

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
October 30, 2019

“ALL HALLOW’S EVE”

We got into an interesting discussion during our Bible study time on Tuesday morning with regards to Halloween (if you haven't heard, that's happening tomorrow night). My response is that I'm more and more choosing to sit this celebration out; not participate, and I strongly resist calling it a "holiday" as that word holiday evolved out of "holy day", and Halloween is now something other than holy. But, this observance does have some Christian roots. The name comes to us from Scottish and Irish origins from "Hallows-e'en" or the evening before All Hallows or All Saints Day. All Saints Day has been observed in the Church since at least the 8th century AD, and as with Christmas and Easter there came a tradition of vigils that began on the evening before leading up to the "Holy Day". The real fun, so to speak, began in the British Isles during the Dark Ages as Gaelic and Welsh cultures mixed Christian practices with some of the pagan rituals of their pre-Christian past. None of this had much influence on the British Colonies of North America and subsequently the United States until the 19th century when a massive influx of Scottish and Irish immigrants brought their "Hallows-e'en" carousing and reveling with them. From these immigrant communities Halloween gradually spread to mainstream society and by the early 20th century was being observed from coast to coast. What I remember of Halloween as a kid some 50+ years ago was an innocent romping of small costumed beggars wandering about town soliciting sweets. What it has turned into today makes my head spin. For the vast majority of folks it's still all in good fun, but I believe we've taken it way too far. Americans are expected to spend nearly \$9 BILLION on Halloween this year; with just over half the population taking part leading to an individual investment of \$87 for each man, woman and child. As I mentioned, I now stand at a distance and shake my head at what to me seems to be turning into pure lunacy. Let me offer an example; we like to watch the Food Network (eating food is one of the things I do best). For the entire month of October we've been bombarded by Halloween cake baking shows. Since when have cakes become an integral part of Halloween fun? Where is this all going to end? Now that doesn't mean that if a kid in camouflage comes to my door with an open pillowcase that I won't throw a Mr. Goodbar into it...but that probably won't happen because I don't think that there are any kids living within ten miles of us!