

HALLOWEEN and God's children

“Come Out of Her, MY People”

Light on the Rock

by Philip Shields

What do children of Holy God have in common with vampires, witchcraft and the hooliganism often associated with Halloween? Find out about the pagan origins of this season and how God warns His children to have nothing to do with works of darkness, and to “Come out of her, My People”.

As I was driving home the other day, signs of the season were all around. No, I don't mean the beautiful turning of the leaves, or the chilly nip in the air. I'm referring to – and will talk about in this shorter than average message – the custom of HALLOWEEN. In the western world, you can't even go into department or grocery stores without everyone getting into the act. Even on TV tonight, I was flicking through the TV channels and there was Emeril, the chef, all dressed up like Count Dracula. His backdrop was all vampire décor, dead bodies – in other words, Halloween. And we still have 10 days to go, as I record this. Halloween is the 2nd busiest retail season, 2nd only to Christmas, and that probably explains a LOT of the focus on it, actually.

Greetings, holy children of the Highest – for that's what we are. Should you and I, and our children, in any way participate in this festival to witches, vampires, ghouls, trick or treating, bats and spiders—and demons and evil spirits? What does our Holy Father have to say about this? ** What do children of Holy God have in common with vampires, witchcraft and the hooliganism often associated with Halloween?

That's what we're talking about today: Should God's people be involved in Halloween in any way? Is Halloween just harmless fun – or is it something God says just turns His stomach!?

Countless others have gone before me decrying God's children's involvement in Halloween, so I'm just adding my voice to the rising chorus of protests from those who see how dark Halloween is.

If you have roots in church of God groups that have never participated in Halloween, you may be tempted not to bother listening to this. However, I recommend that even you still listen to this because it will be good review and I especially urge you to let your children and teenagers listen to this.

I ask you – members of Holy Father's House – can we really be involved in any way in something as obviously unholy and Satanic as Halloween? Can children of the Highest really allow their own children – who are considered holy because of your relationship with YHWH (1 Cor 7:14) – to dress up as witches, demons and goblins? God is very clear in His word that He abhors and does not want His children participating in or having anything to do with, the occult, witches, demonism, mediums, or fortune telling. We'll be reading scriptures shortly.

So if you think Halloween is just one big ghoulish but innocent time for you and your kids to forget about being holy children of God – and if you think there's nothing wrong with it – well, read the Scriptures I'm about to show you, then decide.

We have been called to make a definitive choice from day one of our relationship with God: life or death. Blessings or cursings. Holiness or Satanism. Good or evil. Righteousness or wickedness. Every waking moment of our lives we're making those choices. There's no time out from those choices.

I can think of NO holiday that is so unvarnished Satanism and evil as Halloween. Then why would God's children think they can have any part in it.

Halloween has its earliest roots in Celtic days in Ireland at the end of the harvest season. Nov 1st was their new year. I bring this up only because compared to God's holy harvest festival called the wondrous Feast of Tabernacles vs. Halloween, what a contrast!

The Druids New Year began Nov 1st, a time of darkness and increasing death. God's new year begins in the spring, with new buds on the trees, fresh green lives, new life springing up everywhere, flowers popping out of the ground – and the resurrection of our Master to new life eternal for us all. God's new year is about life, joy, glory, brightness, newness. What a contrast.

This is presently Satan's world, as he is called "the god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4). In fact in 2 Cor. 4:4, it clearly says we are to come out of the darkness of this age, into the good news, "the gospel of the glory of Christ" – read it yourself. And yes, the gospel has everything to do with the glory of Christ – a glory He is going to share with His Bride, the called-out ones.

Called out of what?

In my next message, I will make it very clear that we are to completely and totally come out of Babylon, come out of Egypt, come out of identifying with this world and starting to identify with our heavenly city, Jerusalem above. Participating in Halloween is about as far as you can be from being one who has "come out of" Babylon and this world.

Halloween and witches are practically synonymous. Look what God has to say about witches and witchcraft:

Exodus 22:18 "You shall not permit a sorceress (a witch – KJV) to live."

Leviticus 19:31 'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6-8

And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. 7 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8 And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Leviticus 20:27 'A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.'"

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who

makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

In Revelation 22:15, sorcerers are among those who are not allowed into the heavenly Jerusalem that has come down to the new earth.

That's why I've never even watched the cartoon "Sorcerer's Apprentice". That's why I strongly commend to you that we should not be watching sci-fi movies that deal a lot in sorcery and witchcraft. Satan will make these movies very compelling, well made, high quality – but this genre is NOT something that is of our Holy Father.

Neither can our dear Abba, our Holy Father, be at all pleased with His children who are reading the **Harry Potter** books and watching the Harry Potter movies! He says so clearly that He hates witchcraft and sorcery! The witches in J.K. Rowling's books are sometimes very young, like Hermione Grainger. This can appeal to our children and make them feel its worth looking into witchcraft! God spare us! Halloween has everything to do with witches, evil, skeletons, death, demons and evil.

Brethren, children of the Highest, wake up! "Come OUT of her, My People", God implores (Rev. 18:4).

THE PAGAN HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween as it is practiced in some western nations – principally the USA, Canada, Australia – and "All Souls Day" or "All Saints Day" – as practiced in some Catholic countries like Mexico, Latin America, South America, Spain and the Philippines – have its roots in Celtic Ireland, in the day of the Druid priests.

These Celts are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel. They went entirely into witchcraft! Their original celebrations had a lot to do with bonfires (originally known as "bone fires") and expecting to deal with spirits of the dead. Let's read what GOD says:

When the Scots and Irish came to North America in the 1800's, they brought with them the PAGAN Halloween customs from the old country and Halloween became firmly entrenched here too. They brought with them the traditions of bon fires, witchcraft and wizards.

They called their celebration at the end of October fall harvest, "Samhain" (pronounced "sow-in" or "sow-en". Sow as in female pig). Some scholars say the Celts believed Nov 1st to be their new year, though I couldn't find agreement on that in the studies I did among the pagan writers. The Celts started their days at sunset the day before, as many cultures do, so they believed on the eve of Samhain, the time we now know as Halloween – the spirits of the dead could cross over and walk among the living.

This terrified some of the people, and others apparently felt they could honor the spirits of their ancestors, so they wanted to be in the good graces of these spirits. They put out food and treats for them, so the spirits would bless them with a good year to follow.

It was a time of utter confusion and chaos. Men would dress like women, and women would dress like men.

Deuteronomy 22:5 "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God."

They'd gather around bonfires and men would put on animal skins and animal heads and look beastly and terrifying. The Celts called it a time of "no time". A 2-3 day "time out" if you will, when people could forget who and what they were, and act stupid, silly, evil, prankish. A king could act like a fool. Tricks and vandalism began to occur.

Of course God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:34). Hmm... that should tell us something.

So their festivities were the 3 days around Nov 1st, a day before and a couple days after usually.

The Catholic Church basically sprinkled holy water over these pagan celebrations and customs and pronounced them clean. First there was All Hallows Eve (Oct 31). The nominal Christian church in Europe eventually adopted an All Saints Day -- originally May 13 -- but then moved it to Nov. 1st, followed by All Souls day on Nov 2, largely I believe to relabel and gloss over the pagan Hallows Night celebration that lasted through November 2nd. Over time, "All Hallows Eve" got shortened to "Halloween".

Nowadays, All Saints Day and All Souls day are basically confined to Catholic countries. In Catholic countries -- even the Philippines where I grew up -- they make a big deal about honoring and worshiping the dead. They fix up the gravesite, clipping around the markers and making it neat. They cook food, lay it out, along with drinks. On All Souls Day they may even have a big celebration of the dead in his/her memory.

Nov 1st, or Samhain (sow-en), was also a dark day in Celtic mythological history. It was the day the Tuatha de Danaan finally defeated the Formors. The Celts saw Samhain as the beginning of the dark time of the year -- with winter coming on soon after. It was considered a time of at least temporary victory of the forces of darkness over the forces of light.

Are you seeing why I think Satan would love this holiday and why God's Christian children should not?

During this festival, the Celts felt they were honoring the spirits of their dead ancestors and relatives and seeking their help and guidance. Séances were common. Mediums were brought in. All of this is abominable to YHWH, as I've clearly stated from Scripture already.

Did you know that virtually all the major cathedrals in Europe have been erected on the site of ancient pagan groves and high places? Did you know that virtually every so-called Christian holiday has its roots deeply embedded in paganism? But the most obviously pagan one is Halloween, and we truly do not want to be involved in this.

Today our American, Canadian and western children spend BILLIONS every year buying a more terrifying outfit. Axes in heads. Vampire outfits. Skeletons, bats. We buy candies and treats.

Of course there are also the hedonistic and wildly sexual parties that go on here and there as people dress and even parade in very provocative and explicit costumes – some displaying their private areas as part of the season.

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT WORSHIPING HIM THE WAY PAGANS DID THEIR WORSHIP

Deuteronomy 12:29-32

"When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, 30 take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' **31 You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way;** for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; ***you shall not add to it*** nor take away from it."

Leviticus 18:19-30

19'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. 20 Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her. 21 **And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire** to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. 23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, **which I am casting out before you. 25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.** 26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, *either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you* 27(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), 28 *lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you.* 29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people.

30"Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, **so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you,** and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God."

I've heard a radio preacher who gives answers to Bible questions – and his topic was this same topic: "IS there any harm with Christians being involved in Halloween?" I couldn't believe his answer. Though he clearly understands the pagan origins of Halloween, he basically ended up saying Christians could focus on the victory of the gospel over paganism and then go ahead and participate!

Nonsense! I believe that is plain wrong – or do I need to re-read the verses we just read? God says, "don't worship me that way"! Don't do what the Catholic Church did, and just gloss over the paganism of Halloween and rename it All Saints Day – and think it's OK! It isn't!

Paul wasn't talking about Halloween in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, but what he says in other context is still applicable in context of Halloween:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 **And what accord has Christ with Belial?** Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "*Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.*"

18 'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be **MY** sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

I say again: surely it is obvious to you, with God's spirit flowing in you, that children of the Highest have nothing to do with Halloween or the pagan customs, holidays rooted in paganism or any of the pagan traditions of this world. Nothing. "Come out from among them and be separate".

Sadly, we'll find out in the next sermon though, that many of us are mired in Babylon and the ways of this world in so many ways. I preach to myself. I have some coming out to do too.

So what should YOU do?

Do what the Bible says: don't participate in these things. We don't buy Halloween outfits or go trick or treating. We never let our children do so, nor did they want to – once they knew the true story. We usually lock up the house, put the car in the garage, turn the lights out, and don't answer the door as we wait out this horribly unholy evening.

God's way is true fun – but its not anything that honors the spirits of the dead, or demons or ghouls. God's way is the Feast of Tabernacles. God's way is the way of giving – not taking. God's way is to leave things better than the way you left it – not vandalize your neighbors. God's way is peace and safety. God's way is everything opposite what we see in Halloween.

Galatians 5:19-25

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, **sorcery**, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, **revelries**, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

God's way is for men to dress like men, and women like women – all the time. God's way is to avoid confusion. And yet we see every perverse way of dressing going on at Halloween. God says it's an abomination.

Brethren, come out of Babylon, God says. Come out of the ways of the world. God sees our interaction with the world as social intercourse! Just think of the graphic way God puts it several times, in several verses. We are supposed to be engaged to Christ and one with Him. When we dabble with the world, God calls it prostituting ourselves with the world.

“Come out of her, my people” – Revelation 18:4

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses. Know you not that friendship with the world is enmity against God...” (James 4:4).

Stay home this Halloween – and do not participate. Don’t hand out treats, don’t answer your door. It’s time to put this one behind you.

1 Peter 4:1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

This season – or any season - God's children shouldn't be watching horror films. We shouldn't think it is just cute harmless fun to teach our children about witches, vampires, ghosts and demons. We have nothing to do with the unclean creatures associated with Halloween and Satanists – like bats, vultures, black cats, spiders, crows and the like. Nor do God's children want anything to do with haunted houses and sorcerers.

Let me be sure to add: please be watching your children's interest in anything to do with witchcraft. TV shows about witches, should not be allowed in our homes. Ouija boards should be burned and thrown out. We teach our children they never have anything to do with mediums, séances, spiritists, fortune tellers or palm readers.

And we have nothing in common with Halloween.

Until next time, this is Philip Shields, your fellow servant and brother in Christ. Next time, we'll go into more depth into the subject of “Come out of her, My People”.

