

Are You Really Saved, or Just Superstitious?

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Acts 17:22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

Acts 25:19 But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

- I. What is superstition?
 - A. By its definition it is to be faithless and fearful and under the influence of devils, or evil spirits.
 - B. Attributing some supernatural significance or relevance to everything that happens.
 1. Seeing a black cat, or an owl, or a falling star.
 2. Supposing that certain acts or words or possessions will affect the future.
 3. Such as carrying a rabbits foot, or a “lucky” coin, or other object.
 - C. Obsession with miracles and miraculous occurrences.
 - D. Obsession with prophecy and being able to discern through different means future happenings.
 - E. Religious veneration for objects
 - F. Superstition is looking for, or requiring evidence of supernatural acts or movement in the physical world as a confirmation of faith.
 - G. Superstition is seeking knowledge or insight into spiritual matters by means other than the Word of God while focused on the physical surroundings or happenings.
 - H. Superstition always looks foolish to others.
 - I. Truth is to be our only guide concerning supernatural or natural matters – and the Word of God is truth.
 1. Not feelings, fear, desire to know or understand.
 - J. It is closely related to religion, and some equate the two.
 - K. But superstition is actually the devil’s substitute for true faith and religion.
 1. Because its focus is on physical manifestations of supernatural powers.
 2. All the evil spiritual practices forbidden in the Bible have their foundation in this: witchcraft, necromancy, fortune-tellers, astrologers, etc.
 - L. A religious person is likely to be superstitious, but an infidel is just as likely to be, also.
 - M. There is only faith in God by trusting in truth as it is revealed in his written Word, or there is superstition.
 1. The true child of God has one compass and that is the written Word of God.
 2. The answer to every question, doubt, fear, mystery, future event, he finds in the Word of God, or he trusts the fact that God has chosen not to reveal it to him yet.
 - N. Superstition gives more authority or credence to things seen or done than to the Word of God.
 1. Superstitious people are always looking for signs and wonders and physical things or happenings to discern where they stand or what they must do.

2. They look for things hidden or that must be discovered, or deciphered, and which have been overlooked by everyone else.
 3. These secrets and mysteries are always found by some physical means.
- O. Superstition springs from religious feeling misdirected or unenlightened.
1. Superstition leads in some cases to excessive opinions or practice.
 2. In others, to unfounded belief in extraordinary events or in charms, omens, and prognostics.
 3. So not being founded upon the truth of God's Word it produces fears, confusion, doubts, and uncertainty.
- P. Superstition gives rise to an utter disregard of reason being convinced that they have a supernaturally inspired guidance by discerning supposed signs and wonders.
1. Their mind is closed to anything except that which fascinates their curiosity with superstition.
 2. Religious fanaticism is always related to superstition, so if a person is superstitious, he will likely be a fanatic if he has some kind of religion.
 - a) He will marry his superstition to his religion.
- Q. There is a kind of superstition, which makes it easy for a man, by complying with certain outward observances, to silence his conscience under all kinds of sin, and serve as a support to it.
- R. **SUPERSTITION** may be described to be either the careful and anxious observation of numerous and unauthorized ceremonies in religion, under the idea that they possess some virtue to propitiate God and obtain his favour, or, as among Pagans and others, the worship of imaginary deities, and the various means of averting evil by religious ceremonies, which a heart oppressed with fears, and a perverted fancy, may dictate to those ignorant of the true God, and the doctrines of salvation.
- S. It is very easy to observe that the transition from unbelief to superstition is always easy.
1. Those who reject the truth of God normally become superstitious.
 2. It is something to behold how steadfastly an unbeliever will resist the truth of God, and yet how readily he will embrace superstitious nonsense.
 3. Aliens from outer space, life on other planets, evolution, Bigfoot, ghosts and demons, flat-earth, parallel universe, time-travel, and on and on.
 4. Who believes all that except those who do not truly believe the Word of God?
- II. All spiritual exercises, duties, and ordinances can be turned into superstitious rituals.
- A. Prayer
1. We are seeing some people we know use essential oils to unlock some previously unknown "power" in prayer.
 2. That is superstition and from the darkness – not from God or his Word.
- B. Prophecy
1. We only know what God has revealed in his Word.
 2. Those who claim to have some special insight or revelation, or some way of "unlocking" secrets hidden in the Bible or elsewhere are doing so based upon superstition.
 3. Those who are constantly interpreting the Bible by current events and therefore continually changing their minds and their message are superstitious – not spiritual.

- C. Faith
 - 1. Faith is not sight – we believe God because of what He said – not by what we see.
 - 2. Those who must have their faith confirmed by some physical manifestation are unbelieving and superstitious – not spiritual and they do not have the kind of faith that God commands.
- D. Holiness
 - 1. Holiness is not found in conforming to the doctrine, creeds, or standards prescribed by anyone.
 - 2. Giving any authority or confirmation to some outward show of piety as evidence of true holiness is superstitious and not spiritual.
 - 3. Baptism
- E. Lord's Supper
 - 1. For many it has been turned into a ritual that accomplishes supernatural things.
 - 2. The Word of God says it is for one thing – so that we will remember the Lord Jesus Christ and how he shed his blood and gave his body to be broken for us.
- F. Holy Spirit's work
 - 1. There is so much superstition in modern religion concerning the Holy Spirit of God.
 - 2. Talking in tongues is pure superstition, and it is from the darkness – not from the light.
 - 3. All the testimonies about how the Spirit of God told them to do this, and then that, and supposedly carried on a detailed conversation with them as He led them to do some thing are pure superstition and not true faith in God.
 - 4. The Word of God tells us precisely that the Holy Spirit will guide us to all truth, He will comfort us, and He will reprove the world (and us) of sin, righteousness, and judgement – this is what true faith believes.
- G. If your faith requires confirmation by some physical means you are superstitious.
- H. Real, saving faith does not require confirmation that way.
- I. If the witness of the Holy Spirit of God in your soul is not sufficient for you then you are superstitious.