

The Occult – What it is and what it works.

A short series for our MBT students dealing with the reality, goals and pervasiveness of the occult in our world today.

Week 2: Warning Examples.

Review: Origin of the occult – It comes through rebellion against the authority and restrictions that God has placed over the lives of His creation and people.

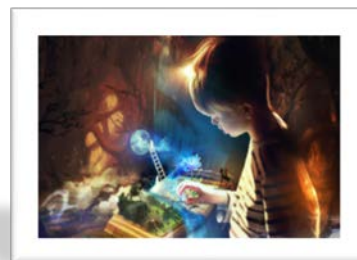
KEY VERSE: 1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

KEY CONCEPT: Occult pursuits (the pursuit of hidden knowledge thru mystery false religion or forms of divination) are rebellion against the revelation of God's Word.

RESULT: Occult pursuit will lead you away from God and His Word.

1. The devil and his world work to make the occult _____.

- *Examples:*
Exodus 7:8-13



See also – Ex 7:22; 8:7, 18; 1 Sam 15:23; Rev 9:20-21

- *In everything from Gen 3 to how the occult is presented in fiction like “Harry Potter” and “Twilight,”* rebellion against God is viewed as cool, _____ and even sexy!
- Personal testimony.

2. Examples of the Occult practices today.

- **There are big problems with the occult in the world.**
 - **Astrology** - is a form of divination based on the construction of a _____ for an exact moment.
 - **Crystal ball** – “shew (show) stone” believed to aid in “seeing” occult information. A body of water (a *scrying pool*) either in a container or on the ground, are used for divination.
 - **Ouija board** – “spirit board” “talking board” Participants place their fingers on the planchette, and it is moved about the board to spell out words. It is divination.



- **Tarot** - Tarot reading is a form of divination using cards to gain insight into the past, current and future situations by posing

a _____ to the cards.

i.e. cartomancy = "divination by means of cards"



- **Charlie Charlie** (challenge?) popular form of divination with children today.
- **Divination** – rods (dowsing), pendulums, coins, (even "magic 8 balls!") etc...

KNOW: Divination is powered _____! **Acts 16:16-21**

• ***There are big problems with the occult in the _____!***

- **Cults:** Mormonism, Jehovah's witness, elements within the Catholic church, Free Masons,
- **Counseling** – "Splankna"
Practitioners feel powerful. They are getting hidden knowledge and seeing big reactions in clients.
The stated (even felt) goal is to help people.
It works. Sometimes well, sometimes badly. But you get a response with the technique.
But, this is done contrary to Scriptural counseling methodology and sound (proven) scientific practice.

It is divination. The author indirectly admits and defends this in chapters 7-9 of the book "Splankna."

They have to defend the use of witchcraft on their web site! Splankna.com

Divination is not for our use at any time.

- **Bibliomancy** - the use of books in divination. The word is *biblio* - "books" and *mancy* - "divination by means of..."

- **Contemplative / Centering prayer -**

Contemplative mysticism, incl centering prayer has its roots in Roman Catholic / Greek orthodox / and even Hindu monasticism. It is invading every area of the church today.

Beware (Christian bookstores!) books like "Sacred Pathways" this is turning up in churches everywhere. In warning about the dangers of contemplative mysticism, they point you to use those very structures!

God's expectation (His demand) is that we take Him at His _____.

Example: Compare and contrast Gen 2:17 and Gen 3:1-7 The first sin was one of divination!

3. Q&A

Verse Appendix: seducing power of the occult.

Ge 3:3-5 — But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. ⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Ge 3:13 — And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

2Co 11:3 — But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2Co 11:13-15 — For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2Th 2:9-12 — *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2Ti 3:13 — But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

2Pe 2:1 — But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Rev 13:14 — And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Rev 16:14 — For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 18:2 — And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev 18:23 — And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee [BABYLON vs 2]; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Rev 19:20 — And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 20:2-3 — And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:8 — And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

Rev 20:10 — And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.