



**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**IF THE DEVIL CAN'T HINDER YOU WITH DIFFICULTIES,  
HE'LL CHOKE YOU WITH DISTRACTIONS.**

**SERMON OF THE WEEK**



**THE OCCULT**

Colossians 2:6-10 NKJV; Mark 13:22-23 NKJV (Colossians 2:8 NLT)

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**INTRODUCTION**

**What is the Occult?**

Western world - "occult" usually evokes evil connotations associated with witchcraft and sorcery, summoning the dead, and ritual sacrifice.

Eastern cultures - *religion* and occultism are frequently blended into a morally neutral form.

*Western occult beliefs* pertain to:

- "secret philosophies"
- "Hellenistic magic and alchemy"
- combined with "Jewish mysticism"

Occult practitioners are supposedly gifted with powers and knowledge available to specially chosen individuals or people of great intellect.

Occultists or spiritualists seek "secret wisdom" such as the key to eternal life.

The word "occult" means "hidden."

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## Occult Boom

- ☛ 1 in 5 Americans express a belief in **ASTROLOGY** (Horoscopes).
- ☛ Other movements include:
  - ⊗ Transcendental Meditation (4%)
  - ⊗ Yoga (3%)
  - ⊗ Mysticism (2%)
  - ⊗ Eastern Religions (1%)
- ☛ Occult
  - ⊗ Book sales doubled
  - ⊗ *Occult Trade Journal* trade magazine
  - ⊗ Doubleday's new book club of occult titles - 100,000 in membership in 2 years.
  - ⊗ Metaphysical Center in San Francisco selling about \$12,000/month.
  - ⊗ "The Exorcist"
  - ⊗ Big colleges and universities offer credit courses on the occult

## Why?

- ☛ Anxious to know what lies ahead (good or ill).
- ☛ Willing to pay for predictions.
- ☛ Palm readers, psychics, numerologists, and other diviners.
- ☛ Ouija boards, the I Ching\*, and even lowly tea leaves.
- ☛ Astrology - unprecedented boom - 1,000 active members.

## Satan/The Devil

- ⊗ Not want a world that rejects *supernatural*.
- ⊗ Wants a religious world, **but...**
- ⊗ **Rejects Christ.**
- ⊗ **Rejects** what God's offers (personal relationship through Christ).
- ☛ Accepts Satan's practices (steal, kill, destroy)

## Satan's Plan

- ☛ His true nature and plan not discovered.
- ☛ Discredit the Bible and true Christianity.
- ☛ **Lure of Occult practices!**

Occult practices - tools and distractions the Devil created:

- ☛ to lure away from the truth of the Gospel.
- ☛ to believe the lies.

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## SOME OCCULT PRACTICES

### 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (primarily Horoscopes)

#### Horoscope

- A chart of the heavens, showing the relative positions of the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the ascendant and midheaven signs of the zodiac at a specific moment in time.
- Used to provide information about the present and to predict events to come.

#### Astrology

- “interpretation” of an assumed influence that stars/planets exert on human destiny.
- Zodiac Sign you were born under impacts your destiny.

#### **Astrology is a FALSE BELIEF:**

- † Daniel 1:20 NKJV - The royal astrologers of the Babylonian court were put to shame by God’s prophet Daniel.
- † Daniel 2:27 NKJV - The royal astrologers were powerless to interpret the king’s dream.
- † Isaiah 47:13-14 NKJV - God specifies astrologers as among those who will be burned as stubble in God’s judgment.
- † Deuteronomy 18:10-14 NKJV - Astrology as a form of divination and is expressly forbidden in Scripture.

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### 2) \_\_\_\_\_ **TELLING**

Fortune telling is a set of practices designed to interpret future events or characterize specific traits via seemingly illogical and irrational means.

Includes horoscopes, tarot cards, numerology, and methods designed to interpret physical characteristics like palm reading. Deuteronomy 18:10-14 NKJV

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3) **MEDITATION** \_\_\_\_\_ (Transcendental Meditation)

A three-year study of TM - the effect is spiritually disastrous.

Conclusions: "TM tends to make a person skeptical of God, doubt any concept of life after death, and discard any belief one had before one delved into it." (Josh.1:8; Ps.1:2; 63:6; 119:15, 119:27)

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4) \_\_\_\_\_ **WORSHIP** (The Direct Worship of Satan)

**Exodus 20:3 NKJV**

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me.

In Satanic worship, the rites are held opposite to Christian beliefs:

Upside-down cross, reciting the Lord's Prayer backwards, an altar containing a dead baby, sign and costume of a goat, etc.

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5) \_\_\_\_\_

Spiritualism is a system of belief or religious practice based on supposed communication with the spirits of the dead, especially through mediums. (Lev. 19:31; 20:27; 1 Chr. 10:13-14; 2 Chr.33:6)

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6) \_\_\_\_\_ (Servants of Satan)

Witchcraft - casting spells and incantations against those who believe in good and God.

(See Ex. 22:18; Lev,20:27; **Deut. 18:10-13**; 2 Chr. 33:6; Rev. 18:23)

(*Bewitched* - encourage the growth of witchcraft)

\*As a divination text, the *I Ching* is used for a traditional Chinese form of cleromancy known as *I Ching* divination in which bundles of yarrow stalks are manipulated to produce sets of six apparently random numbers ranging from 6 to 9. Each of the 64 possible sets corresponds to a hexagram, which can be looked up in the *I Ching*.

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**Next Week - Non-Christian Religions**