

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God warns us not to turn away from His heavenly, magisterial holiness unto worldly, magical superstitions.

Sermon Point: *Don't be Controlling or Controlled, for God is in Control.*

Move 1: Do not try to control everything.

Read Acts 8:9-24. Lev. 19:31; “them that have familiar spirits”: magicians, those who evoke dead spirits; “wizards”: “one who knows”, soothsayers, conjurers of ghosts. Such were consulted regarding the future to try and control it. Relates to vs. 26: “enchantments” and “observe times”. They believed they so communed with devils from whom they could get knowledge of the future. For more on magic condemned in Scripture, see sermon on Ex. 22:18. Don't try to manipulate with magic. *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* (Eph. 5:15-16).

Move 2: Do not be controlled by everything.

Read Acts 13:8-11; 16:16-24. Will become agitated by God and the Gospel. Lev. 19:31: “be defiled by them”: unclean. Profane, polluted. Don't be manipulated by magic. Superstitious play is playing with fire. 2 Kg. 21:6: *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. | Now the works of the flesh ... witchcraft ... they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* (Gal. 5:19-21). Isa. 8:19: *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?...*

Move 3: Relinquish all control unto your LORD.

READ 1 Samuel 28:3-20. *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: ...* (1 Ch. 10:13-14) Lev. 19:31: “I am the LORD your God”. I am the only true God, and your God. Turn to Me. “Regard”: turn/listen/attach/pay attention to. “seek”: look for, plead. *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God ... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* (Rom. 12:1-2). *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Thess. 5:21-23)

Conclusion:

Don't be Controlling or Controlled, for God is in Control.