

[PDF] Halloween: What You Need to Know (Quick Reference Guides)

Halloween: What You Need to Know (Quick Reference Guides)

Ron Rhodes

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HALLOWEEN

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Ron Rhodes : Halloween: What You Need to Know (Quick Reference Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Halloween: What You Need to Know (Quick Reference Guides)*:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. AN EVEN-HANDED PRESENTATION OF THE CASES FOR/AGAINST HALLOWEEN By Steven H Propp Ron Rhodes is currently President of "Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries," and sometimes teaches cult apologetics at various seminaries. He was formerly Editor/Associate Editor of the Christian Research Institute's Journal and Newsletter, and a frequent guest on the "Bible Answer Man" radio program. He has written many books, such as *New Age Movement*, *The 10 Most Important Things You Can Say to a Jehovah's Witness*, *Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*, *The Reasoning from the Scriptures with the Mormons*, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Catholics*, *Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims*, *Answering the Objections of Atheists, Agnostics, and Skeptics*, etc. This 2008 fold-out pamphlet is basically half-"anti" Halloween, and half-"pro" Halloween (or at least, to "Redeem Halloween for Christian Use"). He notes, "The purpose of costumes. To avoid demonic possession, people wore costumes and grotesque masks, disguising themselves as one of the spirits... by looking like an evil spirit, people thought they could convince a real evil spirit that their village was already possessed by evil spirits, and the real spirits would subsequently pass on to another village." He observes, "Carved pumpkins with a light inside. Many pagans believed they could scare away evil spirits by carving a grotesque face into a vegetable and mounting a lit candle inside it. The idea was that if a demon encountered something as fiendish looking as himself, he'd run away in terror." He adds, "'Halloween' is a shortened, single-word form of All Hallows' Eve. It was celebrated on October 31. All Hallows' Day, or All Saints' Day, was the next day... Christians also declared November 2 as 'All Soul's Day,' during which they celebrated the souls of all the faithful departed who had died the previous year... The church thus replaced the pagan festival with a spiritually edifying holy day... This Christian alternative holiday also proclaimed the supremacy of the Christian gospel over pagan superstition." He admits, "a virtual nonparticipation policy can be stressful to Christian children, for their parents may (1) keep them from participating in public school activities affiliated with Halloween, and (2) choose not to open the door when kids in their neighborhood (their children's friends) ring the doorbell. Parents are wise to give their kids strategies for handling the awkwardness that may potentially emerge in connection with Halloween." He suggests, "Christians can also buy hefty candy bars and affix a gospel tract to it with tape... Other Christians choose to hand out spiritual comic books with candy... Some Christians throw candy into the bags of children but then hand parents a gospel tract, saying, 'Here's a treat for you too.'... Some churches have chosen to sponsor a Holy-Ween youth rally. This is an event where Christian teens come together to participate in a contemporary worship service... It's a great way to spend an evening." Rhodes' booklet is perhaps the best BRIEF summary of the various issues, arguments, and alternatives for Christians about Halloween.

Quick Reference Guides offer practical, biblical, and timely insights on today's most important topics with concise facts and user--friendly writing. Attractive, affordable, and applicable, these serve as ideal resources for personal and church reference. Even though many are familiar with the trick-or-treating, witches, pumpkins, and scary costumes of Halloween, few people know its true history. Biblical scholar and apologetics expert Ron Rhodes tackles the difficult questions and exposes the myths: Why is it important to know more about this topic? Should Christians avoid having anything to do with Halloween? Which activities are spiritually safe? Rhodes gives readers historical, cultural, and biblical information so they can approach Halloween with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

About the Author Ron Rhodes, president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, is heard regularly on nationwide radio and is the author of *Bite-Size Bible Answers*, *Bite-Size Bible Definitions*, *Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses* and *5-Minute Apologetics for Today*. He holds ThM and ThD degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary and teaches there and at several other seminaries.