



**Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?**

by Pastor Wayne Syas



Inside this issue:

Are Christians sending inconsistent messages when they celebrate Halloween?

Front page— Halloween, 1  
 by Pastor Syas

One of the most contradictory messages I've seen, was a sign hanging on the outside door of a home, which read, "Lord, Bless our Home" while on the porch was a straw stuffed witch riding a broom.

Inside Story— 2  
 Continued article by  
 Pastor Syas

It should be no wonder then why Halloween is second only to Christmas in total commercial sales.

Inside Story-Article by 3  
 Elder Mann  
 Belief In the real Jesus!

Initially, the celebration of October 31<sup>st</sup> began as a Celtic harvest festival and New Year Celebration. It was originally a celebration of the final harvest of the growing season among the ancient Celts. For the Celtic tribes who followed the religion of the Druids and lived in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, and Britain, November 1<sup>st</sup> was New Years Day. It was also a joint festival honoring their Sun "god" and "Samhain", the lord of the dead. (Samhain is pronounced "sow-in", with "sow" rhyming with cow). The word Samhain means summer's end. For the Celts, the end of summer was a significant time of year when the structure of their lives changed radically. The cattle were brought down from the summer pastures in the hills and the people were gathered into houses for the long winter nights of story telling and handcrafts. On this day, the ancient Celts believed that the souls of those who had died during the year were allowed to enter the land of the living. During Samhain eve, considered the night of the wandering dead, the Celts left food and drink for masked revelers and lit bonfires.

Inside Story-Continued 4  
 article by Elder Mann

Inside Story-Continued 5  
 article by Pastor Syas

It was the Druid's belief that on the eve of this festival, Samhain called together the wicked souls that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals. They were released in the form of ghosts, spirits, and witches. The Celtic people who lived over 2000 years ago, feared the evening of October 31<sup>st</sup> more than any other day of the year. To celebrate, the people built bonfires, wore masks and costumes in order to prepare for the arrival of spirits.

*Halloween is second only to Christmas in commercial sales.*

The Druids, an order of priest in ancient Britain, also believed that the cat was sacred because they believed cats once had been human beings but were reincarnated as cats as a punishment for evil deeds. From these Druidic beliefs comes the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween activities.



October 31<sup>st</sup> has not always been known as Halloween. Halloween, derives its name from "All Hallows Eve," (the word "hallow", means "holy"). All Hallows Eve (October 31<sup>st</sup>) is the eve of the Christian festival of All Saints' Day, celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. All Saints' Day, is a holy day on the Catholic Christian calendar. In the West, the commemorative day is held annually on November 1<sup>st</sup>. In the Eastern churches it is held the first Sunday following their Pentecostal celebration, and the holiday typically falls in the month of June.

All Saints' Day began May 13, 609 A.D., when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary. It was later moved to February 21<sup>st</sup>. Around 735 A.D., All Saints' Day was moved to November 1<sup>st</sup>, by Pope Gregory III, perhaps to supplant the Samhain pagan festival of the dead. All Saints' Day began to appear in the church calendar in 834 A.D. During the reign of Pope Gregory IV, who still trying to put an end to the pagan customs associated with the day, decreed that the day was to be a universal church observance. This expanded the celebration to honor all the saints who have died, especially those without their own special feast days.

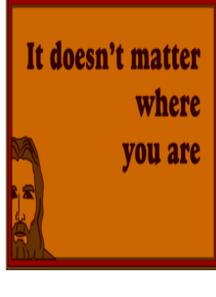
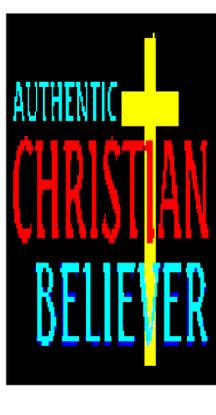
The day also used to be called Hallowmass from an Old English word "hallow" meaning sanctify. Roman Catholics throughout the world attend mass on All Saints Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) because it is a holy day of obligation. In the state of Louisiana (which has a large Roman Catholic population), November 1<sup>st</sup> is a legal holiday. Primarily celebrated by Roman Catholics, November 1<sup>st</sup> is a day for prayer and almsgiving in memory of ancestors who have died. Those, who believed in purgatory, pray for the souls of their dead, in an effort to hasten their transition from Purgatory to Heaven.

The modern customs of going door to door asking for food and candy goes back to the time of the Druids. They believed that Samhain released sinful lost souls upon the earth for one night on October 31<sup>st</sup> while they waited judgment. They were thought to throng about the houses of the living and were greeted with banquet-laden tables. People greatly feared these spirits and thought that the spirits would harm and even kill them if the sacrifices they gave did not appease Samhain. They carved demonic faces into large turnips, placing a candle in them to keep the evil spirits from their homes.

Modern day Wiccans (those who practice witchcraft) continue to celebrate this ancient feast. Even today witchcraft practitioners declare October 31<sup>st</sup> as the most conducive time to practice their arts.

(Continued on page 5)





### What Do YOU Really Believe About Jesus?

by Elder Dennis Mann



Each one of us must answer the question "at what point did we really believe in Jesus unto salvation?" The answer we give becomes our testimony regarding our new birth.

For example, the Muslims believe that Jesus existed, was a great prophet, was a great teacher and many of the same things that we believe about Jesus. Does this fact mean that they are saved? No, because they do not believe in the key elements as to who Jesus is (God himself), what He did (took away sin), and how He died (on a cross) taking away the sin of the world.

Listing a few of the things I believe concerning my LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, I:

- Believe that Jesus was the "Word of God" (St. John 1)
- Believe that Jesus was the "Word of God made Flesh" (St. John 1)
- Believe that the "Word of God" was God in the beginning and existed as God from the beginning (St John 1)
- Believe that Jesus died for my sins (Past, Present, and Future)
- Believe that the ordinances against me have been abolished (the law)
- Believe that without the shedding of blood by Christ (Holy, Pure, and Sinless) there is no remission of sins.
- Believe that Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us)
- Believe that Jesus was a man without sin
- Believe that Jesus was born of a virgin
- Believe that asking for forgiveness is unbelief in what Jesus did on the cross

One might continue this list, meditating upon each point and gain for having had the experience. It is possible that you don't agree with one or more of my points of personal belief. Feel free to share with me if you have any concerns. We must compare our beliefs to the Bible (Word) and Spirit (both found in those who are born again).

Always be cautious of cultural biases and false teachers when interpreting scriptures. Additionally, it is wise to keep all scriptures in context with the writers prospective and the historic time of the writing. Remember if you



**Belief in Jesus (continued)** by Elder Mann

believe in Jesus and the Good News regarding His purpose in the earth for you, then you are born again.

If you are born again, the world will not be your friend. This is because when someone is truly born again, he shares the experience with others. The experience is that profound, so much so that the Bible states that the individual becomes a "new creation." The resulting confession or profession of the new birth experience may not be understood by others who have not had this regeneration of their spirit. As Jesus was misunderstood most of the time, so are those who are "in Him" since He was the first begotten of the Father.

We follow His example and follow Him or the Spirit of Christ which he bestows upon all who are born of the Spirit. He would not be persuaded to change direction when He lived in the earth as our Savior, always aware that His purpose was to die for you and to always do and say what the Father did and said. Since we have been crucified with Christ, we are to walk after the Spirit; always allowing Christ to live through us. Because love is the reason why He did what He did for us, love should always be the motivator in all that we do and say.

[1Jn 4:20](#) If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

[1Jn 4:21](#) And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

[1Jn 4:16](#) And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

[1Jn 4:11](#) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

[1Jn 4:7](#) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been **born of God** and **knows** God. True belief in Jesus brings about a new birth and the new birth brings about knowledge of God and Love in us.

[1Jn 4:10](#) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

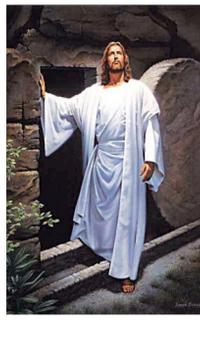
[1Jn 4:16](#) And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever **lives in love lives in God, and God in him.** (emphasis added)

Do you believe, are you born again, and do you walk in love? If not, then you might double check your understanding of Jesus the Christ and his real purpose in coming. (Selah)



*If you are born again, the world will not be your friend.*





(Continued from page 2)

Even after November 1<sup>st</sup> became a Christian feast day honoring all saints, many people clung to the old pagan beliefs and customs. In the Christian tradition, the Celts' wandering spirits came to be associated with the devil and evil spirits.

Halloween was not widely celebrated in the U.S. until about 1900. In the United States children carve faces on hollowed pumpkins and put lighted candles inside to make jack-o'-lanterns. Halloween celebrations today reflect many of these early pagan customs.

Unfortunately, honoring beloved departed saints has been over shadowed by and twisted into "Halloween", which today glorifies Satanic power.

Christ died to free us from the power and influence of darkness and evil. If we have our kids dress up as witches or the devil; if we have paper ghosts in our windows or have tombstones in our yards or attend haunted houses, are we not imitating evil, perhaps even glorifying it by the attention we give it?

These symbols represent death, fear, violence, and demonism.

Some churches, however, are opposed to these evil images and "mask" their celebration of the event by calling it a "Fall Festival." It seems to me that a celebration of Halloween, by any other name is still a celebration of Halloween. If Christians are going to send a message which is consistent with their professing faith in the cause of Christ, then Halloween would be a non-event for Christians. Christians wouldn't celebrate the event as Halloween or by any other camouflaged name.

Pastor Wayne

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.  
<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*  
**Ephesians 6: 10-12 (KJV)**



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