

UNGODLY TRAFFIC WITH DEMONS

Beware of the soul-poison which turns hearts from God.

"WHERE are the dead?" "What follows after death?" "Can we believe in immortality?" These questions trouble many minds. The materialist and the infidel bring their carnality into their answer: "There is no surviving personality after death." They want it so. But the Christian will believe what our Savior Jesus Christ said: "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3). He also told of a rich man who died, and "in hell he lift up this eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:23)'.

Receive Not the Truth

But the answer Jesus gave does not satisfy the Spiritualist. An author of a spiritualistic book blatantly declared: "The notions derived from the gospel are vague, disgusting, inaccurate, and difficult to believe. Nothing can be more inconsistent with the religion inculcated by my spirit-friends than the idea of atonement for sin by faith in any religion, true or false."

This blasphemous author speaks the truth only when he says Spiritualism is inconsistent with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ —the "true" Gospel. Spiritualism denies the Deity of Christ, the fall of man, the Atonement, and the •coming Judgment. Plain statements to that effect were made openly by earlier Spiritualists, but more covertly by the modern group. Attempts are made to enlist the support of Scripture for their false practices. They talk about Jesus as the "God-idea," and speak of God as the "God-force." They say, "Jesus was a man, a medium, and not God."

False Manifestations

According to the Spiritists, the dead pass into a world not unlike ours — even with all its evils, and with theirs. Communion with the dead is made possible, say the Spiritualists, by a "medium' with a "control" in the spirit world. There are at least 150,000 mediums in this country.

An investigator who for more than 30 years has been making Spiritualism a close study is best prepared to tell what she has found: "I have unmasked a thousand frauds." "I have investigated those who claim to have this [psychic] power. I have never found one who was not a fraud." "All their -miracles' could be duplicated by trickery or sleight of hand." A well-known magician, too, said he could duplicate all the tricks. He said that people were easily deceived in the presence of magic and psychic demonstrations because they are not familiar with magic art, do not really see what they think they see, and are "passionately eager to believe."

The investigator asked mediums to get her into touch with the investigator's "husband," which the mediums readily assumed to do. A conversation was carried on, supposedly with the "husband," but the investigator never had a husband. In one conversation with the supposed-to-be husband, he was telling the investigator to spend her money as she -pleased but be sure to give the medium \$500.'

Some of the first mediums in this country confessed that they were frauds. The investigator said she had exposed a thousand frauds, but still there are frauds who are practicing, and thousands who consult them and are duped by manifestations of various kinds: rapping, table tapping, automatic writing, the ouija board, speaking in trances, and many other ways best suited to the medium and to the "shut eyes," which is the contemptuous term used by the mediums to designate their clients.

Spirit photography has been widespread in recent years: pictures of Jesus in bushes, on snowbanks, over some person's head, and in various other places. They are always associated with Spiritualism; with those who are supposed to have psychic power. This hoax has been proved' to be double exposure and clever manipulation of the lens. It has been stated that because Jesus is coming soon He is showing His likeness

in unique places to attract people's attention. Only the simpleminded could believe that the Savior would resort to anything so tawdry. In His Holy Word He has declared the signs of His coming.

Forbidden by the Lord

There may be those who really believe they are in touch with the spirit world — and perhaps they are in touch with the demon world — but they are not in touch with God or His Word. God has warned men that His condemnation is on the necromancer, the enchanter, the witch, the wizard, the consulter with familiar spirits, the observer of seasons, the one who is possessed with the spirit of divination.

He also warned those who consult these "diviners" that it is all an "abomination" to Him: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" (Exodus 22:18). "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death" (Leviticus 20:27). "And sorcerers, .. shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). The witches are not literally stoned to death today but they are spiritually stoned to death, as are those who consult them: "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? ... if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:19, 20).

Kindred Evils

It is a perilous thing to meddle with fortunetelling, astrology, or any other form of "bootleg psychology" which is instigated and promoted by the powers of evil. Yet it is astonishing that in this age of enlightenment, scientific progress, and widespread knowledge of the Word of God, educated people resort to quacks for information and advice. It is estimated that at least 50 percent of our population belong to the gullible who consult fortune-tellers and astrologers and gypsies.

If God has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to veil the future, it does not behove a man to try to penetrate that veil by the aid of a human being as limited in wisdom as himself and as prone to error, and who is especially unreliable because the source of his bootleg knowledge is an evil spirit whose sole purpose is to mislead.

Psychiatrists tell us that homes have been wrecked because the seed of distrust has been planted in the mind of the one who consulted the fortune-teller. A mother murdered her child because the fortune-teller said the child would grow up to be an imbecile.

The Prophet Isaiah pronounced the fate that will come to those who disobey God's Word and seek the demoniacal "wisdom" of the fortune-teller, the diviner, and the stargazer: "Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it" (Isaiah 47:13, 14).

Calling Samuel Up

Spiritualists are eager to cite the calling up of the Prophet Samuel as recorded in I Samuel 28:11-15. King Saul could no longer get an answer from God, so he resorted to the witchcraft he himself had condemned. Samuel came forth, but the witch had nothing to do with his coming, for when she "saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice" (I Samuel 28:12). Evidently here was something she had not expected — a real appearance. God had His own reason for sending Samuel to deliver the fateful message to Saul and to the nation. God had the power to bring up Samuel, but nowhere in the Bible has God given either power, sanction, or occasion to man or woman to call up the dead or to have communion with them.

There can and will be demon possession and communion with demons: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Timothy 4:1, 2).

God's Word Protects

A Spiritualist made a significant admission: "So long as you reply to our arguments with a text, we cannot teach you." The thing to do, then, is to be so much filled with the texts of God's Word that Satan and his emissaries cannot teach their falsehoods. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).