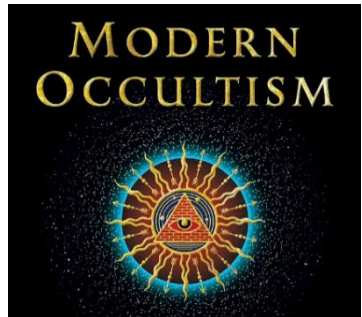


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: lloke822@gmail.com

Addressing the Peril of the Modern Day Occult

We are living in darkening last days of profound spiritual deception and declension that is affecting the church, Bible colleges and Christian families. With the advent of the New Age Movement, there are many Christians seduced into dangerous dark activities. Many Christians have not read the Bible in its complete entirety and are thus not aware of the strict warnings that God the Father has given about being involved in any form of occult activity. Most of these warnings are back in the Old Testament.



Before they went into the Promised Land, they were given strict warnings and guidelines by God the Father as to what they could do and what they could not do. One of those warnings was about not inter-marrying and engaging in a lot of the pagan practices of the people who were already inhabiting parts of the Promised Land (Deut 7:1-10).

These people were evil and had wrong beliefs and practices of polytheism and immorality and the sacrificing their own children to appease what they thought were gods. They were involved in occultic activity, and God was strict in the warnings that He gave His own people in that they were not to engage in any form or part of this kind of activity.



... I am the Lord your God,
Who has separated you
from other peoples.
You shall therefore
make distinction
between the clean ...
from the unclean, ...
Leviticus 20:24-25

The warnings that God gave His people back then still apply to all of us in this day and age. The Bible says that God does not change, and this includes all of His ways and all of His warnings. The trouble is, most Christians are not aware of what some of these warnings are because they have not spent much time studying the Old Testament.

Specific Occultic Activities to Avoid

The Bible warns us clearly of the perils and consequences of dabbling with the occult and forbids the practice of the occult such as divination, necromancy, horoscopes, magic, etc. as they are an abomination to God. (Lev 19:26-28, 31; 20:6, 27; Deut 18:9-14; 2 Kings 23:1-24; Jer 10:2) The following practices are considered to be occultic from the biblical perspective:

1. Fortune telling - of any kind such as palm reading, crystal ball gazing, numerology, etc.
2. Tarot Cards
3. *Ouija* Boards or the spirit of the coin
4. Seances and any involvement with mediums or spiritists.
5. Astrology and any form of oriental or western or oriental zodiac signs or horoscopes.
6. Transcendental Meditation or any type of Eastern Meditation.
7. Crystals and precious metals and charms and talisman
8. Witchcraft, black magic and incantations
9. Satanism and its worship
10. Voodoo dolls and curses
11. Channelling and spell casting
12. Reincarnation and yoga
13. Astral projection
14. Extra Sensory Power
15. *Dungeons and Dragons* - role-playing games and other computer games. like *Diablos*, *World of Warcraft*, *Halo 2*, *Barbarian*, etc.
16. New Age Movement techniques and activities. (ie *Reiki*)
17. Necromancy or consulting the dead

For example, Astrology is a pseudo-science based on the view that the stars and planets exert a strong spiritual or metaphysical influence on human affairs. It claims that the relative positions of the heavenly bodies at an individual's birth determine his or her basic makeup, and that changing astral positions can be used to predict the future. However, because the heavens were never intended for these purposes, astrology is a dangerous and wrongful practice. Stars were created for declaring God's glory. To use them otherwise is idolatry, as warned against throughout Scripture (Deut. 4:19; 2 Kings 23:5; Isa. 47:13). **Astrology or the use of zodiac signs should not even be consulted for amusement. It is connected with the forces of evil and can lead to other occult practices and bondage to sin.**



It is impossible for the created stars to have an effect on a future of a person as they were not designed by the Creator for this purpose, much less on world events. The gravity of stars and planets is the only force that acts through space distances, and its physical effect is negligible on Earth.

Biblical Warnings and Admonitions

The Bible says that God the Father is a jealous God, a consuming fire. Here are two verses specifically telling us this: **"For I the Lord your God, am a jealous God" (Exod 20:5). "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (Deut 4:24).** Because God is very jealous and concern over the spiritual wellbeing of His own children, He wants us to come directly to Him with our needs and He has in store for us in our future.

Many so-called Christians are consulting fortune tellers, psychics, horoscopes and youths play the occultic computer games, read Harry Potter books, play Pokémon or Ouija boards for fun and guidance and information on what the future may hold for them. The Bible says that it is the job and ministry of the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and teach us all things.

The Word of God is the infallible guide and teacher of your life. God does not want you going to others to seek out this type of false divine guidance because of His great love for us. The Bible says that there is only one God, and only He knows all things about you, your past, your present and your future. We do not need nor want to consult any evil spirit or person made used by the evil one as it will incur the wrath of God.

The first two commandments are that we are to have no other gods or idols other than God the Father. When a Christian goes to a fortune teller or psychic for any type of divine guidance, you are placing that person before God, and you will risk incurring His wrath along with possibly opening the door for demons to oppress or deceive you. These fortune tellers may have their ability to have partial knowledge about you and your present situation directly from demons and manipulate you in the process.



Once you step into the fortune teller's or feng shui master, medium or sooth sayer's office, you are stepping behind enemy lines since these people are operating under the influence and guidance of demonic spirits which is extremely dangerous.

The Bible says that God's people will perish for lack of knowledge - and **a lot of Christians are dragging demonic spirits home with them due to their lack of knowledge about how dangerous it is to engage in this type of occult activity.**

God is against the pursuing of spiritual guidance from soothsayers, mediums, the stars, the sun and the moon (astrology) are **abominations** before the Lord and that you risk having Him set His face against you for engaging in these types of activities. Notice the strong wording used by God in the above verses - **"abomination, take heed, give no regard, do not seek after them to be defiled by them."** God says

you are literally compromising yourself with sin if you engage in any of these occult activities.

The extremely strong wording being used by the Lord in these verses shows that this is a **maximum kind of warning** being given to His people and under no circumstances are we to engage, experiment with or try out, for even one time, any of these occultic activities.

Peril in the Last Days

There is a great interest in the occult in Singapore over the past decade among the young and old. Modern witchcraft was openly and widely practiced today as in Old Testament times. (Isa 8:19; 19:3; 29:4; Ezek 21:21; Hos 4:12; Mic 3:6-7; 5:12)



These practices were also present in the 1st century church during the times of the Apostles and were condemned by God. Consider the following: Simon the magician (Acts 8:9,11), the incident of Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:8), the girl at Philippi (Acts 16:16) and the city of Ephesus (Acts 19:19).

In the last days, there will be an increased involvement in the occultic activity of our times. (1Tim 4:1).

Satan has been manipulating and deceiving many through the years by the supernatural manifestations of the occult. The teachings of satanic bondage and spiritism are doctrines of devils. Be discerning for Satan can also perform signs and supernatural wonders. Read Exod 7:17-19; Deut 13:1-5; Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22, 2Thes 2:9; Rev 13:13-14,16:14; 19:20.

Occult involvement for believers may lead to demonic obsession if there is no repentance. In Acts 13:8,10, Paul called the magician a "child of the devil!" There are serious consequences for those who dabble with occult practices! (Acts 16:16-18; Kings 17:17) These diabolical works of darkness are already exposed by God in His Word in Jer 14:14; 27:9-10; 29:8-9; Zech 10:2; 2Cor 11:13-15; 2 Thes 2:7-12; Rev 18:23b.

Bomohs, the oriental *tang kee* (or one who can have seances with the dead), necromancers and soothsayers are to be rejected (Exod 7:9-12; 8:7; Dan 1:20) and their power is limited (Exod 8:17-19; Dan 2:2,10, 27; 4:7; 5:7-8,15). God chided the Babylonian occultic astrologers who misled the people, and this is also a warning to us. (Isa 47:12-14)

There are serious consequences for involvement in the occult under the Old Testament law, the punishment was death by stoning. (Exod 22:18; Lev 20:27; Deut 13:5)

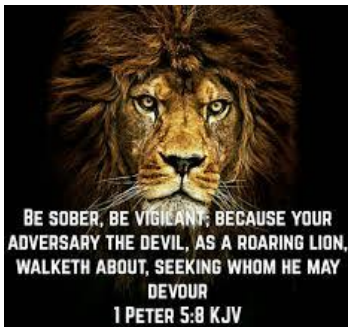
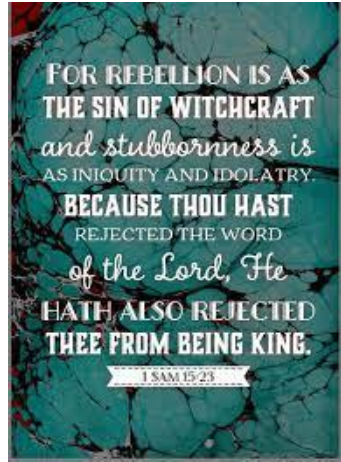
Saul was punished because he participated in a seance when he sought out a witch of Endor (1 Sam 28), and the kingdom was taken from him (1 Chronicles 10:13-14). Those who practice the occult arts like witchcraft (2Kings 9:22; Isa 57:20-21), will face God's judgment (Mal 3:5). Their souls shall be rejected by God (Lev 20:6; 2Kings 17:17; Isa 2:6) and they will not enter into the kingdom (Gal 5:19-21), and their end shall be eternal condemnation (Rev 21:8; 22:14-15).

The practice of the occult is a great affront to a holy and just God. Witchcraft is compared to rebellion (disobedience) against God. (1Sam 15:23) God says it is an abomination in His sight (Deut 18:9-14). God says they "sold their souls" to the devil by their divination (2Kings17:17). It is not only spiritually defiling (Lev 19:31); but it has a bad influence on others as well (Nah 3:4-7,19). It greatly displeases and angers God (2Kings 21:5-6; 2Chr 33:6).

God-fearing Christians must separate themselves from all from of the occult and they and their children must remove them far away (Acts 19:19). When Israel backslided, there were times of spiritual declension and deception where the land was full of occultic mediums and spiritists (1Sam 28:3,9; 2Kings 23:24). Those who refused to repent of their sorceries will receive eternal judgment (Rev 9:20; 16:9).

The last perilous days have been characterised by widespread spiritual and moral deception in the areas of medicine, health, education and entertainment. Even some church leaders have compromised to employ some of these questionable techniques. Unsuspecting Christians have gravitated to these newer and less painful methods, and hope for a complete cure without knowing the grave consequences. Those who are unsure should search the Scriptures and read the following first: Deut 18:9–12, Jer 27:9, 1Thes 5:5–21, 1Tim 6:20, 1Pet 5:7–8, and our Lord, in Matt 24:1-24, warns others to be discerning. We need to be discerning and to pray and ask the Lord for protection, wisdom and guidance first if you come into contact with these things; and put on the full armour of God (Eph 6:10–18).

Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Salvation comes not from works or morality or spirit guides, no matter how real it can be. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We need to be watchful, alert and vigilant to the deception of the last days.



I believe the **New Age movement is the devil's chief weapon in drawing men away from Christ by giving him a spurious spiritual substitute. It is a counterfeit god, a false spiritual experience that does not save. You may feel good or even experience so-called serenity and tranquillity, but it will not last.** Beware of the wiles of the evil one. Be discerning and examine things biblically (1 Thess 5:21). Pray and ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment and appraise and test all things (1 John 4:1).

There are **4 step processes** that need to be done in order to keep away from diabolical activities that once we may have engaged in our lives.

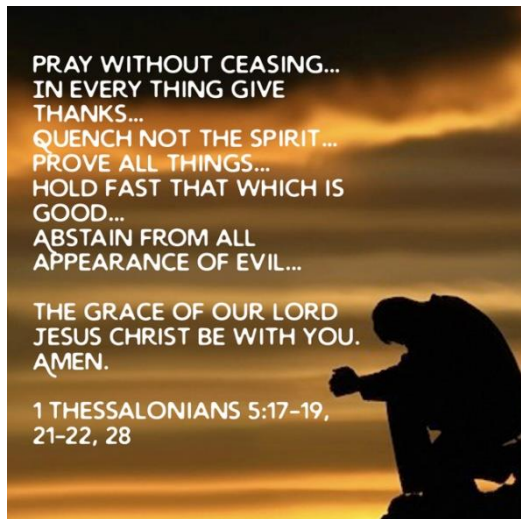
- **Confess** the specific activity before God as a sin and ask for His forgiveness.
- **Renounce and repent of** the specific activity before God and tell Him you will never ever participate in that activity again and mean it.
- **Remove or throw away** all occultic books, objects or items associated with this activity (with the help of a pastor if necessary).
- **Read and apply the Word of God and keep close to the Lord Jesus** in daily prayer and regular Sabbath worship in a reformed church and fellowship with saints of God and do not go back to our old ways again.

Conclusion

We live in these last perilous times of grave spiritual danger. If one is outside the kingdom of God, one **needs to come before God and acknowledge him as his personal Saviour and Lord first with sincere repentance of sins. (Rom 10:9,10. Eph2:8,9)** There is no other salvation found outside the finished work of Christ for us at Calvary 's cross (Acts 4;12. Jn 14:6) not of works or morality or any philosophy of man Once you confess your sins and this occult activity before God as a sin, never do it again and throw away any items associated with this activity. Seek and serve and worship your God as a born-again believer and consciously keep away from all these malevolent activities and warn others of the same as well. He will preserve and protect us if we sincerely and humbly put Him first as our Sovereign king and Lord. **Do it Now before it is too late!**

Jack Sin

(For deeper studies, read Ron Rhodes, The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions, 2001 and Jack Sin, Examining and Exposing Current Cultic and Occultic Movements, MBPC: 2001)



Logos Teaching – A ministry of Sovereign Hope BPC - Christian Apologetics (Aug 2023 – May 2024)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

1Peter 3:15

By the will of God, from Aug 2024 till May 2024, we conducted theological training on Christian Apologetics to about 22 participants that included principal & teachers, missionaries, Elders and Pastors, and our church members.

This was suggested by Bro Tea, a principal of a Christian school in Johor Bahru, Malaysia after our church camp last year for the benefit of equipping his teachers to be more effective in reaching out to students.



It was held on every third Thursday night via Zoom with an in-depth study of the subject at the Masters level, that included quizzes and discussion questions. Topics covered were:

1. Introduction to Christian Apologetics
2. Apologetics & The Presentation & Defence of the Gospel
3. Defending the Deity & Humanity of Christ
4. Biblical Creationism vs Man-made Evolution
5. The History of the Bible
6. Evidence for the Resurrection of Christ
7. Biblical Perspective of Pain & Suffering
8. Biblical Perspective of the Problem of Evil

Thank God for a fruitful time of learning together as we gain practical insights into how we can share and defend the faith more intelligently. May it be a blessing to all the participants as they apply what they have learnt from these lectures.

Pastor Jack

Memory Verse

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Discipline the Sound Mind [Phil 4:6-8, 2Cor 10:4,5]***", the quarterly series on "***Christian Disciplines in the Lord'***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Discipline of Christian Fellowship [Acts 2:41-47]***". After the worship service, there will be a **Camp Briefing** for all campers and hence there will be no Sunday School classes.
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service continue as follows:
 - How to Interpret the Bible (Pastor)
 - Studies in Ezra (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. **[Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551]**.
7. Pray for:
 - Rev David Khobal & Eld Habakkuk's travel to Singapore on 10 Jun.
 - Camp Committee, Camp Speaker and Devotion Speakers and all Campers at our Annual Church Camp (Jun 11-14), Lotus Desaru Beach Resort on the theme "*Biblical Pathway for Church Growth & Health*".
 - Travels: Perry (17/4-5/6)
 - Medical: Samuel Wong [multiple health conditions], Aunty Chwee Lian [hip fracture], Daniel Phang [high blood pressure], Kin Hoong [monitoring of heart and lungs pressure], Anthony [lung cancer].
8. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.