

THE

# HARVESTER

*"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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[Editor's Note: This letter was handed to me two years ago for publication. I regret that this is the first opportunity I have had to finally print it. Nevertheless, the contents of this letter are still as applicable today as it was when it was written and permission has been granted to publish this important message at this time.]

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have not been a member of the Church a very long time, but I have been one long enough to know that the scriptures are our law. It not only puzzles but also grieves me to find my fellow Christians disregarding the scriptures.

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The issue on my mind is the observance of Halloween by members of the Church of Christ.

Perhaps some folks don't know how Halloween began; I've heard that ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law. Perhaps others feel that Halloween has gotten so far away from what it started as that it's got to be O.K.! I feel a need to pray for those who believe such.

Just where did Halloween start and why is it so wrong? The Druids (a long, long time ago) believed that evil spirits flew around on a certain evening of the year. In order for the spirits to leave them alone and not harm them they left gifts out, hoping the spirits would take the gifts and be happy and not bring harm unto their people. (Paganism with a capital P!)

In Galatians ch. 5 vs. 19-20 we are told of the works of the flesh, which include "Idolatry, witch-craft (who hasn't had a daughter dress-up as one), ...variance (contrary to the scriptures), ...heresies, ...revellings, AND SUCH LIKE: ... that they which do such things SHALL NOT inherit the kingdom of God". But there are some that still say Halloween had gotten so far away from its beginning that it can't be wrong. On the contrary, it's just as wrong now as it was during the day of Druid idolatry. If ghosts & goblins, witches & vampires, mummies & monsters don't depict evil and wicked things, I have no idea what would.

We are told in the first chapter of Romans vs. 29-32 that those "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, back-biters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implaca-

ble, unmerciful: who KNOWING THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, that they which commit such things are worthy of DEATH, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Has that gotten so far away from its beginning? I think not. I stress not only wickedness and inventors of evil things but also DEBATE from that passage. For one to try to stress points and make arguments from both sides on scriptural matters is as comparing Good to Evil. We are told it is wrong, scripturally there is no room for debate.

Now let me break-down the word Halloween. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary the verb "Hallow" is to consecrate or revere, the "-een" is a shortened version of evening. So a hallowed evening, or Halloween, is a revered night: one day out of the year that is held above others. In Romans 14:5-6 we are told of one man who esteemeth one day more than another day, and of a man who considers all days the same. Neither is wrong in his belief as long as he DOES SO UNTO THE LORD. Personally I find it hard to see that doing so with ghosts and goblins is doing so unto the Lord.

And for the Brothers and Sisters who "used to feel that way" but don't think anything is wrong with a Halloween party, I refer you to Galatians 4:9-11, "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto 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 labor in vain." I feel that speaks for itself.

To return to the word "hallow" or revere or consecrate, I would like to ask -- What should be hallowed? (or consecrated or revered?) An evening or something more? Ezekiel 20:20 tells

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the children of Israel to hallow the Lord's sabbaths as a sign between God and them that he is the Lord God. Leviticus ch. 22 vs. 31-32 says, *"Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the Lord. Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the Lord which hallow you."* In 1 Kings 9:3 the Lord (God) *"hallowed"* Solomon's temple. And in Matthew 6:9-13 the Lord Jesus, our Saviour, teaches us how to pray *"...Our Father which art in Heaven, HALLOWED be thy name."*

In closing I would like to add, whether we call it the Halloween Festival, Halloween Celebration, Fall-Fest, Festival of Light or any other earthly name we can come up with, it is unscriptural and therefore wrong. I was a Catholic for twenty-three years and for all that time I observed not only Halloween on October 31st but also the Eve of All Saints Day. I have since then turned to the scriptures and the Word of God as my law.

I whole-heartedly pray that all my Christian Brothers and Sisters may find truth in what I have brought forth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael R. Carr  
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## FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

## ABOUT THE BREVITY AND UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE

Truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death. (1 Sam. 20:3)

He must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; (2 Sam. 14:14)

He are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. (1 Chr. 29:15)

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: my eye shall no more see good. The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes are upon me, and I am not. As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away, so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more. (Job 7:6-10)

None can keep alive his own soul. (Psa. 22:29)

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreath; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. (Psa. 39:4,5)

He remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. (Psa. 78:39)

Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? (Psa. 89:47,48)

My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass. (Psa. 102:11)

Mine age is departed, and is removed from me

*as a shepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.* (Isa. 38:12)

*But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?* (Luke 12:20)

*Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* (Jas. 4:14)

## AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

*"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matt. 6:24) How true, how true. A slave cannot possibly serve two different masters. One may give an order to do one thing and the other may give an order to do the opposite. Then that slave would find himself in a terrible bind. He might satisfy one master but he definitely won't be pleasing to both.

The question we have to ask ourselves is this: Whom do we serve now? The devil or Christ? Naturally all of us want to say Jesus Christ. But think about it carefully. What do our actions say concerning whom we serve?

When we intentionally miss the services of the church, we are servants to the devil! Satan wants us to stay away from the church. He knows that we go there to worship and praise the Almighty God. *"Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee."* (Psa. 84:4) Satan knows how uplifting

and precious it is for the brethren to fellowship one another. *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"* (Psa. 133:1)

These are the aspects that can be very defeating to the devil. We are out of his grasp when we abide in the "house of God" and he knows it! Therefore, he must be quite persistent and subtle in getting us as far away from the Lord as he possibly can. That is when he can claim us as his servants.

First, Satan provides us with excuses to miss the services. Some of these excuses are very, very good, I might add. Then the devil downplays the importance of attending church every time the doors open. Finally he cons us into staying home and finding "better things to do". Now we are his!

Unfortunately many members of the Lord's church are already traveling down the road toward  
(continued on page 8)

[In the August issue I solicited for more articles from the brethren to be published in this paper. Well, the response has been fantastic! In fact, I now have writings to last for the next six months at least. So should you decide to send an article to me today, don't be disappointed if I am not able to publish it until later next year. I will somehow work them all in to the best of my ability and as space allows. But now don't take this to mean that I have enough items. I can always use more. So please keep sending those articles and many heartfelt thanks to those who already have. It is YOU that truly keep this paper going! Ray]

Satan's house. Am I one of them? Am I becoming a servant of the devil? A person cannot truly serve Christ and simultaneously "*forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is*" (Heb. 10:25).

As Joshua told the people in his day, "*Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve...If ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.*" (Josh. 24:14,15,20) Whom will you select to serve today? The choice is easy when we realize the great truth found in Psalms 84:10, "*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*"

RAY

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## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Oct. 5-11	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 12-18 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove near Alex City, AL 7:00 each evening	Mark Parkhurst (McMinnville, TN)
Oct. 23-26 (Th-Su)	Haleyville Church Haleyville, AL 7:30 pm	James McDonald [Thur. - Sat.] Phillip Bobo [Sun]
Nov. 7-9 (F-Su)	Godby Road Church Atlanta, GA 7:30 pm EST	Bill Prince Jr. (Oxford, AL)
Nov. 16-23	2101 N. 31st Street Phoenix, AZ	Jack Nance (Winston-Salem, NC)