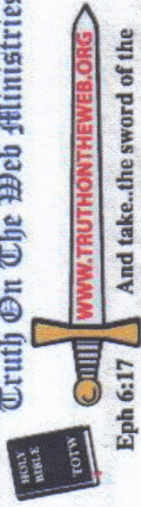


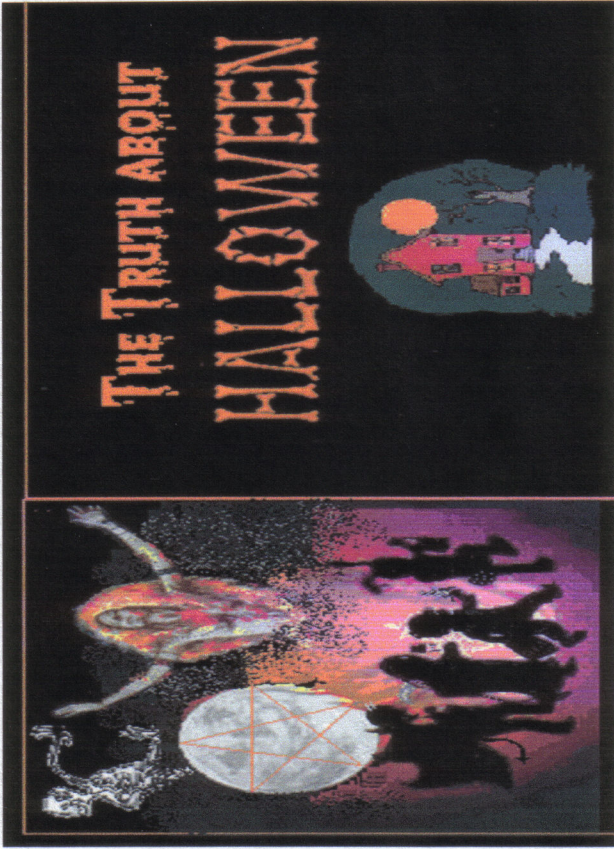
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Eph 6:17 And take the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God.

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Encyclopedia Britannica says: "Halloween, also called All Hallows' Eve or All Hallows' Evening, a holy or hallowed evening observed on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day. In modern times, it is the occasion for pranks and for children requesting treats or threatening tricks. In ancient Britain and Ireland, the Celtic festival of Samhain eve was observed on October 31, at the end of summer. This date was also the eve of the new year in both Celtic and Anglo-Saxon times and was the occasion for one of the ancient fire festivals when huge bonfires were set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits. The date was connected with the return of herds from pasture, and laws and land tenures were renewed. The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day, and the autumnal festival acquired sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies, and demons of all kinds said to be roaming about. It was the time to placate the supernatural powers controlling the processes of nature. In addition, Halloween was thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. It was the only day on which the help of the devil was invoked for such purposes."

You might still say "Does it really matter?" "Does God really care about such things? They seem so trivial. Remember that God is a Father who requires our willing obedience. Sin entered the world because of one mans disobedience to God over something to eat. [See Genesis 3]

Christians are to be a light to the world and not partake of things that smack of evil. **"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."** [Ephesians 5:11] We should consider Gods words and lean not to our own understanding.

A Believer and worshipper of the one true Creator God should not practice holidays with pagan roots and trappings. If we love God we show it by obeying Him. Reject Halloween and all pagan-originated holidays and practices. **The apostle Paul said Witchcraft is one of the acts of the sinful nature and those who practice it will not inherit the kingdom of God but have their part in the Lake that burns with Fire.** (See Galatians 5:16-21; see also Revelation 22:15).

God's Word as found in the Bible is for all mankind – not just the ones labeled as "Christians." God wants all to come to the knowledge of truth.

All of us have common roots that go back to Noah and his family saved by the Flood. Therefore all of us come from the first man Adam who was created to become an obedient, loving Son of God. Adam disobeyed and disobedience became a way of life for us by choice. God has wanted each of us to be reconciled ever since.

God loves you, **yes you!** No matter what you have done in the past or how you have lived – He wants you to turn your heart to Him. He wants all of mankind to be saved. [I John 4:10-11; I Timothy 2:4, John 3:16-18]

God sent His only Son, Jesus the Messiah (Christ), to pay the death penalty required for our disobedience. He did this so you and I can be forgiven and receive eternal life as a gift of reconciliation. All it takes is for you to confess to him that you are a sinner and that you need to be forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Then start life anew as a **living saint of God.**

[IICorinthians 5:17; Revelation 14:12; Romans 10:9-13] 13

HALLOWEEN.

A time for children to dress up in costumes and go door-to-door shouting "Trick or Treat" as they beg for candy treats - threatening mischief if not appeased. A time for adults to decorate their house with spooky images, party the night away, dress in costumes and even to be excused for acting a little silly. Is Halloween harmless? Where does it come from? Have you ever delved into the history behind Halloween or All Hallows Eve as it is also called? Lets find out a bit about this 'day of fun.'

Most scholars believe that the observance is derived from ancient Celtic practices centered around Samhain [pronounced Sow-eeen], the pagan end of the year harvest festival which gave thanks to the pagan sun-god for the harvest at the end of summer and welcomed the new year. (These people only acknowledged two seasons: summer-winter). Samhain means "Hallow-tide" (the holiday), probably from roots meaning "summer's end,"

[source: *McBain's Etymological Dictionary of the Gaelic Language*]



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2 Corinthians 6:14-18 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God; and they shall be my people. 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.**

You might say, "But I am not a Christian!" If that is true then please bear with this just a little longer. You have read this far and have little to lose by finishing what you started. Whatever your religious or irreligious, background the truth of the matter is that The Truth came before any paganism or other deviation from the truth. There is only one absolute truth of where we come from and where we are going. Let God be true and every man a liar.

“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. 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. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.” [Deuteronomy 18:10-14]

Doreen Irving, the former ruling witch of Western Europe and the British Isles, and also the mistress of the area's high priest of Satan, who later became a Christian, said: **"If Christian parents had any idea of what Halloween really is, they wouldn't even mention the word around their children."** [source: *Halloween: A Celebration of Devils* (David N. Taylor) p5]

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The Celts believed in the pagan doctrine of an “immortal soul” and Samhain was a time when the veil between the world of the Living and the world of the Dead became very thin and ghosts and spirits were free to wander as they wished passing between the two worlds. The Celtic priests or Druids, pagan orders in Britain, Ireland and Gaul, generally performed their rituals by offering sacrifices, usually of animals, but sometimes of humans, in order to placate the gods; ensuring that the sun would return after the winter; and frightening away evil spirits.

To the Celts, the bonfire represented the sun and was used to aid the white magic Druid in his fight with dark powers. The term bonfire or bane-fire comes from the words "bone fire," literally meaning the bones of the sacrifices that were piled in a field with timber and set ablaze. Samhain is a time for getting rid of weakness, as pagans once slaughtered weak animals, which were unlikely to survive the winter, and burnt them to their gods. The practice of burning humans was stopped around 1600, and an effigy or human-like figure was sometimes burned instead. This continues in some cults today.

3

In 834, Gregory III moved All Saint's Day from May 13 to Nov. 1 to replace the pagan festival of the dead and the pagan new year celebrations. Oct. 31 thus became All Hallows' Eve ('hallow' means 'saint'). Sadly, many of the vain customs survived and were blended in with Christianity.

In 1517, a Catholic monk named Martin Luther protested against the Catholic Churches selling of “Indulgences” which would buy forgiveness of sins for a deceased loved ones passage from the imaginary “purgatory” into heaven. On October 31st, he nailed his 95 complaints against Catholicism to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral, as he knew many Catholics would show up for All Hallows Eve services. This started what is known as The Protestant Reformation.

In America, our forefathers shunned any such observances and tended to favor only observances related to some form of Christianity. In the mid-1800s Irish immigrants mostly Catholic, brought to America the now-all-too-familiar Halloween customs of masquerade costumes, trick-or-treat, carved Jack-o-lanterns, etc.

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and every deception he can. Satan's plan includes the widespread dabbling of people into the supernatural powers, including the occult, accompanied by a great revival of spiritism.

Recently, especially in the last 30 years, the occult has moved into the mainstream of America - in books (such as Harry Potter which has become the greatest seller in England even outselling the Bible), television (such as the TV series Charmed, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel, etc. as well as Psychic programs), movies (such as Practical Magic, Bewitched, I married a Witch, Season of the Witch, The Craft, etc, etc), magazines (such as Circle, Sage Woman, New Witch, Pan-Gaia, as well as articles and ads in more general popular magazines), and video games (countless). Universities offer courses on witchcraft and magic - usually the so-called "white" variety or Wicca and grade schools teach spells and occult practices - yet our children can't pray to the Christian God in schools.

One might complain and say “My kids are just having fun and getting free candy.” “We are not worshipping evil forces or making God angry.”

8

When Catholicism began to spread through Europe in the third and fourth centuries, the pagan temples were torn down. But pagan worship never completely disappeared. The festival of Samhain remained a primary pagan festival. Belief in spirits may have waned, but many of the old Samhain traditions continued to be practiced especially by the children. Primarily in Ireland, children dressed as evil spirits went from house to house demanding a treat. If they received none, they performed an unwelcome trick.

It was a common practice for the Catholic Church to disguise pagan festivals with a veneer of Christianity. The Catholic Church would appease converts, both genuine and coerced, by allowing them to continue the pagan traditions of their ancestors. The dates were sometimes moved and the names of saints substituted for pagan deities or other characters related to the non-Christian festivities. Halloween was one such pagan holiday high-jacked by the Catholic Church.

In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day. It was first observed on May 13 for Catholics to remember their dead saints.

4

A Catholic may even assume they do honor God and saints that day with prayers for the dead. What does God think?

Does God say that it is alright to observe the pagan festivals such as Halloween even if we say we are honoring Him? Notice carefully what he said to the Israelites before they entered the promised land;

Deuteronomy 12:29-32 "When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."**

9

(The Jack-o-lantern was originally a hollowed-out turnip but turnips were not as prevalent in America and the pumpkin was substituted. The lantern was believed, due to popular folklore, to contain the disembodied spirit of Jack a trickster who duped the Devil; and thusly, couldn't get into heaven or hell)

With the advent of modern corporations, holidays such as Halloween and Christmas have become big business. For major profits, candy manufacturers and costume-makers promote Halloween -- which may have altogether disappeared without their influence. Even Christians who worship the true God have supported this unwholesome merchandising.

"There is no doubt that Business has encouraged the growth of the Halloween tradition. It is now the 2nd most popular holiday, and one of the three top candy selling seasons."

[source: "What's So 'Hallowed' About Halloween?" -Clayton D. Steep. p11]

6

Halloween is adored by practitioners of both Wicca and Satanism alike. The witches, of both white and black magic, hold the day in high esteem. Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan, said: "Call it black, call it white, call it what you will, it's all evil, and it all gets its power from the source of hell." One cannot deny that Satanism's influence today is strengthened by the observance of Halloween:

"After one's own birthday, the two major Satanic holidays are Walpurgisnacht (May 1st) and Halloween (or All Hallow's Eve)."

The Satanic Bible by Anton Levey page 96, section on Religious Holidays.

But Gods Holy Word, says: **1 Corinthians 10:21** **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.**

The Scriptures inform us that Satan is a real spirit being who is bent on preventing our ever becoming spirit beings (by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior) by using any

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