

Happy Halloween?



By Arthur Bailey

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On October 31st we note that most urban and suburban streets will be filled with trick or treaters knocking on doors looking to have their bags loaded up with sugary treats to munch on for the hours and days ahead. I remember the days we used to go out with a goody bag. Man, and I'm telling you, we would come home with that bag stuffed. </p>

Studies show that on Halloween, children between the ages of five and fourteen are 4 times more likely to be killed by a car on Halloween than any other day of the year. Now that's a startling fact and you wouldn't think that. I mean, people are concerned about razor blades in apples, and poison in candies, and pedophiles, but the truth is that a child is more likely to die from a car accident from running house to house, across the street back and forth, and not paying attention to the actual traffic. </p>

Most in society see Halloween as the day of harmless fun for the young and old alike. You are going to be surprised at the information on the power point slides today. The studies showed that **more adults celebrate Halloween than children.** </p>

As believers and followers of Yeshua, what should be our response to Halloween?

When we abandon the truth, we make things up. That's just the bottom line. When we refuse to celebrate what Yehovah commands us to celebrate, we create things to celebrate, and we've created a lot of them:

- Birthdays
- Mother's day
- Father's day
- New Year's Eve
- All the recognized pagan holidays we get from the government.

And there is a bunch of them. I mean, I leave home sometimes not realizing that it is a government holiday. I'm going to do my business and I don't realize that the banks are closed.

Post offices are closed and some businesses are not working, all because of government holidays that are given and people celebrating. </p>

Before Israel celebrated Yehovah, they indulged in pagan celebrations. And what you are going to find, ladies and gentlemen, is that the reason we create things to celebrate is because we are people who like to party. When you think about it, one of the highlights of a young person leaving home going to college is not to get an education, it is to party. The focus is on the party. Even elementary schools are having dances so the young children can party, dance, and have fun. Schools have constant parties and parents are constantly being “hit up” to support various functions: send money for this and to pay a child’s way for that. </p>

In Acts it says:

- *Acts 7:37-38 (New International Version) 37 “This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’[a] 38 He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us. 39 “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. 40 They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’*

Now for the most part, based on Cecil B. DeMille and the movie, “The Ten Commandments,” we’ve all grown up believing that there was only one idol god and that was the Golden Calf, but the fact of the matter is that there were several gods that were made by Aaron while Moses was up on the mountain. </p>

Now, the Israelites and the mixed multitude have come out of Egypt. They are at the base of the mountain where Yehovah has communicated to them all. Moses is gone up into the mountain and because he was gone longer than expected, they decide to throw a party. Look at the rationale for that party. They are going to have a party and their party must include something to worship. Now the focus on the idol god was that, **this is now the God who brought us out of the land of Egypt**. So in some way, the people always seem to want to incorporate “the God who brought the people out of Egypt” into their celebration. </p>

Now it's interesting, even in this country, people when they come to Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, Christmas, Easter and some of these other holidays, they want to seemingly support these celebrations with a scripture or a word from the Almighty. You see, this is what justifies the celebration of this thing or that day. We incorporate the Almighty into our celebrations and now we don't feel as if we are doing something that is of pagan or idolatrous origins. </p>

The people in the desert told Aaron to, "make us a God who will go before us. Moses is gone, we don't know what happened to him. He has been up there for a long time, but we don't feel like we can go forward unless we have some kind of god, and in this case, it is the god that we will make with our own hands." </p>

This is idolatry: we make something up with our own hands or our own imaginations and then we attribute some type of scriptures, some type of belief, to it so that now it doesn't seem like we're just going out to lunch in idolatry or have become totally pagan. We have some semblance of the Almighty in our conscious and we want to incorporate Him in what we do. </p>

- *Acts 7:41 (New International Version)* ⁴¹ *That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made.*

"As for this fellow Moses, who led us out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and held a celebration in honor of what their hands had made. </p>

- *Acts 7:42-43 (New International Version)* ⁴² *But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets:*

*"Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?"*

*⁴³You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek
and the star of your god Rephan,
the idols you made to worship.
Therefore I will send you into exile' beyond Babylon.*

Father has always had an issue about worshiping Him in conjunction with or worshiping something other than Him in **His presence**. The interesting thing is that **we're always in His presence**. See, there is no place you can go where you are not in His presence, but because our finite minds have the tendency to think that if we're not in the presence of believers, or the structure of the church, or if we're in some type of place where darkness and idolatrous things are permitted, then obviously the Almighty doesn't see what we're doing. The concept of **omniscience** and **omnipresence**, that the **all-knowing Almighty is everywhere at the same time**, this idea has a tendency to slip our minds because we are people who look, and who walk by sight more than we walk by faith. </p>

Now you can say that you are a person who walks by faith, but you know what is in your heart. At least I know what is in mine, and I have to tell you there are times when I have to remind myself that I am a believer in Messiah and a son of the Almighty. I have to be reminded of the need to walk by faith especially when things were not happening the way I think they should be happening. </p>

- *Acts 7:44-45 (King James Version) ⁴⁴ Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;*

Now here is a second place in the Bible besides the Book of Hebrews where translators translated Jesus instead of Joshua. The King James Version has at least two of these verses where Joshua was the correct translation but instead it's Jesus. </p>

So up until David, there was all these things taking place. Remember, Saul lost his kingdom because he did a few things that the Father didn't particularly like. One, he was

rebellious, he did his own thing even after he received the instructions of the Almighty. The Almighty said you go there and you destroy everything, but instead Saul decided he was going to keep some stuff. And for what purpose? That he might use those things to worship. </p>

The other place Saul rebelled was when he literally went to a witch. You are going to find that the central person or focus of Halloween is depicted by a witch. We going to see why it is that the Father has such a problem with witches. And how is it that his people dress their children up and dress themselves up as a witch and celebrate?

- *Acts 7:46-47 King James Version) ⁴⁶Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But Solomon built him an house.*

So David came in and brought unity to Israel and Solomon maintained that unity until his death and then Israel went into different paths.

Now how shall believers of Messiah deal with Halloween?

On your job, you are going to have people say “Happy Halloween!” There’s going to be a day when folks will dress up. Now maybe not everybody’s job. There are some folks who don’t have to deal with that, but many of you are in secular employment. You know you’ll have to deal with some of this stuff. And those of you who have children in school, you know that you are going to be dealing with some of this stuff. And whether or not you are in secular employment or your children are in school, when you go to the super market, when you go to the mall, and when you go to certain places of business, the decorations are out there. The spider web, the black cats, the candy at the bank, the wrapping on the candies that are given to your children. The lady at the super market, and the woman at the Wal-Mart, and the fellows, will give you Halloween greetings.

Whether you celebrate or not, you are surrounded just like the children of Israel. The father brought them to a land where they were surrounded by all of these people who didn't particularly worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And just as they were surrounded, we are even more so surrounded. Because unlike the children of Israel who had a land where their enemies had been driven out, we live in the land where our enemies are our next door neighbors, and in some cases, in our own house. How should we deal with it in the marketplace, even in our neighborhoods? I dare say that every one of you in this room live in a neighborhood where there is some form of Halloween decorations.

Is it a Christian Holiday? NO!

Now with that being said, here some facts. How did it originate. Halloween evolved out of a **Catholic holiday** called All Hallows Eve, which occurs the day before All Saints Day. All Saints Day was generally celebrated on November 1st after Pope Gregory changed it from its original date of May 13th. So Halloween was never a Christian holiday. It was the day before All Saints Day. In the Orthodox Church, All Saints Day continues to be celebrated in late spring on the first Sunday after Pentecost, which in turn is seven weeks after Easter.

Pope Gregory III is commonly credited with moving it in the 9th century to November 1st, although the reason for the move is debatable. When there is no real information, speculations begin to arise. A twelfth century writer suggested the change of the day was because Rome could support larger numbers of pilgrims in November than in May. It is interesting that Rome is the same size in May as it is in November. Some have even suggested that the change was made because of the weather. Another argument is that All Saints Day was moved to November 1st to co-opt a Celtic Irish celebration called Samhain.

Is Halloween Pagan? Yes!

The Pilgrims banned the celebrating of Halloween in America because of its pagan roots. As a matter of fact, Halloween was not celebrated in America until 1845. And it is surrounded by the understanding that during this particular time, a large flood of Irish emigrants came to this country during the Potato Famine of 1845 -46. They brought with them the old Druid holiday of Halloween. Gradually, celebrating Halloween spread throughout the rest of the country.

The common practices associated with Halloween such as costuming and giving of treats is associated with pagan and now secular celebrations. Now what is really interesting is that even when the All Saints Day was being celebrated, it had absolutely nothing to do with candy and costume wearing. It was really celebrating; in some cases, people worshiped the dead.

Almost all stories about the origin of Halloween correctly state that Halloween had its origin among the ancient Celts and is based on their "Feast of Samhain." However, a writer in the 18th century incorrectly stated that Samhain was named after the famous Celtic "God of the Dead." Many religious conservatives who are opposed to Halloween, Druidism, and or Wicca picked up this belief without checking its accuracy, and accepted it as valid. Now when you do a search trying to find Samhain, "God of the Dead," you are hard pressed to find an original source. However, you will find it in the books of religious writers.

So one of the things you have to understand about books, ladies and gentlemen, and I've said it before. If I write the first book on a subject, and I do the research, then, because of writer's requirements, I now have to quote my resources whenever I write a book. So, now those who write on this subject (all future writers on that topic) after I write the first book, are going to start quoting me. Then, the author of the third book is going to quote the writer of the second book and me. Now, what if my information is wrong; then I would be a correct quote, but the information is still wrong. So now, all the reference material you find on Samhain, "God

of the Dead, is written by Christians who quoted other Christians. Why? Out of fear because they wanted to demonize something that was already demonized. They just didn't know how to do it.

Modern day Samhain is the day when many Wiccans believe that their God dies, later to be reborn. (Wicca is a Neo-pagan, Earth centered religion.) Thus, Samhain is not the name of a God of death; it actually began as a yearly observance of the death of a God.

Wicca is the only one who really takes credit; of course there is Druidism. The Wiccan web site mentions: "Samhain (October 31), most often recognized as our New Year, is also called Ancestor Night. It represented the final harvest, when the crops were safely stored for the coming winter. As the veil between the worlds of life and death is thin on this night, we take the time to remember our beloved dead."

You see, in this country, New Year's Day is January 1st. New Year's Eve is celebrated December 31st. The Bible points out that the New Year is the beginning of months; which is in the month of the Aviv. Aviv is the condition of the barley crop when it is ripe, or the head is full. Nisan is the Babylonian name for the first month of the year; Nisan has absolutely no meaning other than a name of a month. However, religious Jews celebrate the New Year in the seventh month and they call it Rosh HaShanah.

So you have many New Year's celebrations just as you have traditional New Year's celebrations that are not biblical. So, you have other religions that have their New Year's. When I was in the Missouri Synod Lutheran, when I was in the Baptist Church, when I was in the Christian Reform, every one of those organizations had their own church calendar. The church calendar usually referred people to the actual bulletins that would now be practiced within these congregations around the world beginning on the same particular day. So that all of the

congregations, no matter where you were, they would be reading from the same bulletin, reading from the same scriptures, and probably preaching the same sermons. Even today, sermons are sent from headquarters to the different pastors in those denominations to make sure that the pastor over the Australian congregation is preaching on the same topic at this particular time in the church calendar as the pastor in Japan who is preaching in that denomination. Now this probably evolved out of, you know, the Torah portions. Where you have people around the world all reading the same verses, the same portion, no matter where they are in the country or outside of the country, to put everybody on the same page.

The Wiccans say Halloween represents the final harvest, when the corps were safely stored for the winter. They go on to say that the veil between the worlds of life and death is thin on the night we take to remember our beloved dead. "Samhain" is the name of the holiday. There is no evidence of any god or demon named Samhain.

Now one of the things about Christians is, Christians always like to come up with names of demons and spirits. One of my Facebook friend's former elder, talked about a spirit of Gorbachev; now there is a Russian dictator spirit. Some of you may be familiar with the spirit of Jezebel, and with the spirit of Jezebel there's a spirit of Ahab. You know you have all kinds of Leviathan spirits. You got spirits as long as the year is long because people are constantly creating spirits to associate with some kind of activity, practice, or behavior. If a woman is strong, she's got a Jezebel spirit. Why can't a sister be strong and not have a Jezebel spirit? Because if she is permitted to be strong, her husband must have an Ahab spirit because he is weak. There is no demon named Samhain.

A fellow by the name Rowan Moonstone, who is a Wiccan (Wiccan here is in reference to witch), comments: "I've spent several years trying to trace the 'Great God Samhain' and I have YET to find seminal sources for the same. The first reference seems to be from Col. Vallency in the 1700s and then Lady Wilde in her book *Mystic Charms and Superstitions* advances the 'Samhain, lord of the dead' theory. Vallency, of course, was before the work done on Celtic religion in either literature or archaeology."

The *Irish English Dictionary*, published by the Irish Text society, defines Samhain as follows: "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."

The *Scottish Gaelic Dictionary* similarly defines Samhain as: "Hallowtide. The Feast of All Soula. Sam + Fuin = end of summer."

J.C, Cooper, author of the *Dictionary of Festivals* identifies Samhain as: "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."

I'm bringing this information to you because the term Halloween is associated with a season, a time of year, October 31st. Now of course when it came down to Pope Gregory changing it from May to October, there is not a whole lot of history associated with his reasoning. As a matter of fact, it is still debated why he all of a sudden changed the day of worshipping All Saint's Day, acknowledging the saints that were dead, to a totally different day.

But you'll notice the same thing was done when it came down to the idea of Christmas. It is celebrated in different parts of the world. Everybody is not celebrating it on the same day. The East and the West are different as it relates to what day this particular holiday is supposed to be celebrated. So because people couldn't really come to some conclusion or get into the mind of Pope Gregory, they felt he must have done it in order to Christianize a pagan practice. That's the logical conclusion, although there is no fact because Pope Gregory didn't say why he did it. He just did it, and of course being a Pope, if you do a thing, all your followers have to follow the thing you did.

Wiccans have attempted to reconstruct the ancient Celtic religion. They include this festival as one of their 8 Sabbaths (seasonal days of celebration). Now you say, "Wiccans have a Sabbath!" Let me tell you something, every religion has some kind of Sabbath. They call it a convocation; in some cases, it's a High Sabbath. And on these particular days individuals put a greater emphasis on their deity. In this particular case, one of the eight Sabbaths, is a seasonal

day of celebration. They do not acknowledge the existence of a “god of the Dead” named Samhain or a similar deity by any other name. Modern-day Druids and other Neo-pagans also celebrate Samhain as a special day.

Now let me tell you something, ladies and gentlemen, before we go one step further, **every believer should always be suspect if you are worshipping something you consider to be religious, holy, and the world which is not holy celebrates it as well.** Now you can try and take Christmas and put Christ in it, or whatever the case may be, but let me tell you something, if you’re celebrating some day that the world is celebrating and the world doesn’t worship your Elohim, celebrating on that day is suspect and should raise a red flag. So either they are trying to take something from you, or you are trying to take something from them, you can’t have it both ways.

Easter, how is it that Easter is celebrated by the World and the church? How is it that Christmas is celebrated by the world and the church? How is it that Halloween is celebrated by the world and the church? And, now the world rages over who those holidays rightfully belongs to when none of these are in the bible. And if it is not in the bible, how can you lay claim to it?

Let the world have Christmas, we don’t want Christ. Maybe you do, I don’t. I want Yeshua. I’m not trying to get Christ. I don’t want him, I don’t want the stuff that is associated with him. “Are you not calling yourself a Christian?” No, I’m not. No, I am not a Christian. So if you are looking for a Christian minister, you are in the wrong place. I used to be, but I crossed over.

Richard Bucher, one of my former colleagues, from the Massachusetts congregations of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod writes: “Nothing in the extant literature or in the archaeological finds supports the notions that there ever existed a god of the dead known as Samam, (sometimes spelled, ‘Samhain,’ pronounced ‘sow –en’), though hundreds of god’s names are known... Rather, Saman or Samhain is the name of the festival itself. It means “summer’s over” and merely referred to the end of one year and the beginning of the new.

The Germans celebrate Oktoberfest. Many churches celebrate the Fall Harvest. Why? Because they are not celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. Some people make Tabernacles and Thanksgiving the same. Those folks want to put some god in it that we should celebrate. Some say, Thanksgiving is a Christian holiday? And, I am thinking, okay, where is that at in the Bible? Listen, it's either Thanksgiving or Tabernacles, so which one is it?

Now understand that most of the holidays, Easter and Christmas, were given to us by the Catholics and they took some bible verses, associated them with the holiday, and therefore the holiday is supposed to be biblical. When the fact of the matter is, that is not the case.

Churches that celebrate the Fall Harvest are doing just that. They are not celebrating Tabernacles. Many churches celebrate the Fall Harvest in association with Halloween as an attempt to put Christ in the holiday. This picture is of one of the churches in my neighborhood. Several churches around this city, for some reason, the churches here in Charlotte are fascinated by selling pumpkins and jack o'lanterns. How in the world did jack o'lanterns become a part of the church? We know there's history as to who celebrated with the jack o'lantern.

I was driving down the street and was watching all kinds of people in this particular church yard buying pumpkins and over in the corner you see a round bale of hay with a face of a jack o'lantern painted on it. The parents are taking pictures with their children with the jack o'lantern in the church yard. There it is, a better picture of it. All for the sake of taking this pagan holiday and making it Christian. And then on the church yard sign, one side reads: "people are a little like jack o'lanterns"; and on the other side the sign says: "God removes the icky stuff so his light can shine." That sounds so sweet. I mean it, just makes your heart melt.

There is Nothing Christian about Halloween.

This is the primary focus of it:

- One, it deals with **death**. Everything around Halloween seems to be acknowledging the dead. Even All Saint's Day is acknowledging the remembrance and the worship of the dead.

- Two, there's **fear and horror**. All of these little ghostly, ghoulish dressed up children. The music, the sound. During this time of year, when you turn on TV, there are all kinds of horror flicks. During this time, all types of sadistic, horrific flicks come to the movie houses.
- And, three: **evil, devil worship and the occult**.

These are all attributes of Halloween. No matter how much you put Christ in it, it doesn't remove these things from it. **There is absolutely no Christian significance to be found in Halloween.**

I don't need to tell you Messianics that. But you know, I know that a lot of people who come in into this ministry are either still Christians or former Christians or crossing over. You say, "You know brother, why are you so tough on the Christians?" See, when I look at Christianity, it is hard to separate Christianity, Christ from Christmas, and Jesus, from all the other things that Christians generally relate to the removal of all the things Torah. There is no Sabbath, there are no Feasts, except the feasts that have been created by the Christian church. They are not celebrating Passover; they are not celebrating Unleavened Bread, they are not keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, they are not celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles or observing the new moon of Yom Teruah, or Yom Kippur. Christians say, "Jesus did it all and we don't have to do anything; just believe." So I'm not trying to be hard on Christianity, just exposing it for what it is.

Halloween is a day witches celebrate. The Maine State Prison allowed members of a witch coven (the Coven of Dawn) to hold a two-hour service on the feast day they call Samhain [Halloween], after the Druidic festival of year's end. And it was stated that "this is our time to give praise to our lord and lady for the bountiful harvest," said the founder of the 'goddess-oriented' coven.

When you associate yourself with Halloween, by associating yourself with the things of Halloween; you can't just take what you want from it and leave the rest. It's all there. The founder of the coven said that 75 inmates have been initiated into the religion since its start in

1981. This report is from Observations, 11/87, by way of the “What in the World!” Information Sheet.

In an October 1989 issue of the Baptist Bulletin Magazine, it reported, in the News Section, “A U.S Air Force physical therapist who says she has been a practicing witch for four years won permission to take Halloween and seven other days off as religious holidays.” And I would say that those other days weren’t the High Sabbaths of the Feasts of Yehovah. A spokesman, at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, said regulations require that Patricia Hutchins ... be accorded the same freedom to express her religious beliefs as any other religious believer.

So you got Christians celebrating a day that known witches, identified witches, are celebrating. Isn’t that interesting? “Those witches, Oh! Jesus, they stole our holiday.” No they didn’t! The Pope changed the day. It was theirs to begin with. When asked “Does anyone today celebrate Samhain (Halloween) as a religious holiday?” a major witch’s organization responded, “Yes, many followers of various pagan religions, such as Druids and Wiccans (witches), observe this day as a religious festival.”

You can research this stuff. This is all readily available, so you don’t have to take my word for anything; just look it up. You’ve got the power points and these power points live on into perpetuity as long as our web site is up, and YouTube, and Live Stream. So you can go back and see these. As a matter of fact, you know this too is going to be part of our discipleship training and we’re going to transcribe this. So, even if the government takes over the internet and you get these power points, and get the transcriptions, make sure you download them, that way you have a hard copy.

And he said, “Yes, many followers of pagan religion, such as Druids and Wiccan or witches, observe the date as a religious festival. They view it as a memorial day for their dead friends similar to the national holiday of Memorial Day in May.”

You know we get Memorial Day off, but Memorial Day is the day to honor the dead. Now is there something wrong with honoring the dead? You be the judge of that.

“It is still a night to practice various forms of divination concerning future events. Also, it is a time to initiate new projects. (From Cult Watch Response, October 1988, Vol. 1, No.1). “

The fact is, Halloween and all its practices are associated with witchcraft. The bulk of the world has been desensitized to witchcraft evidenced by record breaking sales from movies like the Harry Potter series and the Twilight series. Almost every young person on the planet has seen Twilight. What is Twilight about? Vampires, and sorcery, and witchcraft and yet it is one of the highest grossing series in America movie history. And in the movie industry, it is second only to Harry Potter. And think, that’s amazing that this Christian society has spent so much money, along with the Brits, watching vampires, sorcerers, and witchcraft on the big screen and eating it up.

This is why Yehovah said to listen, when you get into this land, you make sure you drive all of those people out, because if you don’t, you’ll end up doing the things that they are doing. You will worship me like they worship their god. You’ll participate in their practices. Don’t let your sons marry their daughters; don’t let your daughters marry their sons; because if you do, you will lose your own children.

Let me tell you something, let’s just be clear about it, ladies and gentlemen, following Yehovah is not for wimps. You have got to die to some stuff; you have to die to yourself; you have to put yourself down on purpose in order for Him to live in you. The world doesn’t want to do that. They just want to bring God and put him in the mix of what they are worshipping and what they are practicing, so they don’t have to give up anything and still have Him. That’s the world we live in; this is where our families are, this is where our children are, this is where the neighborhood kids are, or children are.

I’m trying to change my language. I don’t refer to children as kids anymore because I looked it up and kids are usually associated with goats which are wild and unruly. There are definitions, there are things that are associated with words. When you speak words, you speak the things that are associated with those words by virtue of spirituality. As spirit beings, our words are spirit. You can take it lightly if you want to, but I am just refining me. Sometimes we don’t think and just say, “Look at those kids over there playing.” What were they doing? They

were playing; they are wild, they are unruly. My children are not kids and neither are yours. When you want to call them kids, don't start complaining that they are becoming wild and unruly as you have pronounced wild and unruly over them by the very words that you are using to identify them.

Halloween spending in the United States this year is estimated to reach 6.9 billion dollars. This is a little down from 2012 when 8 billion dollars were spent. More adults will participate in Halloween than children, and here are the stats.

- Between the ages of 18 to 24, 85.3% will celebrate Halloween.
- Between the ages of 25 to 34, 76.5 % will celebrate Halloween.
- Adults between 35 to 44 years of age, 71 % will celebrate.
 - 74 % of the nation is in the range of 35 to 44 years of age.
 - 47.5 % will decorate their home or yard.
 - 43.6 % will wear a costume.
 - 13.8 % will even dress up their pets.

These statistics are done from your credit card purchases. The statistics help analysts project the amount of money going to be spent this year compared to what was spent last year.

There are companies that only show up this time of year. You are driving down the street looking over at the mall and there's a big Halloween sign. You've drove pass that place before; you've driven down that street, many times. But, you've never seen that sign before. It shows up during this time and when the season is over ... Guess what? They're gone. What were they doing? They were taking advantage of these statistics; that they are gathering from your spending habits. There are people who are watching your spending, especially those of you who use credit cards. Nationwide, these are the percent who:

- Plan on celebrating Halloween, 68.5 %,
- Plan on wearing a costume, 43.9 %
- Will also dress their pets, 11.5 %
- Plan to throw or attend a party, 34.3 %
- Will hand out candy, 73.5 %

And this is where you are caught in the whole Halloween spirit. Because when they come knocking on your door, trick or treating, you are going to open up the door and hand out some candy, some of you.

“Why are you doing that? You are celebrating Halloween.”

“Oh, no! I’m just being a good neighbor. “

“Being a good neighbor!?! You just don’t want your tree full of toilet paper. You don’t want the trick, so you hand out the treat.”

You can go and find out all the history behind the trick or treaters. I’m just trying to give you some facts.

- Persons who will carve a pumpkin, 47.8
- Persons who will visit a haunted house 22.9%
- Parents who will take their children trick or treating 32.9 %
- Households that will decorate their home or yard 49.5 %
- Persons who plan to use last year costume 16.6 %
- Persons who plan to make their own costume 18.9 %

Now the fabric people want this information because it will tell them what type of fabric, what style of fabric, what design of fabric to offer this time of year.

The top children’s costumes for 2013 were:

- Princes, 8.2%, 3,815,104
- Animals, 6.1%, 2,819,860
- Batman, 5.4%, 2,488,111
- Action/super hero, 5.1 %, 2,363,706
- Spider man, 3.9 %, 1,824,615
- Vampires, 2.0 %

Top adults costumes for 2013:

- Witch 19.6%, 5,141,241
- Batman 5.4%, 2,920,225
- Vampire 5.0 %, 2,714,575
- Zombie 4.4%, 2,344,406
- Pirate 3.8%, 2,056,497

Look at this, you have over 10 million of your neighbors looking like vampires, witches, and zombies during this Christian holiday.

So what does Yehovah say about witches?

- Exodus 22:18 (King James Version) ¹⁸Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

I know that people who are dressing up like witches aren't really witches. Or are they? What type of deviant behavior do they display? I mean, imagine what type of mindset does a person have that helps them to determine they are going to get dressed up like a witch instead of dressing up like a playboy bunny. Really, now, what is the difference? Really, there is none. There is a deviant mindset behind the mask.

I was looking at a report yesterday; there's a whole other reason now to become concerned about Halloween. That is the diseases that they are findings in these masks. When you go to the mask shop, and you try on that mask, imagine how many faces, before your face, tried on that mask. A study was done, they went into a mask shop, and they bought twelve masks. Every one of the masks was sent to a scientist who swabbed them and begin to identify the difference types of bacteria that was in those masks. All twelve of those masks had a variety of bacteria growing on the inside of that mask. They were startled.

- *Deuteronomy 18:9-12 (King James Version) ⁹When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.¹⁰There 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.¹¹Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.¹²For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

You see, when you separate yourself from the Torah, all things become permissible. "Paul said all things are permissible but everything is not, you know, expedient. All things are lawful, but everything is not expedient." You don't understand what Paul is saying because Paul is not saying that witchcraft is lawful. He is not saying that consulting with familiar spirits, palm readers, and the most harmless of them all is that daily zodiac sign in the paper, it is not lawful. And you know that App that you might have on your phone that identifies what kind of day that you are going to have. "Today, what does my horoscope

say? Oh! You will have a great day today. As a matter of fact you going to meet someone that ..." Then you think, "Ohhhh! I would like to meet somebody today that's going to answer all of my problems." So you are going through the day looking for this person that you're supposed to meet. And where did you get your advice from? Yehovah? The Holy Spirit? "Oh yeah, God can use astrology, he can use anything."

You see the mixing. Because the moment you divorce yourself from the commandments, from the law, this stuff doesn't matter anymore. There are no boundaries; there are no restrictions; there is nothing that is off limits. Yehovah specified things off limits for his people. Because the moment you step over the line, there are a whole bunch of lines you find yourself over before it is all said and done.

And of course if you are Christian and they are selling jack o'lanterns on the church yards and you are taking pictures and sending it to your friends and family and now you are saying to them you don't celebrate Halloween. What's wrong with you?

Pope Gregory! Pope Gregory! Now wait a minute, you want to use Pope Gregory now, but doesn't your church believe that the pope is the Anti-Christ.? Hold it! Because you want to do what you want to do. You use what you want to use, or what makes sense that you can use, to do what you want to do. And that you don't want to do, you use the very same things to argue against it: Pope Gregory!

- *Deuteronomy 18:9-12 (King James Version)* ⁹ When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

See, growing up there were games, for example, Dungeons and Dragons, Ouija Boards and all kinds of other things and games that people saw as harmless games. Some individuals played the games online and played with people in other countries and in other states. There was one fellow, he got so obese; I mean so obese that he had stuff growing off of him. All he did was drink diet coke by the gallons and play these video games. **He became possessed.**

Now do you think Yehovah sees any difference in you playing like you are witch and in an actual witch? Why would one of His people play like they are a witch? Worse yet, why would one of His people dress up as a bible character on Halloween? Because you know you got to sanctify this pagan day! “I’m not going to dress up like a witch, a ghost, or a goblin, or a necromancer, or sorcerer, or Madonna. Instead I will dress up like a bible character or an angel. See I will bring holiness to an unholy festival. Hallelujah!!”

And then there were some folks in our ministry, and I went with it for one year; it was Hallelujah Night, “We have to redeem Halloween.” How are you going to redeem Halloween? The same way you are going redeem Christmas! Yeah, the more you try to redeem Christmas, the more you become entangled in it. “We don’t bow down to the Christmas tree. The reason I celebrate Christmas is because, you know, it is Jesus’ birthday.” Then where did you get that from? Where is that in the Bible? Just because they read you Bible stories on Christmas, doesn’t mean it is in the Bible.

Now the works of the flesh. This is what we are dealing with, the works of the flesh, the desire to celebrate with the world.

- *Galatians 5:19-20 (King James Version)* ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

It’s amazing how many of Yehovah’s people would much rather celebrate the same holidays the world around them is celebrating, while at the same time **reject Yehovah’s Holy Days**. This is what Christians do! “Well we ain’t under the Law. Halloween was instituted by Pope Gregory! Well, we ain’t under the Law, but we do celebrate Easter because that is the resurrection. Oh! We ain’t under the Law, but we celebrate Christmas, because that’s Jesus’ birthday. “

And where do you get this foolishness from? That would be my question.

On Halloween there is going to be a lot of adultery, fornication and uncleanness because Halloween is the license to do whatever you want.

I know a couple of years before we left Michigan, Detroit Michigan was almost burnt down as a city. There was so much crime that year on Halloween; it is amazing the crime stats. I looked at some crime stats, and during Halloween, it is a huge issue. Another issue is that there were people who were trying to pass a law that pedophiles would have to put on their doors, "NO CANDY HERE". And so the focus was that there would be pedophiles abducting children on Halloween because this would be a pedophile's mecca. But in the study, what they found out was that most children who are sexually molested, are molested by family members. And that the percentage of sexual molestation among children on Halloween was lower than a child being poisoned by candy. But that was the whole issue: can we make some stricter laws on pedophilia, being that these innocent children, kids, are out looking for candy? Do you understand what I am saying? I purposely used kids there. Because a lot of them are grown. As the research shows, more adults celebrate Halloween than children.

So what I decided to do with this particular teaching is to end with a question. And then to begin to have some dialogue.

The chances of you getting from now to next Sabbath without someone offering you something, wishing you a "Happy Halloween," or something associated with Halloween, is slim to none. What will you do? How do you respond to someone who is offering you those tasty treats and the pumpkins, and all of that wonderful stuff? Because if you really wanted to use this time as an opportunity to share the Truth, one of the ways you could start is by sharing the truth behind the reasons why those tasty treats are being disseminated in the work place. And those tasty treats are typically going to be something orange, orange frosting, something looking like jack o'lanterns, something looking with little witches and black cats, black sheep and goblins and spider webs in the decorations. The work place will be decorated, for those of you who work in secular work places.

The chances of you getting from now to next week without someone offering you a tasty treat, wishing you a "Happy Halloween," or something associated with Halloween, is slim to none. What do you do?

Should believers in Messiah celebrate Halloween?

If you believe so, why? And if you don't, why not?

How do you deal with this? Those of you joining us online, I am posing the same questions to you. I'm sure there's plenty of chat on the subject already, but that's how we are going to close today. We are going to have just a little bit of dialog.

Who I would like to hear from is someone who feels there's nothing wrong with it. You're not going to be attacked, but you need to explain yourself from a scriptural perspective and justify your behavior. Not to us, because you can keep your mouth shut and leave here and rebel on Halloween and we will know absolutely nothing about it. Guess what, Yehovah knows it. He will see it, and how do you justify that before Him. Because the bottom line is, He is the one you have to justify to anyway, not me. So this is an opportunity for you to craft your argument to Yehovah when you are standing in judgment giving a reason why you celebrated Halloween.