

# Halloween Can Be Good



by Dawn Reed  
E. Ky. Columnist

When I was a kid, Halloween was one of the greatest days of the year! I still love it!

On Halloween, we could pretend to be anything we dreamed of. That was the best thing EVER! We could be

a superhero, a princess, a fireman, policeman, nurse, a doctor or even something scary.

Halloween can be controversial. Some say it's the devil's holiday and evil prowls the earth on that night. (If you haven't watched the news lately, evil is rampant and not just on October 31st.)

I feel like I have a choice about Halloween. Plan A: I can denounce the holiday, claiming justifiably that it comes from bad origins. I can turn off my porch light and not give out a single piece of sugary candy that will no doubt cause a cavity....or...

Plan B: I can use this less than glorious holiday to reach out to the lost and unchurched.

I choose Plan B! We do

Trunk or Treat at church on trick or treat night and the public is invited. Vehicles are parked all over the church lot and decorated, with many of the adults dressed up to match their theme. Candy snacks are given out.

We have lots of cars and trucks so kids get quite a load of candy. But the best part is each "trunk" gives out a Bible verse with their treat.

When the kids get home and dump their candy out, they have a bunch of cool Bible verses to read. (If they can't read, then they have to ask their parents to read each one to them. BINGO! We reached the parents!)

So far for Trunk of Treat, I dressed as a bat using: "B.A.T.: Believe and Trust" with Proverbs 3:5-6. I was Lazarus in full mummy costume. I've been a farmer with live chickens us-

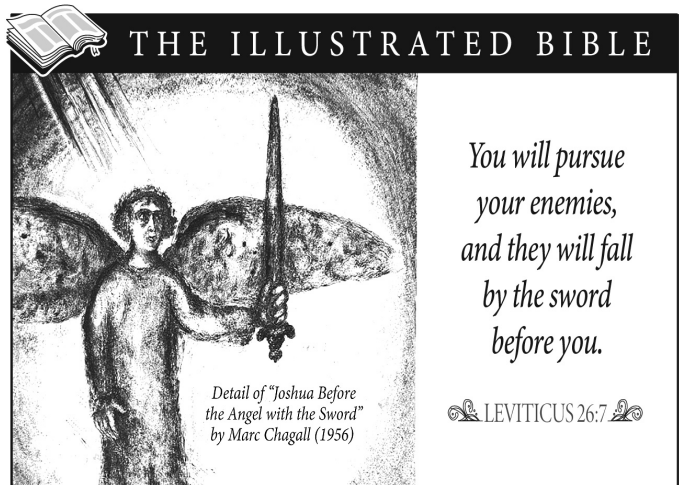
ing a country version of Psalm 56:3 "When I'm a CHICKEN, I will trust in God." One year, I was full on UK while my dad was all U of L. (I can't remember what verse we used but I know it was awesome!) Once we were wrapped as Christmas presents! Last year I was a spider and our team had a ginormous blow up spider that was as big as a carport! We used Psalm 56:3 on cards and gave out spider rings. I can't tell you what I will be this year because I want it to be a surprise! My goal is to not speak so no one will know who I am. (Odds are against that.)

Several churches in our area have Trunk or Treat these days and I'm so glad! It's a fun, safe way to bring kids joy, feed them lots of candy and then send them home with their parents. Seriously,

this holiday can be used for good and it's a simple way to encourage kids with God's Word.

I can remember one Halloween night almost 50 years ago. My sister and I Trick or Treated around the bottom where we lived. When we got to the Cochran's house, Mrs. Cochran said, "Oh, it's Teri and Dawn!" like we were somebody important. She took us in to her kitchen and gave us a homemade treat. (It was 1970. People did that.) I can't remember what the treat was, but I will NEVER EVER forget how special she made me feel!

Life for many kids these days is difficult and complicated. When they leave our church parking, I hope the Trick or Treaters feel the same way I did when I left Mrs. Cochran's house!



You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you.

LEVITICUS 26:7

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## Things that surprise people about the Church of Christ

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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When one is introduced to the Church of Christ, he often expresses surprise at what he learns. There are two basic reasons for this. One is that he/she has never heard these points before; the other is that he/she has been taught something else that is different.

The fact that one is surprised doesn't mean that what he hears is untrue. So, now we will mention a few things that surprise people about the church that Christ established.

The Church of Christ doesn't tithe. When a visitor hears someone say that we do not tithe today, they are surprised, but why? For they have always been taught that tithing is a church activity. They never know anything different.

The New Testament does not teach tithing. Tithing simply refers to the giving of a tenth. While this was practiced under the Old Covenant, it is nowhere found in the New. The fact that it was practiced under the Old Covenant is not questioned by anyone. The issue is whether or not God requires it under the Law of Christ (Hebrews 9:16-17).

This does not mean that we are not commanded to give; rather, the Apostle Paul instructed that we are to give as we have been prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). We also are instructed to give cheerfully and willfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). So, the question is not how much do I have to give but how much can I give.

The Church of Christ does not call their preachers or pastors 'reverend.' Many times I have been asked, "Are the pastor?" Sometimes, one in the business world will ask, or call me, 'reverend.' When I explain that I am neither, they are surprised and do not understand.

A pastor is a term that refers to an elder or bishop within the church (Ephesians 4:11). The word also simply means someone who oversees and feeds the flock of God (Acts 20:17-28). 'Reverend' is used only one time in all of the Bible, and then it refers to Almighty God (Psalm 119:11). Neither of these terms are used in reference to preachers. A preacher is no more authoritative than any member.

People cannot join the Church of Christ. It is a very common thing to hear the secular religious world of one joining the church, but is it true? Yes, you can join a denomination but not the Lord's church. Surprised? Well, it's true! Becoming a member of the

Lord's church is not like joining a social order or civic club; because the Lord himself adds those to his church that have obeyed the rules of entry (Acts 2:47), for he alone can read a heart.

The Church of Christ has the Communion every Sunday. The visitors to the church have been heard to ask, 'Do the people partake of this memorial feast every Sunday?' Though many are surprised, this is exactly what the Bible teaches, (Acts 20:7) "the disciples came together to break bread." Just as all under the Old Testament, to remember the Sabbath Day, it meant every Sabbath Day, did it not? Likewise, the first day of the week, the disciples came together to do this every week. If it had been a yearly, or monthly, observance, he would not have said every week. So, it is surprising to many because they have been wrongly taught that it is a monthly, quarterly, or annual thing to do.

The Lord's church doesn't have secular creed books or rules of faith. Today, most churches have books, manuals, disciplines or articles of faith; so some are made to wonder why the Church of Christ does not have them.

The Bible is all we need and is all rightly used as a guide in worship. Thus, the Scriptures are all sufficient to make a man complete when read, believed, and obeyed (1 Timothy 5:16-17). So, the Bible contains all we need. In John 12:48, Jesus says we will be judged by his word, not by some men's creeds. Galatians 1:6-9 says to believe or accept something else is to be accursed.

The Church of Christ has no earthly headquarters of men. Many have asked, 'where are your headquarters?' Then, they are surprised when we say we don't have any. However, their denominations are not that way. Some have a headquarters in Rome, Italy; some in Utah, others in Cleveland, Tennessee or Atlanta, Georgia. So, they have a centralized headquarters to rule over all their churches. But, not so the Lord's church. Colossians 1:18 says Christ built his church and he is the head over it, that he rules over it from Heaven. So, the church is autonomous and self-governed by elders, and all are independent from each other (Acts 14:23) even though by faith they are all tied together.

For lack of space, I will just mention the other things at this time. They are: any Christian can baptize another, not just the preacher; one can be baptized at any time, same hour, day or night; and that the music in the Church of Christ is vocal -- not playing. We will mention these in an later article.

Many thanks to Bro. Donnie Rader who preaches in Shelbyville, Tennessee, for his info given in this sermon.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local



Recognizing someone as "father" carries with it a very special significance. Immediately, and without doubt, the one who we call "father" is the one who is responsible for our being born. Without the one we call "father" we would not be in existence.

Because a "father" is responsible for our existence, he then becomes responsible for our well-being. Whatever concerns us must ultimately concern him. Whether it is food or clothing, shelter or healthcare, protection or education - it is his responsibility to meet that need. It is a role that is not to be taken lightly or without careful thought and planning.

There is more, however, than a responsibility factor. There is the

relationship factor. This includes acceptance and openness, honesty and trust, a willingness to hear what is on the child's heart and in the child's mind. There must be loyalty and faithfulness between father and child. One without the other leaves children lacking.

In Psalm 89 David said to God, "You are my Father, my God, the Rock - my Savior." If an author were writing about David today he would probably say that "David led a charmed life." He would look at the times he escaped his enemies, faced death, struggled with depression, and knew what abandonment was all about, could hardly face God because of His guilt, and knew the extreme pain of grief.

David, however, knew that it was not about "living a charmed life." No. It was about a Father who not only provided for and loved His child - but became his Savior.

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## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2

In the presence of **God** and of **Christ Jesus**, who will **judge** the **living** and the **dead**, and in **view** of **his** appearing and his **kingdom**, I give you this **charge**: **Preach** the **word**; be prepared in **season** and **out** of season; **correct**, **rebuke** and **encourage**—with **great** patience and **careful** instruction.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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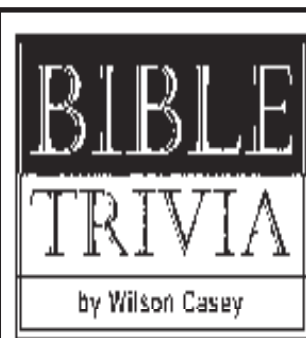
## Americanisms



"Everyone has a gift for something, even if it is the gift of being a good friend."  
— Marian Anderson

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1. Is the book of 1 Peter in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. At the time of Rehoboam there was a split: The Kingdom of Israel was in the north, while the southern kingdom was called ... ? Mesopotamia, Egypt, Judah, Syria
3. From Luke 13, which

king was referred to by Jesus as "that fox"? Herod, Solomon, Ahab, Caesar

4. What was a Persian gold coin also used by the Hebrews? Loon, Daric, Denarius, Falc

5. Who said, "Be sure your sin will find you out"? Matthew, David, Noah, Moses

6. Jebus is another name for ... ? Jericho, Jerusalem, Judah, Joshua

Answers on bottom of Page 12

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