



ARE YOU DEMON- POSSESSED?

Last week we reviewed most of the “ologies” of Theology; this week we will look at Demonology. Perhaps you don’t even believe in demons and demon-possession. Matthew, Mark, and Luke did. We find instances such as: *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,* Matthew 8:16

Other references are: Matthew 4:24, Matthew 8:28, Matthew 8:33, Matthew 9:32, Matthew 12:22, Matthew 15:22, Mark 1:32, Mark 5:15-16, Mark 5:18, Luke 8:36, and John 10:21.

Peter cast them out (Acts 5:16), Paul cast them out (Acts 16:16-18 and 19:12), and even Philip, *And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.* Acts 8:6-7

Whether or not you believe in demons, according to the Scriptures, they do exist. The question I would like to consider is whether or not people can be demon possessed today. A quick search of the Internet will show that there is considerable concern about this question today. It will also show there is much confusion as to what demon-possession really is.

Some would have us believe that anyone with mental problems is demon-possessed. This is not true. Many who have mental problems are that way because of a physical problem with the brain; chemical imbalances; and other physical causes. Many of these can be cured with medicine and/or surgery.

Another cause of mental illness is similar to a cause of physical maladies. If your diet does not contain the proper nutrients, or it contains harmful substances, you may become ill with rickets, scurvy, or other more modern diseases. What we put into our mouths

can affect our physical health. What we put into our eyes and ears may affect our mental health. We need to take Paul’s words seriously, *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.*

Philippians 4:8

So, mental illness is not demon-possession. However, those who are demon-possessed have the appearance of being mentally ill - sometimes. If you read Matthew 8:28-32 where Jesus cast demons out of two men, you find an interesting thing. *So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."* Matthew 8:31

If casting out demons is simply curing one of a mental illness, why was it that it affected the herd of swine? Demons are real. So, the question which is really important, is “Can Christians be demon-possessed and can these demons be cast out?”

First, a demon is a spirit. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you can not also have a demon in you - there is no room. Making sure that you are a true Believer and are filled with the Spirit can assure you that no demon will possess you.

When Gail and I were in high school, our pastor visited some of the missions supported by the church. In one place, he reported that he found a demon-possessed woman and cast out the demon. We have no reason to believe that this was not so. It would appear, then, that it is possible, in some circumstances, to cast out demons today. I do not believe demon-possession is common today. I do know of one person whom I believe may be demon-possessed. One of the reasons I believe this to be true is that, if this person were examined by a psychiatrist, they would probably be found to be sane. This person can act very rational when necessary - very irrational at other times when the demon is active.

In conclusion, if you take Paul’s words in Philippians 4 seriously, you need not worry about demon-possession.

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