



What does God think of witchcraft and astrology?

These were actually two separate questions asked by confirmation students on an assignment I gave them to list "Questions I Have..." I lumped the two questions together, because they basically have the same answer.

And we don't have to speculate about the answer! God is about as explicit as He could be in Deuteronomy 18:9-12:

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.

Included in the things God considers "detestable" in the passage

1. Attempts to discover the course of future events from created things
2. The use of magic to supernaturally influence people or events;
3. Conjuring up spirits or consulting with the spirit world in an effort to have the future revealed.

Martin Luther gave a great summary of why these things are detestable to God: *"All such people place their heart and trust elsewhere than in the true God."* (In other words, worshiping created things instead of the Creator.)

People are increasingly attracted to supernatural sources of knowledge and power. One thing is certain: Any supernatural power or knowledge that is detestable to God, can't be from Him! That leaves only one other source: Satan!

Just as the Apostle Paul did with the folks in Athens who worshiped all sorts of false gods (see Acts 17:16ff), I'd use people's intrigue with the supernatural as a point of connection and then introduce them to the One who has already shown that He has power over all other supernatural powers. Why settle for inferior supernatural power or knowledge when the Spirit (the "Holy" one) with superior power and knowledge actually wants to live inside you?!

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:18-21

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net