



## **Title: What About Halloween?**

**Bible Text:** Public reading of God’s Word: **Deut. 18:9-14.**

**Jeremiah 10:2** Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

### **Panimula:**

1. The Babylonian Captivity destroyed Jerusalem and transferred Jews to live in Babylon.
2. God specifically commanded the Jews not to learn the way of the heathen (unsaved) and relative to the “signs of the heaven.”
3. The question is what do Christians have to do with Halloween?

## **I. The History of Halloween:**

- A. Halloween began with the Gaelic-Celts of Ireland. They were not Christian or a Christian society. They were pagan.
- B. They celebrated the “harvest festival” (Celts – Nov.1) (Jews – middle Oct. 15-21/Tishri).
- C. Their harvest festival is called “Samhain” – end of harvest season, at the entrance of “winter.”
- D. Their celebration started at midnight on Oct. 31. – in Irish literature and mythology – the spirits of the dead return and visit the places or homes they vacated and move around.
- E. This was also called “*Old Year’s Night*” the night of the witches. [old Celtic calendar’s last night of the year]
- F. They practiced “Divination.”
- G. They would wear spooky costumes in order ward off the evil spirits or scare the evil spirits away from themselves or their homes – wearing a costume is an attempt to personify the old spirits or souls.
- H. Other activities such as Dream interpretations, bonfires for cleansing and protection (to keep away the Devil) were observed.
- I. The practice of “souling” and/or “guising” – they go from house to house looking for soul-cakes (trick or treat). This is supposed to bring good luck/bad luck. [Tagalog – Pangangaluwa at Kakanin]
- J. The symbol of the Jack-o-lantern is also pagan in origin. The Fable of “Stingy Jack.” – False teaching or doctrine called “fables” (1 Tim. 1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:4; Titus 1:4; 2 Pet. 1:16).
- K. When Rome took over Ireland, the Celts celebrated and assimilated their worship Festival of “Ferialia” (for the dead) at “Pomona.” (goddess of the harvest).
- L. The Tradition of the Catholic Church: Halloween is “Hallow’s Eve” (Evening before All Saint’s Day, Oct. 31) followed by All Souls Day, Nov. 1. – this was officially switched to these dates by Pope Gregory IV in A.D. 835.
- M. Halloween means “The Eve of All Saints” (ca. 17<sup>th</sup> century). [Catholic/Religious] (Also known as “Allhallowtide.”).
- N. The Tradition of the Protestants – Martin Luther posted the 95 Thesis on the door of the Castle Whittenburg sa Germany. [Protestant/Religious] [religious organizations call this: Reformation Day]

## **II. Biblical Guidelines:**

- A. God commanded us not to live or to learn the ways of the heathen. We are to live unto Christ – not culture and the behaviors and practices of society.
- B. God commanded us not to listen to false teachers and witches: Deut. 13:1-3.
- C. Witchcraft is an abomination and so is idolatry in worship and in life: 1 Sam. 15:23.
- D. God forbids these type of activities: Deut. 18:14, 9-12.
- E. Lev. 20:6.
- F. But the Jews still got involved in sin and idol worship because their hearts were not right with God. (2 Kings 17:17; Isa. 2:6).
- G. Who is a Biblical saint? The one who is “in Christ” – the saved, born-again believer – Acts 9:13; 32; Rom. 1:7; 12:13; Eph. 4:12; Col. 1:2). We become saints because of salvation (1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11).
- H. We can honor the memory of our departed loved ones but we cannot pray to them, nor change divine judgment.
- I. The secret things belong unto God (Deut. 29:29).

### **Conclusion:**

1. We are not like the Celts, the Romans, the Catholics, nor the Protestants. We are Biblical Baptists. (Christmas, Resurrection Sunday, Thanksgiving, The Lord’s Day – Sunday; Baptism, at Lord’s Supper are our Christian celebrations.
2. We will not go along with the world that is in opposition to God.