday that is steeped in pagan rites and beliefs. Therefore, I remain convinced that the most appropriate Christian response which we can give in order to demonstrate our clear disapproval of this pagan celebration, is to completely stop participating in the practice of going door-to-door in order to obtain sweets.

Before concluding this series, allow me to address one final issue. Being as Halloween will be celebrated by some people regardless of what we Christians do or say, is there any way in which we can use the event to our advantage in order to

glorify God?

Actually, there is, if you feel so led of the Lord. What I suggest is that you consider preparing a stack of Salvation tracts which you can freely pass out if and when the young -- and old -- trick-or-treaters come to your doorstep. I suggest that your Gospel tracts contain an easy-to-read message that is specifically designed for the intelligence level of young children, who will more than likely comprise the majority of the trick-or-treating crowd. It would be wise to prepare your pamphlets either that same morning, or even the night before, so that you are not caught unprepared when the first crowd arrives that evening.

Regarding passing out the traditional pieces of candy along with your tracts, personally, I am opposed to this idea. As a parent myself who is greatly concerned about my child's health, I consider it a thoughtless, irresponsible, unloving act for parents and school teachers to give children piles and piles of Halloween candy which may quite possibly lead to eventual tooth decay. As I explain in other articles, the Bible informs us that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. As such, it is our responsibility to take good care of them. In his first Epistle to the Corinthian brethren, the Apostle Paul writes the following:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

I considered the possibility that perhaps it would be alright to pass out healthy snacks along with the tracts. This might include fruit, little boxes of raisins, bags of peanuts, etc. However, in my view -- you may not necessarily agree with me -- distributing snacks to the children is still a compromise solution. By doing this, you are still making it appear as if you are in support of Halloween. Some people may simply think that you are just more health conscious than other parents. As a result, they may miss the main message which you are really trying to convey to them; which is that due to your Bible-based Christian beliefs, you don't accept Halloween at all.

In contrast, by distributing Salvation tracts alone, you are being a witness of your Christian faith, and driving home the point that you don't embrace Samhain; that is, Halloween. The choice is really up to you. You must make your own decisions based on your own knowledge and understanding of God's Word, and what you personally believe is His Will for you. As the Apostle Paul also writes in his Epistle to the Romans:

". . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."
Romans 14:5b, KJV

I should caution you that if you do decide to pass out tracts on Halloween evening, you should be prepared to possibly face some degree of persecution. Depending upon what part of your country you live in, and your particular neighborhood, there may be a few parents -- such as atheists, for example -- who don't appreciate what you are doing, and who may become very

irate upon discovering a Gospel tract in their child's bag. The more devilish ones may even go as far as to complain to the authorities. If you should find yourself in this kind of a situation, simply smile and remember this:

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"
1 Peter 2:19-21, KJV

Before concluding this series, allow me to offer one final suggestion. If you have young children of your own who may be tempted to engage in Halloween activities, I encourage you to share parts of this series with them, as you feel appropriate. Depending on their age level, you may have to paraphrase it for them. Impress upon them through the Word, why we Christians frown upon the Halloween celebration.

To drive the lesson home with your children, you may even want to allow them to be the ones who stand at the door when the children arrive for their Halloween snacks. By passing out Salvation tracts themselves, your children can begin to learn to boldly stand up for their Christian convictions. By distributing the tracts to their neighborhood friends, they will also be living examples of their faith. Furthermore, it will teach them that genuine faith is accompanied by works for the Lord as well. They will learn what it means to have a living faith, and not a dead one. They will also learn at a young age to place their spiritual light where others can see it, and not simply hide it under a bushel. Let me remind you again of the following verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
James 2:26, KJV

If you would like to further study this topic, you may wish to read such articles as "Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?", "This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future", "Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed!", "Sluggards and Sloths: Are You Diligent and Faithful in the Affairs of God's Kingdom?" and "Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service".

With these remarks, I will bring this series to a close. My prayer is that it will strengthen and perhaps renew your own convictions regarding Samhain, or Halloween. If you are one

who has found yourself sitting on the fence concerning this issue, I also hope that with the knowledge I have given you here, it will inspire you to make the right decision for the Lord's glory. Please don't allow yourself to be pressured into compromising with the ungodly ways of the secular world due to weak faith.

If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page, and thus share this series with your friends. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Our Pagan World: The Easter Myth Exposed

Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service

Pontifex Maximus: Pagan High Priest to Roman Catholic Pope

Sluggards and Sloths: Are You Diligent and Faithful in the Affairs of God's Kingdom?

Striving for Perfection: Are You a Sinless Saint?

Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed!

The Plight of the Children

The Public School System and School Prayer

This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>