

August 3, 2022

## **Halloween And The Occult**

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

First, let me ask, do you believe in Satan, demons, witches and do you believe in life on other planets?

Some people find the negative in everything! Bible preachers of the past have warned people of Hollywood's excesses and its conveyance of immoral values. Prognosticators of doom warned of a New World Order, a global economy, and a New Age religion. Alarmists saw danger lurking around every corner and doom on every horizon. They saw the Devil in everything they considered disagreeable. They were able to outshine Chicken Little-hands down.

This enlightened generation now rests perfectly safe in the knowledge the sky is not about to fall. But all those other disturbing predictions are bearing fruit. We've been warned not to trifle with the occult. We've heard frightful stories about Ouija boards, tarot cards, and altered states of consciousness. Nevertheless, each October 31 we dabble with the occult and the satanic. Even worse, adults annually pass off this filtration with evil upon their children. And although thousands of young people become entrapped each year by Satanism, cults, the drug culture, spiritism, necromancy, and other forms of divination and occult practices, parents continue to ridicule those who insist that trifling with the occult is unhealthy, unwise and ungodly. Divination means; prediction using spirits: the practice of attempting to communicate with the spirits of the dead in order to predict or influence the future. Witchcraft: witchcraft or sorcery in general (literary).

The word occult means "hidden." Included in a catalog of occult practices are the following: divination, astrology, spiritualism, numerology, yoga, demonology, divining with rod or pendulum, and numerous others, related practices. They are occult because they are hidden; they are hidden because they thrive on their "mystery" nature. In addition, they are forbidden by Scripture, and for centuries the church has limited them to secret practices.

So let us look into the past to see where our modern-day practices of this ancient pagan worship of Harvest or Autumn Equinox and as we know it today, Halloween. Let us see if it came from God or the Devil! And let us look at the Scriptures to see whether it is okay to practice or not.

**Halloween the Festival of Death.** Let me take you back 300 hundred years ago, the time of the Celtic civilization before the birth of Jesus. It is late Autumn, Harvest, or Autumn Equinox south of Britain. The Autumn Equinox. This is the day (or period of days) in the Autumn when days and nights are of approximately the same length. This is generally a time of celebrating harvest;

the dying of nature and the emphasis is on death. They are pagans worshipping many gods and are ruled in a sense by kings; but the real power is in the hands of the Druids, a secret priestly society which rules by terror and by sorcery. Even the kings fear the mysterious, ever-present Druids; and when the king becomes too old to lead in battle or to father children, they sacrifice him to the gods, cutting his body cavity open while he is still alive and using his internal organs for divination and other magic. The Druids are very wicked and evil people. This is a day that the people dread the most, choking fear is at its highest level, for it is the day they dread all year long. It is October 31<sup>st</sup>, the festival of Samhain, the Festival of Death.

**Samhain is their god of death and most powerful god.** Every year on this day, they believe the old year dies and the new year begins. It is the Celtic New Year as well as the Festival of Samhain, the Festival of Death. The Druids have come dressed in their robes; each one has a hollowed-out turnip with an oil lamp burning inside. Carved into the side of the hollow turnip is a hideous face, the likeness of the demon spirit that dwells inside. On the hilltops were raging fires, and as the midnight approaches, the madness increases; human sacrifices are ripped open, hearts torn out still beating. There are things done, too hideous to describe. The sacrifices are thrown into the fires, there is dancing and screaming around them in drunken, demonized fits. By daylight the exhausted people begin cautiously to stir. On the hilltops, fires have died down, nothing remaining but ashes and the bones of the sacrifices. The people called them “bonfires,” and avoid going too near, for the smell of the dead and the presence of evil hang heavily there still. But it’s over.

**Roman Domination.** Rome has pretty much dominated the holidays of our time; their hand is in every aspect of what is being celebrated in our day and time, under the guise of Christianity.

The Pope strikes back in an attempt to get the people to abandon the festival and all its occult, idolatrous practices, and established All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. In the British Isles, All Saints Day came to be called “All Hallowed’s” since it was a day to honor all the “hallowed ones”, the Christian dead. Since Samhain occurred the evening before All Hallowed’s, it came to be called “All Hallowed’s Evening” or just “Hallowed’s E’en.” From this it evolved to “Hallows E’en” and, finally, to “Halloween” as we know it today.

**The New World.** In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there came a flood of Celtic immigrants to the New World, mostly from the British Isles, and they brought with them their folk beliefs and pagan superstitions; they brought with them Samhain, the Festival of Death. Among the English-speaking Celts the hollowed turnip or pumpkin was known as “Jock (or jack) of the Lantern,” referring to the spirit guide (Jock or Jack) who lived in the lantern,” then to “Jack o’ lantern” and finally to “Jacko-lantern” as we know it today. These popular, but pagan practices were increasingly accepted by the general populace and gradually became an established part of American life. The few small Christian voices raised against this invasion of paganism were shouted down and swallowed up in the rising tide of popular acceptance. Except for the

substitution of pumpkins for turnips, the old practices continued very much the same as they had been in the British Isles and in Western Europe.

**Accoutrements of Halloween.** Associated with witches on holiday cards, decorations, and the accoutrements of Halloween are owls, bats, cats and toads. Their significance must not be overlooked. They are an important link between Halloween and the occult. They are known as “the witch’s familiars. A divining familiar was a species of animal whose shape the “Devil” would take to help the witch in divining the future. A witch trying to find out the length of a person’s life or of an illness would watch the familiar closely. The speed or slowness of the animal’s movements, the direction in which it moved and the kinds of sounds it made—all these were considered clues. Other familiars listed included hens, geese, small dogs, rats, or even butterflies, wasps, crickets, and snails. These creatures were considered demon controlled and the manifestation (expression) of what the Bible terms a “familiar spirit.” Paul, the apostle, confronted a girl bewitched by such a spirit on the streets of Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

**What Saith the Scriptures?** For all these reasons, Halloween is not an acceptable holiday for Christians to celebrate. However, there is still more. In their book *Halloween and Satanism*, Phil Phillips and Joan Hake Robie list “Twelve Forbidden Practices” taken directly from the Bible. I am going to list them here to emphasize their connections to Halloween. The Lord warns us very specifically about divination, spiritism, enchantment, sorcery, witchcraft and all the other activities dear to Halloween observance and says that “all who do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.” What could be plainer?

1. **Enchantment.** The act of influencing by charms and incantations the practice of magical arts (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).
2. **Witchcraft.** The Practice of dealing with evil spirits, the use of sorcery or magic (Galatians 5:19-20).
3. **Sorcery.** The use of power gained from assistance or control of evil spirits, especially for divining (Revelation 21:8).
4. **Divination.** Fortune telling. (Jeremiah 29:8-9).
5. **Wizardry.** The art of practices of a wizard; sorcery.  
**Wizard.** One skilled in magic; male witch; sorcerer (Leviticus 19:31).
6. **Necromancy.** Communication with the dead. Conjuring up of the spirits of the dead for the purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events (Isaiah 8:19).
7. **Charm.** To put a spell on someone; to affect by magic (Isaiah 19:3).

8. **Stargazing\astrology.** The divination of the supposed influence of the stars upon human affairs and terrestrial events by their positions and aspects (Jeremiah 10:2).
9. **Soothsaying.** The act of foretelling events; prophesying by a spirit other than the Holy Spirit (Micah 5:12).
10. **Prognostication.** To foretell from signs or symptoms; prophesying without the Holy Spirit; soothsaying (Isaiah 47:12-15).
11. **Observing times.** Astrology (2 Kings 21:6).
12. **Magic.** Witchcraft (Deuteronomy 18:10).

At the risk of seeming negative and gloomy, I feel it best to warn you that Halloween is a point of contact with evil of every sort. Many of its roots lie in those evils specifically prohibited by the Bible. Its celebration is an insult to the faith once delivered to the saints. Halloween and Christianity are totally incompatible. To embrace the one is to frustrate the other. This brings us to an important point. Have you ever placed your faith and trust in Jesus? His purpose in coming to earth has something to do with Halloween.

(Hebrews 2:14-15 KJV) **“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”**

References used: “The Holy Bible”  
“Holidays and Holy Days” by Tom C. McKenney  
“Pagan Traditions” by David Ingraham