

Daily Devotional, October 30, 2020

“To the Law and To the Testimony!”, (Isaiah 8:19-20, NKJV)

“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:19-20)

Our text speaks to a topic that is in season, for Halloween is upon us. The holiday tends to bring occult practices to the forefront of our minds. What does the Bible say about these practices? Our text gives us the answer. **“To the Law and to the Testimony!”** should be the rallying cry of Christians everywhere. In other words, we are to seek authoritative answers from God’s Word, and live by them. God’s Word is light, and the things that line up against it are darkness. Whether the practitioners of such evil are really doing these things or are simply charlatan deceivers is irrelevant, for both further the demonic plan whether they know it or not.

What does the Bible say? **“To the Law and to the Testimony!”** **“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:31).** **“And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people” (Leviticus 20:6).** **“A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them” (Leviticus 20:27).** **“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you” (Deuteronomy 18:10-14).** **“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29).** **“But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, ‘O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord” (Acts 13:8-10)?** **“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation**

21:8). These are only a few of the many Bible texts and passages, and they are all very clear that divination, magic, mediums, necromancy (calling up of the dead), sorcery, and witchcraft/wizardry are forbidden by Almighty God.

In closing, I will once again declare to you the Christian response to these things. **“To the Law and to the Testimony!”** Your God and His Word to you is the authority for all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16). If you are mixed up with any of these sinful practices, forsake them. They are not harmless. Although many of the practices we have covered are simple human foolishness, there are powers at work that you do not want to expose yourself to. Do not play games with them. Again I say, forsake evil! Warn others of the danger as well, that they may not fall into, or further into, the trap of occult practice. The best defense against the wiles of evil is to live close to the Lord Jesus Christ and cultivate your relationship with Him. Focus on Christ, and do not focus on evil—evil will find you anyhow. May we be found continually **“looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith”** (Hebrews 12:2a)!