

# Spiritualism

## *A Warning and an Appeal*

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Spiritualism, better described as spiritism has been known and practised from earliest times by many nations and among all classes; among the high and low, the educated and uneducated, even down to the uncivilised tribes in heathen lands, with their witchdoctors and medicine men, bringing its blight and fear, and imposture upon the ignorant.

In modern days it is known under various names and titles, as for instance, "occult science," "clairvoyance," "psychical research." Sometimes the name "christian" is prefixed as "Christian spiritualist church," but although dressed up with attractive names it is nevertheless the same in essence as the necromancy, sorcery, witchcraft, astrology, divination, of Bible days. The mediums are those who have dealings with familiar spirits, which are actually lying or seducing spirits (1 Tim. 4, 1), impersonating the dead, and all such practices are not only forbidden by the Lord, but are also an abomination to Him. (Deut. 18, 9-15.)

We read that King Saul died for his

transgression which he committed against the Lord, and because he asked counsel of one that had a familiar spirit. (1 Chr. 10, 13.) It is true in this instance (to which spiritualists sometimes refer, to justify their practices), that God allowed Samuel the prophet to answer Saul, but this was in order that God's prophet might pronounce God's judgment on the disobedient king, which judgment was rejection and death. (1 Sam. 28, 18, 20.)

Some are attracted to spiritist meetings out of curiosity, and some because they have lost a loved one, and in their loneliness and perhaps at the invitation of a neighbour, they go along to a meeting hoping to hear of, or from, the dear one who has passed away. And thus unaware of what they are actually associating themselves with, and because the service may include hymn singing and Scripture reading, they are deceived as to its true character.

And what do the mediums say about the departed? The messages they receive are assumed to come from the dead, and they utter smooth and comforting things, even as those of old time, who had forsaken the Lord desired the prophets to speak to them (Isa. 30, 10). No account is taken as to whether the one who died truly feared the Lord or otherwise. Thus

these messages falsify the Scriptures, for those who pass away self righteous in heart, or indifferent as to their sinfulness and the gospel of Christ, "die in their sins" (John 8, 24), and meet eternal judgment. Those, however, who have sought the Lord in repentance for His mercy and grace, "die in the Lord" and "depart to be with Christ which is far better." Furthermore, it is also revealed that Christ alone has the keys of hades and of death. How great the delusion and presumption, therefore, for persons of any class to imagine they have any influence over, or that they can recall, the dead (Rev. 1, 18. See also Heb. 9, 27).

But why should the living seek unto the dead? Why put faith in, or give heed to, deceiving spirits of which the Scriptures forewarn? Should not a people seek unto their God, the One Who has made heaven and earth and all things therein, and whose works testify to His eternal power and Godhead? (Rom. 1, 20.) Yes, assuredly, and if we earnestly desire true knowledge, it is imparted to us by the prayerful reading of Scripture (2 Tim. 3, 15-17). And if we desire true comfort, salvation and eternal blessing, it is found in Christ. He is the only Mediator between God and men, for there is redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins, according to

the riches of His grace. (Eph. 1, 7.) He is the only Saviour able to meet our deep need and heart longings, and in words tender and true He bids those who are weary and heavy laden to come unto Him and find rest unto their souls. (Matt. 11, 28-30.)

Turn then to the Lord in repentance and faith, forsaking entirely every form of spiritism and divination, which finally leads souls to a lost eternity (Rev. 21, 8; 22, 15), and you shall know in your heart by His Spirit the peace of God, and find day by day that communion with, and service for the Lord, which only His redeemed children can know (2 Tim. 1, 12).

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The above is but a brief message against the sin of spiritism. For those who desire to enlighten themselves further on this subject, the following scriptures are earnestly commended:—

*God's warning and displeasure expressed:—*Lev. 19, 31; 20, 6, 27; Deut. 18, 10-12; Isa. 8, 19, 20.

*The case of Saul:—*1 Sam. 28, 3-20; 1 Chron. 10, 1-14.

*The solemn condition after death of the rich man and Lazarus:—*Luke 16, 19-31.

*Sundry warnings and experiences with evil spirits:—*Acts 16, 16-31; 19, 13-20; Mark 13, 22; Luke 4, 33-37; 2 Thess. 2, 1-12; 1 Tim. 4, 1.

*The way of salvation and blessing:—*John 3; Romans 3; Eph. 2.

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