## The Pastor's Corner Vol. 25

January, 2011

## Should Christians Visit Psychics or Rely on Horoscopes?



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Reviewed by: Dr. Lambert Duncan

## Should Christians Visit Psychics or Rely on Horoscopes?

Acts 16:16-18 (NIV) "16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her."

Matthew 12:24-26 (NIV) "24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.'

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?"

Matthew 6:34 (NIV) "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

1 John 4:1-3 (NIV) "I Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world"

One of the most crucial questions that humanity has is, "What's going to happen in the future in my life?" For the unsaved (non-Christian) it is understandable that such a question would be on their mind since they do not have a relationship with the God who holds everybody's "tomorrow" in His hand. However, many church going, Bible believing Christians are asking the same question. Sadly, like the non-Christian, the true Christian has, instead of trusting God, resorted to visiting or consulting psychics and reading horoscopes for the answer to the question, "What's going to happen in the future in my life?" This they do despite the clear promise we find in Romans 8:28 (NIV) that says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." In addition, we have the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:34 (NIV) where he said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

The only way that we can stand on these and many other biblical passages that let us know that we don't need to worry about our future and that God is in complete control of our future and has our best interest in mind, is to by faith trust him at his word (Proverbs 3:5-6). In my opinion, the main reason Christians consult psychics and rely on horoscopes is because they don't trust the God they say they love. When we truly and fully by faith trust God, we're not worried about what tomorrow holds for us, because we know that the sovereign God we serve is in complete control of our tomorrows and nothing or no one is more powerful than him. When we trust God we know that whatever happens tomorrow, next week or next year, God has allowed and will be right there with us as we go through it. We may not understand why, but we know the all-wise God knows what he's doing all the time and he never makes mistakes. With that said, why should Christians consult psychics and horoscopes to find out about our future? Where is your faith in God?

For the Christian(s) that consult mediums or psychics to communicate with the dead, they should be reminded that the Bible strictly forbids necromancy (communing with the dead). Consider the following passages:

- Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NIV) "<sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out these nations before you."
- <u>Leviticus 19:31</u> (NIV) "**Do not turn to mediums** or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."
- Leviticus 20:6 (NIV) "I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostituting themselves to Molech."

For many, the thought of contacting the dead is fascinating to say the least. However, as these passages clearly teach God strictly forbids such practices. Because God forbids the practice of communing with the dead, it must be understood that he is not trying to hide information from us, but protect us from demons and/or lies and deception. Biblically, when a believer's (a Christian) soul/spirit separates from their body at death they go immediately to be in the Lord's presence. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV) "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (See also Philippians 1:21-23). When the unbeliever's (non-Christian) soul/spirit separates from their body at death they go to a place of conscience, eternal torment (Luke 16:19-31). Whichever the case, the dead are not accessible by mediums or psychics. More than likely, the messages that come through these mediums and

psychics come from demons or the clever ability of mediums and psychics to extract information from their victims that will usually make them think they're hearing from their deceased loved one.

The most deadly part of the whole deception by psychics and mediums communing with the dead is that they deviate from the biblical teaching of "hell" and "heaven" as they never have those that they supposedly contact from the dead describe either place nor even mention them. This alone should be most disturbing to Bible believing Christians.

For many Christians, consulting psychics for insight into their future is ok if what the psychic says is true or comes to pass. In their minds, this must be the work of the Holy Spirit since it is true or came to pass. Some even believe that the psychics they consult have received their gifting from God, that's why what they say is true or comes to pass. However, the accuracy or truth of what a psychic says does not mean they are getting their information from God. Consider the slave girl from Acts chapter 16, whom the Bible says "had a spirit by which she predicted the future." There are three (3) points we glean from this slave girl from Acts 16:16-18, they are:

- The slave girl "earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune telling." It is obvious she must have been quite accurate in predicting the future; otherwise, she would have been exposed as a phony.
- She was accurate with her assessment of Paul and those with him when she said, "These men are servants of the most High God,.."
- Paul, troubled by this fortune teller, cast the spirit out of her. If she were fortune telling through the Holy Spirit, why would Paul cast the Holy Spirit out of her? If Paul cast out the Holy Spirit by the Holy Spirit, God's kingdom would be a divided kingdom. Jesus said a kingdom divided against itself will be ruined (Matthew 12:24-26). The obvious conclusion is that this slave girl, although she had truth, was demon possessed and got her information from demons.

The acid test for a true Word from God is not just accuracy, although one must be accurate. The person predicting the future must always acknowledge Jesus Christ as God and Savior, and that he came in flesh (1 John 4:1-3). This is the true test, along with accuracy. It should also be understood that the gifts God gives through the Holy Spirit do not belong to the person(s) possessing the gift. That said, the gift(s) are freely given and should be freely used, there should be no charge. In Matthew 10:8 (NIV) we read, "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely you give."

Finally, one of the most common traps Christians fall into their quest to know what their future holds is to consult their daily horoscope. Horoscopes are found in most newspapers we read every day. To most, reading their horoscope is a harmless vice. However, nothing could be further from the truth. According to those writing the daily horoscopes, (usually an astrologist or psychic) there is an influence of the heavenly bodies (sun, moon, planets and stars) upon all human affairs. More specifically, they say that the positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars affect the fortunes of everybody and their daily circumstances of life, as well as the events of history.

A horoscope is a diagram of the heavenly bodies that shows the relative positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars at a specific time. From these positions it can be determined how things will go in each individual's life. However, the Christian that accepts the idea that the position of the sun, moon, stars and planets affects their lives is forced to ignore the fact that it is God alone that controls everything under the sun. In <u>Daniel 4:35</u> (NIV) we read, "All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'"

The Bible is emphatically clear about astrologers and those writing horoscopes. In <u>Isaiah 47:13-14</u> (NIV) we read, "<sup>13</sup>All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. <sup>14</sup>Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. Here are no coals to warm anyone; here is no fire to sit by."

Obviously then, the answer to the question, "Should Christians visit psychics or rely on horoscopes?" is, absolutely not!!! We are to trust God alone for our future. We must do our part by living in a way that praises God, making wise decisions, saving our money, working to provide for our retirement, etc. When we do our part to the best of our ability we can accept our tomorrows as they come, knowing fully well who holds our tomorrows.

God Bless,

Pastor D. M. Duncan

## Note:

This article is the sole property of Pastor D. M. Duncan. The contents of this article may not be altered in any way. However, my name and the church name may be removed for circulation in any church or ministry. This article may be reproduced only in its entirety (with the exception of removing my name and the church name) for circulation as "freeware"; without charge. This article is not to be sold or used as an enhancement for any other product that is sold.