

‘Is Someone Pulling Your Strings?’ 2 Tim. 2:26

Introduction: The question that I want to bring up today since its Halloween or much more importantly, the Lord’s Day, is someone pulling your strings? Do supernatural forces influence your life? People’s thoughts on this fall into four basic ideas.

I. Yes, the supernatural exists.

Interest in the supernatural is all throughout our society. The media is filled with accounts of witchcraft, _____ practices, fortune-telling, séances, pagan religious rites, even Satanic worship. For those who have rejected God, trying to contact or control a spirit world is big business and highly popular. Many are turning to the occult because they’ve been told that God is dead and yet they sense the emptiness of atheism or because of their fears of the future in a very uncertain world.

II. No, the supernatural does not exist.

There are many who believe that man controls his own destiny. They say that supernatural forces such as Satan are just a fantasy and no more real than the man in the moon. Much of our modern world has rejected the supernatural as antiquated, old-fashioned, unscientific. Most today feel that all man’s problems can be solved with better ideas. Yet, none of their ideas address the biggest problem nor offer the solution to our biggest problems. What do you think? Are you really in control of your own destiny?

III. Maybe, but who cares?

A. With our fast pace world today, a third option that many have taken to the supernatural is: who has time to even think about this? As long as I’m feeling pretty good and my _____ are basically met, why should I bother thinking about this at all? I just want my best life now.

B. Everybody wants to feel good right now, but is there something more to this life? Is this all there is? Some will answer: ‘Maybe, but who cares, I’m too busy with other things right now.’

IV. There is something more.

A. Finally, a fourth answer is the biblical view that supernatural forces do exist, they are real, and that there is an ongoing battle for the hearts and minds of people everywhere. These people understand that God is real, that He is good and His plans for them are good, but there is a big rebellion going on against the ways of God, led by a powerful fallen angel, called by many names. Col. 1:13 There are two kingdoms at play. Everybody is in one or the other. There is no neutral ground.

B. The Bible says that Satan is at war with the good purposes of God. He wants to prevent people from _____ in God and will do all in his power to accomplish that. To keep people in spiritual darkness, he feeds us lies through a multitude of sources. Jesus called him the ‘*ruler of this world.*’ Jn. 12:31 He is known as the ‘*god of this age, who has blinded the minds of the unbelieving.*’ 2 Cor. 4:3,4

2 Tim. 2:24-26. The battle seems to be especially in the minds, it’s a battle for truth. We are to be aware of our enemies’ schemes, of his influence so we can break free from them or not be led astray by them. The devil’s attacks are often directed toward the mind. But remember, he is a liar.

C. Our enemy likes to trick us into thinking we can have the good life, have peace within and solve all our own problems without God. But Jesus taught us that man’s problem is in his very heart, so wherever he goes, he brings his problems with him. Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, in 1983, who after suffering years in a Russian communist gulag, offered this explanation for why all the horrors of Soviet communism came to pass: “*Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.*” Jn. 3:36

Is this a supernatural world? Yes. Are there unseen powers out there pulling people’s strings? Yes. The Bible says there are only two kingdoms. Which one are you in? Which one do you want to be in?

Choose wisely! Put your faith in Christ!