

GOODNEWS LETTER

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HALLOWE'EN

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, where unto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain," Galatians 4:9-11.

Pumpkins are good for the body. This member of the gourd family is low in calories, fat and sodium and contains high fiber. Pumpkins also have vitamin A, B, potassium and iron. And, what's better than pumpkin pies, bread or cookies?

But, when it comes to man's soul and spirit, pumpkins are not only worthless, they may be down right dangerous. Yet, the way man (even Christians) participates in this pagan based day of Hallowe'en on October 31st, you'd think it's spiritual.

Spiritual, it is, but it comes from the '**darkside**,' binding man up; not freeing him. Some may exclaim, "The economy is disastrous. People are killing themselves over what is going on and you're writing about something that is trivial; something we've done for years!

No lo contendere, my friends! I need not make this a contest of deciding what to print. The constitution guarantees me freedom of speech. The Word of God demands that we obey what is written.

But, more than that, even if the economy is going in the tank - according to the fears of many, it's the economy of the New Covenant that moves me; not the world. I am as Paul wrote, "**...I have a stewardship entrusted to me**," 1st Corinthians 9:17b. This world is not my home. It can't be yours, either.

Stewardship, in the Greek original language of the Bible, is *okionomia*. According to Thayer's Greek/English Lexicon of the N. T., the word means: "**The management of a household or of household affairs; specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of others' property;**"

Paul was saying that he has a job to do and cannot tolerate any distraction from the calling that God has placed him in.

Thayer continues with the root meaning of the Greek word, *oikos*, stating, it is "**a body of Christians (a church), as pervaded by the Spirit and power of God, is called oikos pneumatikos, 1st Peter 2:5.**" "**You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**"

Therefore, as a member of the body of Christ, I have to hear Paul's admonition against **"turning again unto weak and beggarly elements."**

Yes, Paul is talking about the Law of the O. T. But, if he warns against the Law; which is good, righteous and holy (Rom. 7:12); what powerful words would he say about something that comes from the seat of Satan? Go to Mars Hill and read his message in Acts 17 beginning in verse 22.

I wanted this issue on **hallowe'en** written early enough to give those **"who have come to know God"** (Gal. 4:9) something to think about before joining with those who **"observe days and months and seasons and years"** (Gal 4:10).

Here are some tips to those who are inexperienced but see a problem with the religiosity of this day of ghosts and goblins (evil spirits). To avoid this pagan evening: **1. Turn off the house lights. 2. Leave home for the evening. 3. Don't even think of passing out tracts.**

Don't give any credence to this! Everything about this observance is unhealthy, spiritually. It must be avoided. So, don't engage in conversation as Eve did. Snakes are biting liars.

When it comes to unscriptural practices of **darkness**, James insists that we **"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** It was by this approach that James **"cleansed his hands and purified his heart"** (Ja. 4:8). Like Paul, James saw many pagan practices in his day and knew something about so-called, **'holy observances.'**

Certainly, we understand that no holiday can harm God's people; that is, unless they participate by practicing it. Israel was okay until She joined in the practice of the nations around them. I'm convinced that taking up with pagans can, and very possibly will, damage our testimony within the **Oikos** (House) of God. Members need to wake up! What the world thinks doesn't matter and is not considered, here.

Without controversy, this is not some **pet-peeve** of a ranting preacher, my friends. It is, rather, help for all to see the seriousness of this matter. Not convinced, yet? Then, let's go to the only reference anyone needs and prove the point about this most un-godly day of observances, **WIKIPEDIA:**

"The term *Halloween* (and its older rendering *Hallowe'en*) is shortened from All-hallow-even, as it is the evening of/before also known as "All Saints Day". It was a day of religious festivities in various northern European Pagan traditions, until Popes Gregory III and Gregory IV moved the old Christian feast of All Saints' Day from May 13 to November 1. In the ninth century, the Church measured the day as starting at sunset, in accordance with the Florentine Calendar. Although All Saints' (or Hallows') Day is now considered to occur one day after Halloween, the two holidays were, at that time, celebrated on the same day. Liturgically, the Church traditionally celebrated that day as the Vigil of All Saints, and, until 1970, a day of fasting as well. Like other vigils, it was celebrated on the previous day if

it fell on a Sunday, although secular celebrations of the holiday remained on the 31st. The Vigil was suppressed in 1955, but was later restored in the post-Vatican II calendar.'

Halloween is also called *Pooky Night* in parts of Ireland, presumably named after the puca a mischievous spirit."

EPILOGUE

"Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their **books** (masks and costumes) together and began **burning them** in the sight of all;" Acts 19:18, 19.