



November 8, 2009

No Big Deal

Moment of Manna

Leo Pete

I hope you wore your steel-toed boots today, because I think I may be stomping on a few toes. Is it just me, or have others of you noticed a marked increase in paranormal books, movies, and tv shows lately? Some say I'm an alarmist; that I over-react to things sometimes. Maybe that's true, but I've become more and more concerned about how lightly we take things today. We look at things and say, "No big deal! What's the harm? It's not like it'll change history forever is it?" I'm afraid we're taking that attitude with the paranormal.

1Timothy 4:1 says, "The spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

All forms of the occult—divination, necromancy, astrology, hypnotism, fortune telling, magic, witchcraft, etc—are all forbidden by God in Leviticus 19:26-28, 31; 20:6,27; Deuteronomy 18: 9-14; 2Kings 23:24; Jeremiah 10:2. Eight of the top twenty tv shows over the past two years have dealt with the occult: Ghost Whisperer, Medium, Psychic Witness, Vampire Diaries, Ghost Hunter, Wizards of Waverly Place, Charmed, Supernatural, and other shows that had paranormal themes. But you say, "Oh, Come on, Leo. These are just tv shows: entertainment. No big deal. What's the harm? It's not like it'll change the course of history forever." Maybe you're right. I'm over-reacting. But I have to wonder why God strictly forbids any association with that kind of activity. Is He over-reacting too?

And how about the books we read. Get ready to cover your toes. There are hundreds of thousands of books written that cover these topics. And there are two recent ones that are most dangerous because of their popularity, and the fact that they've become a series. People wait in anticipation for the next one to come out. One has a vampire as

its hero and glorifies that lifestyle. The other glorifies wizards and witches. Yes, I'm talking about Twilight and Harry Potter. But you say, "Oh, Come on, Leo. These are just books: entertainment. No big deal. What's the harm? It's not like it'll change the course of history forever." Maybe you're right. I'm over-reacting. But I have to wonder why God says in Leviticus 17:14 "...That is why I have said to the Israelites, 'You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off.'" And in Leviticus 20:6 He says, "I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists and witches to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people."

Movies today are no better. We have Paranormal Activity, Harry Potter, The Blair Witch Project, Twilight, The Unborn, and thousands and thousands more. But you say, "Oh, Come on, Leo. These are just movies: entertainment. No big deal. What's the harm? It's not like it'll change the course of history forever." Then why does God say in Deuteronomy 18: 10-12, "Do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is an abomination to the Lord." Why would we want to spend our time pursuing, being entertained by, learning more about the very things that our God calls an abomination? This is the oldest excuse in history. It first was used in the garden when the serpent was talking to Eve about the apple. In Genesis 3:4-5 it says, "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." In other words he was saying, "Oh, come on, Eve. It's just an apple. No big deal. What's the harm? It's not like it'll change the course of history forever...will it?" It worked then, and it still works today. The more things change, the more they remain the same. But then, I'm probably over-reacting.