

## Halloween

Recently, I've done research on Halloween. I have decided to do a report on Halloween to answer people's questions why I don't celebrate Halloween. I will tell about the history of Halloween and how it changed over the years. Also I will explain why I, as a Christian, do not celebrate Halloween. Now, I shall begin my report to all who read it. Here we go.

Before Christ was born, Halloween was celebrated by the Scottish and Irish people, called the Gaul's. Their leaders were called druids. The druids started this celebration. Druids were like priests, wisemen, and magicians. Druids did divination, sacrificed animals, and even sacrificed humans! Druids thought they could take the form of an animal. They even dressed in animal flesh! Druids celebrated the sun god and the god of death. The god of death was called Samhain. Samhain was celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, they began to call it All Hallows Eve. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, they changed it to All Souls Day.

In the first century, the Romans conquered the Gaul's. Roman festivals were mixed in with this festival of the Gaul's. Later on, many Gaul's converted to the Catholic religion in the 800's, but still held on to their ancestors' festivals. In America, Halloween wasn't popular until the 1800's when they received huge numbers of Scottish and Irish immigrants who also celebrated their ancestors' festivals.

Today, some of the customs involved in Halloween are that children go trick-or-treating and wear costumes. The lighted turnips from Scotland and Ireland were replaced by jack-o-lanterns in America. There are also fortune telling, bonfires, bobbing for apples, and more. I'll tell you how these things came about.

In Europe around medieval times, elves, fairies, ghosts, and witches [who were believed to take forms of cats] were superstitiously thought to fly around on All Hallows Eve. The solution was to light bonfires or dress like the elves, ghosts, fairies, and witches.

Trick-or-treat is a famous saying to get a treat. Jack-o-lanterns came from a legend. It was about a man named Jack. Jack was selfish and mean. He played tricks on the devil a lot. The result is he could not go to heaven or hell! So his consequence was to

walk around the earth until Judgment Day. The devil gave him a turnip to make a light. That's how jack-o-lanterns came up.

Fortune-telling came from Europe. They would use objects, such as a coin, a thimble, and a ring. They put these things in a kind of food, such as a cake. Whoever got the ring would get married. The coin was said to make you rich. The thimble would be you not get married.

You have just read the history of Halloween. I have four reasons why I don't celebrate Halloween. Read Isaiah 5:20, Jeremiah 10:2, Deuteronomy 6:4, and Isaiah 43:5&9 to find out my reasons. These are some of the reasons why I, as a Christian, don't celebrate Halloween. Thank You!

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