



HALLOWEEN

**Halloween time can be fun—it's a treat!
But do things that honour God on the streets.
Hand out Gods message with your goodies this year
You never know what seeds will fall near!**

**A seed that will sprout and soon grow to be
Lord, another ripe harvest for Thee!
Give us words and deeds on this night
That give others peace, not fear and fright.**



Halloween is undoubtedly more misunderstood than any other holiday event. Is it hocus-pocus superstition or truly Christian focused? It can appear to be nothing more than a pagan event but All Hallows Eve was actually intended to be a righteous opportunity purposed in history past to commemorate old saints. Halloween, which comes from the word All Hallows Eve is tied directly to All Saints Day celebrated on November 1 of each year to commemorate the old saints who have past on. These "saints" were heroes and martyrs for the Christian Faith.

We understand that much of Halloween has manipulated and "tricked" by the secular pagan world and much of what happens on Halloween is far from spiritual. In fact, some of the Halloween traditions have pagan origins. The Bible doesn't speak directly about Halloween, but some biblical principles apply. One thing is clear - all pagan practices are to be avoided. Witchcraft, occult practices, sorcery, etc. are strictly forbidden in the Bible (Exodus 22:18; Acts 8:9-24; Acts 16, 19). It is obvious that a small child dressing up as a princess or a cowboy isn't involving themselves with witchcraft, so what is a biblical stance on Halloween?

The decision is up to you. If you decide Halloween is something fun for your children, make sure they are kept far away from the evil aspects of Halloween. When believers participate in anything (even Halloween), their attitudes, dress, and behaviour should glorify Christ (Philippians 1:27).

Halloween can be a "hands on" learning opportunity about God's control over Satan and the fallen angels. God keeps them held powerless according to His will. Christian Halloween and All Saints Day come together in purposeful unity as the one protects and covers the other. It is a time for the Gospel to devour the ghouls.

Halloween Safety

Ghost, ghouls and monsters aren't the only things to be afraid of on Halloween. Accidents and mishaps increase dramatically when children trick-or-treat. To avoid the many dangers children face while trick or treating, use common sense. Be aware of potential Halloween hazards and take precautions to eliminate them. Consider heading for an indoor Halloween party and bypass any chaos or danger.

Wear flame retardant costumes, hem your costumes so you don't trip and fall, apply reflective tape to your Halloween costumes, plan your route ahead of time, trick or treat in familiar neighbourhoods, use a torch, always trick or treat in groups, accompanied by an adult, stay on the pavements and out of the streets, watch out for open flames in pumpkins, walk with your head up and be aware of your surroundings, only visit well lit houses. don't stop at dark houses, don't enter any houses unless you know the people, don't approach unfamiliar pets and animals, always watch for cars backing up or turning, never accept rides from strangers, respect other people and their property, be polite and say "thank you," some sweets can be choke hazards and report any suspicious or criminal activity to an adult or the police.

