

SPIRITISM

CAN WE TALK WITH THE DEAD

I am to speak to you in this service on the subject of "Spiritism"; that is, on the teachings and practices of Spiritists. You will notice that I did not say "Spiritualists."

A spiritual man is one who is indwelt and controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who has been sent down from heaven. No man can be spiritual who denies the record that God has given in the Bible concerning His only begotten and well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

The spiritual man is instructed in the Word of God to try the spirits. He believes that all Scripture Is God-breathed; therefore, his first question is, "what saith the Scriptures?"

There are Spiritists who are indwelt by the spirit of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. According to the Word of God, the prince of the power of the air, who is also called the prince of this world and the god of this age, is Beelzebub, the prince of the demons. He is also known as Satan, and the Devil, the accuser of the brethren. He is the Christian's adversary, and like a roaring lion he walks about seeking whom he may devour. The Christian is told to resist him steadfast in the faith. This supernatural one, who is spoken of as the ruler of world darkness in the heavenlies, is accused by God of the crime of deceiving the whole world. Demons and evil spirits are under his authority and direction.

The true spiritual man is uncompromisingly and unceasingly against any and all religions that deny the inspiration and absolute authority of the holy Scriptures, which we call the Bible. This Bible condemns Spiritism.

Spiritism was flourishing on this earth four thousand years ago. The Word of God was against it then just the same as it is at this present time. Ancient Spiritism did not pretend to advocate the worship of the God of the Bible. Modern Spiritism does not worship the true God; but it does claim this. And not only so, but it desires to be classified as a Christian religion.

The true Christian religion will stand the test of the Bible; that is, the entire Word of God fully endorses orthodox Christianity, and supports every claim and doctrine of orthodox Christianity.

The spiritual man knows full well that the New Testament Scriptures prophesy that Satan transformed into an angel of light sends forth his messengers, disguised as Christian ministers, trying to deceive religious people and entice them through the preaching of another Jesus and another gospel into his apostate Christianity.

God has prophesied that many shall follow the pernicious ways of Satan's servants, who have gone in the way of Cain and Korah and Balaam, denying the Lord that bought them. These servants are spoken of as blind leaders of the blind, as false prophets, wolves in sheep's clothing, deceiving if possible the very elect.

God has likewise foretold that in the latter days many shall depart from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.

He was not prophesying concerning the heathen world. He was speaking concerning the great apostasy in Christendom. Surely this great apostasy is now sweeping over Christendom

with alarming rapidity, and many are being given over to that strong delusion prophesied in the Word of God, that they should believe the lie and be judged.

We further call your attention to this declaration of God; "I fear lest as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty so your minds shall be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

If Satan through his subtilty could beguile that first innocent pair in the garden of Eden; to be sure he can deceive man in his present fallen state.

God would not have us ignorant of Satan's devices; but He would have us to put on that spiritual armour that He has provided for His spiritual children that they might stand against the wiles of the Devil. Satan is more than clever. He is ubiquitous, powerful, supernatural. He is directly or indirectly responsible for sin and sickness and sorrow and death, and he achieves much by his counterfeit religion, and plays havoc with the church by means of Christianized agnosticism.

Now we claim that Spiritists have been seduced by evil spirits, that the teachings of modern Spiritism, like the teachings of ancient Spiritism, is really the doctrine of demons. We furthermore claim that Spiritism is one of the strong delusions of Satan.

We do not propose to prove our charges by our statements against the statements of the conscientious and sincere Spiritists. But our constant and sole appeal shall be to the holy Scriptures which are given by inspiration of God and are profitable for doctrine and correction, which Scriptures modern Spiritualist claim as their text-book.

We would not, for one moment, say that there are not some excellent, brilliant and very religious men and women in this Satanic cult. However, the Bible is the Christian's text book and the true Christian is against every religious movement that the Bible condemns. Now does the Bible condemn modern Spiritism?

We might speak of it as Christianized Spiritism, because Jesus Christ has been brought into this movement by many of the leaders of today.

Now, before we throw on the searchlight of God's holy Word, let us briefly state what Spiritism teaches.

1. Consciousness after death.
2. It is possible for the living to communicate with the dead.
3. That we are surrounded by other intelligences in the unseen world.
4. God is impersonal but is responsible for the creation and the elements of the universe.
5. Man never had a fall. Whatever is, is right. Evil cannot exist. No matter what man's path may be, good or bad, it is the path of divine ordination and destiny.
6. In the spirit world souls do wrong as they did here. They reap what they sow, but are gradually purified and blessed. And man is made better in this life by intercourse with spirits.
7. There is no atoning value in the death of Jesus Christ. He was a religious enthusiast, a Jew who came to an untimely death. He was, however, a medium of high order. But the teaching of spirits supersedes and is an advance upon the teachings of Christianity. Jesus Christ was not God, but He is now an advanced spirit in the sixth sphere.
8. Hell does not exist and never will. There is no judgment after death. Neither is there any such thing as bodily resurrection.

It is almost inconceivable that any person belonging to a religious organization teaching such doctrines should have any desire to be called a disciple of Jesus Christ; or would permit such a religious movement to be called a Christian religion. But remember the clever Devil.

There has always been the cry for religious tolerance and we are conscious of the fact that the constitution of this great country grants to each and every one the perfect right to religious liberty. But remember that our statement is, the Bible condemns the religion known as Spiritism.

First we quote from Deuteronomy 18:10 through 12.

“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.

Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”

You will notice here in the eleventh verse the word “necromancer” which means “making request of the dead.” Associated with necromancers, in their abominations were the consultants with familiar spirits. Any one who knows of the demonism of heathen Africa knows that these abominations are still being practiced. A necromancer was a spirit medium. God’s wrath and judgment were against these evil practices which He calls abominations. Now surely, no Christian will want to endorse something that is an abomination in the sight of the Holy God.

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God” Leviticus 19:31.

“And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people”. Leviticus 20:6.

“And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof; and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards”. Isaiah 19:3.

“And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust”. Isaiah 29:4.

“And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards; he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger”. II Kings 21:6.

Now we will especially call your attention to Isaiah 8:19 through 22. “Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and that mutter: Should not a people seek unto their God; for the living to the dead?”

Some of the modern Spiritist leaders hold seances in the light, but most of the mediums who seek information of the dead, keep on in the dark.

In the twentieth verse, the Lord gives to the Christian the test.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, and when He left He said to the Christians, “Ye are the light of the world,” “shining lights in the midst of a wicked and a perverse generation.” He said, “If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness;” Surely, no Christian will say that the Word of God in any way supports Spiritism.

But the question is always asked, “What about Samuel and Saul?”

According to the Christian's Bible, Saul certainly did communicate with Samuel after he had died; and certainly Saul reached the dead Samuel through a medium. This was one of the divers ways in times past that God spake unto men. Hebrews 1:1. God certainly spoke to Saul through Samuel.

This is the only time that God ever spoke to any one in just this way. He spoke through the rich man in hades and Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, after both had died. He has a message for us in this story which we shall hear presently.

But who would say that King Saul did a commendable thing when he went to the medium, contrary to God's word? Surely his disobedience met with God's disapproval.

Hear the condemnation of God upon Saul's wicked visit to the witch of Endor.

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

And enquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him" I Chronicles 10:13 and 14.

Now the absurdity of any one claiming to be a Christian and supporting their evil practice by the experience of a wicked man who was slain by God for that experience.

Now, we ask you to turn to the twenty-eighth chapter of I Samuel and read God's record of that experience carefully, beginning with the seventh verse. You will note these outstanding points.

1. Saul disguised himself.
2. He came to the woman by night.
3. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice.
4. The woman saw gods or (God) ascending out of the earth.
5. Saul said to Samuel, "God is departed from me" and answereth me no more."
6. Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord is become thine enemy." Thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord."

Should Christians disguise themselves and go to a woman witch by night to talk with the dead? If they should be so wicked and immoral as to do such a thing, they ought to disguise themselves and wait for the darkness of midnight; but after they do they ought to do what Saul did after his evil act,—“He fell straightaway all along the earth.” Remember that the Holy Spirit had departed from Saul and he was possessed with an evil spirit at the time of his visit.

The human heart is desperately wicked, an evil heart of unbelief that will not receive God's revelation. God has clearly answered that old, but ever new question.

“Man wasteth away, yea man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?”

God in His holy Word has told us all about the hereafter, that great unseen world, and man's eternal experience after his days on earth are over.

My dear friend, if you have lost a loving companion, and you are lonely, sad, discouraged, almost desperate, do not seek solace in some Satanic delusion. Believe God's Word. In that blessed Book you can learn all about the present whereabouts of the dead, the whence and whither of the human race. Reject the Bible, there is nothing but darkness, uncertainty and despair.

Thousands have been deceived in ancient and modern Spiritism. Satan can easily impersonate by means of his evil spirits and deceive the soul of man. Do you remember what Paul said to a sorcerer in his day?

“O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?” Acts 13:10.

He met another one, a woman, a soothsayer possessed with the spirit of divination. He said to the evil spirit in her, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her and he came out the same hour."

Demon possession is a very common thing in religious circles today, even the worship of demons; but there is nothing new about it. Satan is still the same Satan, though he may change his tactics.

Many splendid people have seen and communed with others in the spirit world; but they have always been deceived by an evil spirit. The "others" were not spirits of people who had ever lived on earth.

I am going to quote here several verses of Scripture so you can get God's answer to this question:

"If a man die, shall he live again?"

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he, (Christ) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil". Hebrews 2:14.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man". . Hebrews 2:9.

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" II Timothy 1:9 and 10.

"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death". Revelation 1:18.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live". John 11:25.

"And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee". Luke 24: 5 and 6.

"Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God". Acts 7:56.

"And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:59 and 60.

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord". II Corinthians 5:8.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

"But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming". I Corinthians 15: 22 and 23.

Now we spoke of the message God has for each one of us in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. We quote these words of the One who conquered death and who is now seated at God's right hand in heaven.

“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day;

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom; the rich man also died and was buried;

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham said unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead”. Luke 16:19 to 31.

I want to call your attention to the statement of David concerning his little baby that had died.

“But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me”. II Samuel 12:23.

God would teach His children by this verse that we can go to our loved ones who die, but they cannot come back to us.

Compare this statement of David with statement in Hebrews 13:20. “The God of peace, that brought again from dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.”

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, He was raised again the third day according to the Scriptures. He became the firstfruits of them that slept. And at His coming those who are His will receive resurrection bodies and thus be made alive.

Then, if we want to be sure that we shall be made alive at the coming of Christ, we must be sure that we are His. In order that you may see just what will take place when Jesus comes again we quote for you I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep.

For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words”.

Some of those who are to be Christ’s at His coming are those who have fallen asleep in Jesus; those who have died in the faith. Mortality is the common heritage of all people. Only believers have eternal life. Only those will have eternal life after death who have eternal life before death. Eternal life is the free gift of God. Jesus said “Verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word and believeth Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into judgment; but is passed from death to life”. John 5:24.

Paul said, “You hath He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sin.”

All who belong to Christ are rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God; for Christ is in them, the hope of glory.

“When Christ who is our life shall appear then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.”

When the believer falls asleep his body goes to corruption, but his spirit goes to be with the Lord Jesus in heaven, and there he remains in a conscious state, out of the realm of sin, and sorrow, and death, and sickness and temptation until Jesus Christ shall come back again. At that time he shall be clothed upon with his house which is from heaven, and in that incorruptible body he shall enjoy that inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away. At the same moment of this glorious resurrection every living believer on this earth will be caught up to meet Christ.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; over such the second death hath no power.

When the unbeliever dies, his body likewise goes to corruption; but his soul goes to hades, to remain absent from the body in a conscious state of torment until the resurrection of the unjust, after the millennium to be judged in the body at the great white throne judgment. And then to be banished into outer darkness to suffer the sorrow of the second death.

This is the plain teaching of God’s Word.

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” Revelation 21:27.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”. Revelation 20:15.

Hades is only the temporary abode of the wicked. The final doom is called the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

“The wages of sin is death.” “It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment.”

“There is therefore, now no judgment to them that are in Christ Jesus.”

How true the words of the Lord, “If they believe not Moses and the prophets, they would not believe though one were raised from the dead.”

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep.

From which none ever wakes to weep!

Remember this solemn warning of the Lord Jesus Christ: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

“Behold, I have told you before”. Matthew 24:24 and 25.