



# Something to think about

## HAPPY Halloween?

### Origins

The Encyclopedia Encarta says that Halloween came from the Celtic festival, "Samhain". Samhain was a New Year's holiday, marking the end of harvest time for the Celtic people who lived around the first century.

The Celts main religion was Druidism.

The Druid priests led the Celtic people to worship plants and animals and believed that on Samhain evening (October 31) "the spirits of those who had died... [the year before] roamed the earth" to interfere with the

lives of the living, sometimes violently.

This is where the violent Halloween costumes link back to.

### Human Sacrifices

Because of their superstitious fears, the Celts "built bonfires at sacred hilltop sites and performed rituals, often involving human and animal sacrifices, to honour Druid deities [pagan gods – who were actually evil spirits]." Human and animal sacrifices were put



inside huge images in the shape of a person (called a wicker man) and then burnt alive!

### The Bonfire

To the Druids, the bonfire represented the sun and was used to fight dark powers. The word bonfire comes from two words "bone" and "fire".

This is because it contained the bones of human and animal sacrifices. Human sacrifices continued up till 1600 AD.

The Encyclopedia Britanica says that Halloween was a day, "... on which the help of the devil was invoked [called upon]..."

## Don't be tricked

1. Don't be tricked about life after death like the Druids were. The most read book in the world (see below), says that when people die, they don't come back to the earth to haunt and frighten those who are still alive.

2 In fact it gives a strong warning against getting involved in occult beliefs and practices.

3 It makes it very clear who we should fear (and

it's not the devil, evil spirits or dead people).



1. "... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement." (Hebrews chapter 9, verse 27 in the Bible).
2. "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens engages in witchcraft or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead [who are actually lying evil spirits who are familiar with a human who has died and who pass on knowledge (and lies) about the dead person through a 'medium']. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD." (Deuteronomy chapter 18, verses 10-12).
3. "Fear Him [God] who after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell" (Luke chapter 12, verse 5)



**One day you will become part of the "Ultimate Statistic".**

## **THE ULTIMATE STATISTIC!**

**150,000 people die every day. The ultimate statistic is that 10 out of every 10 people die. That means that one day you will become part of the ultimate statistic. One day you will die.**

**Many people get ready for the day they die. Not as many get ready for the day after.**

### **Tombs broke open and many Dead People came back to life.**

To read this story, find a Bible and look up Matthew chapter 27 and 28.

NOTE: these were not the spirits of dead people but the people themselves.

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## **Reality Check**

The moment you die, what you believe about life after death will be put to the test. What do YOU believe? Some believe, "When you're dead, your dead. You just rot in the ground and that's it." The moment those people die, that belief too will be put to the test.

If you believe that either (1) hell is not real or (2) hell is real but you'd be good enough for heaven... AND YOU'RE WRONG... then it's the wrong thing to be wrong about. Eternity is a long time to be wrong!

## **Before You "Go"**

Would you consider yourself a good person? Most people do. But because you will die one day, the question you need to ask is, "Am I good enough for heaven?"

The way to find out is to ask yourself if you have kept God's moral law, the ten commandments. Here's a quick test based on just four of those commandments (Exodus 20:1-20). See how you do... Have you ever told a lie, no matter how big? Have you ever stolen anything regardless of its value? Have you ever used God's name in vain (blasphemy)? Jesus taught that if you look with lust (sexually) you commit adultery in your heart. Have you looked with lust?

Who can honestly say they have kept these commandments! (Romans 3:20-23). If you have done those things, God (who is Holy) sees you as a lying, thieving, blasphemous, adulterer at heart. And you will have to face God on Judgement Day! (Hebrews 4:12-13 and 9:27, Revelation 20:12). You will be judged for every word, deed and thought.

If God judged you by His standards, would you be innocent or guilty on the day of judgement? If you're *honest*, you know you'd be guilty. Would you go to heaven or hell? Again, if you're *honest*, you know that by

God's standards (and no one else's), you'd deserve hell. The Bible says that hell is forever - there is no escape; it is a real place of torment; we should fear God who is Holy and who alone has authority to condemn someone to hell (Matthew 10:28; Matthew 25:41 & 46; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 10:20 to 21:8).

However, while God is Holy and just and must punish sin, he is also "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). In His amazing grace and undeserved mercy God did something incredible! God sent His Son Jesus (God in the flesh), to be born of a virgin, live a perfect life and die on a cross for your sins. Then Jesus rose from the grave and defeated death. His death was a sacrifice made in payment by God, on your behalf. You broke God's law, but Jesus paid your fine. "For God so loved the world [you] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Does this mean everyone now has peace with God and will go to heaven? No! (John 3:17-21 and 36).

Jesus said, you must Repent and Believe the Gospel (Mark 1:15). Repent = to change your mind (in your attitude to God - ie. admit He is Holy & you are sinful; the evidence of

this change will be seen in a life that seeks to honour God in all things). Believe = personal trust / faith. Gospel = the "Good News" that Jesus died for you. When you humble yourself before God, and trust in Jesus and his death to save you, God will forgive all your sin and give you eternal life (John 5:24-29). This brings true peace on earth. It begins with personal trust in Jesus Christ, not good works - no one gets to heaven by being good! (Ephesians 2:8-10).

You can get right with God, right now - Repent & believe the Gospel. Then read the Bible daily and obey it. Trust God in all that you do. (Romans 5:8-10; John 3:1-36; 1 John 1:7-9; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20; Luke 15:11-32; Luke 18:9-14) \* What are all these names and numbers in brackets? Answer: go to the contents page of a Bible: Luke = a book in the Bible, 18 = chapter in the book, 9-14 = verses in the chap. Please, check these things out before you check out. ETERNITY is forever; it's a long time to be wrong! If you have trusted Christ to save you from your sins, please pass this on. May God bless you for taking the time to read this. May you know peace on earth, with God.

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