

REAL

or



Counterfeit?

Counterfeiters don't waste time copying worthless things. Those who counterfeit money, for example, have a very profitable motive for breaking the law: what they are copying has real value.

They are like the master counterfeiter, who focuses his attention on that which is most valuable of all. There's little protest against his activities because he promises power, happiness, peace, love, wealth, health and many other things to those who follow his deceptive plan.

The Bible calls him "the great dragon ... that serpent ... the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). It describes him as false, deceitful and clever enough to transform himself into an angel of light, and vicious enough to destroy those who fall for his disguise. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Peter 5:8). But he doesn't care. He has one goal – to displace God as the object of all worship. And more and more people every day are falling for his imitation.

WORSHIP HIM?

Did you know that Satan worship is growing faster than any religion in the world? "Worship me," says Satan, "and I will give you power."

How sad that so many are passing up the joy of eternity with a loving Savior, for the phony power of Satan, who will soon drag his victims into hell (Revelation 20:7-15).

When Satan offered his power to Jesus if He would just worship him, Jesus replied: "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Luke 4:8). After three attempts, Satan stopped tempting the Lord with his counterfeit power because he knew he was defeated.

WHAT ELSE?

Closely related to Satan worship are the following practices of the master counterfeiter:

- Fortune-telling, which includes horoscopes, tarot cards, palm reading, crystal balls, etc.
- Witchcraft and magic, which is extrasensory control – through charms, secret formulas, rituals, chanting and the casting of spells – to achieve seemingly beneficial (white magic) as well as harmful (black magic) ends.
- Spiritism, or communication with the spirits of the dead (actually demons) through mediums. This includes clairvoyance, the use of ouija boards, materialization, trance speaking, levitation, and other psychic phenomena.

WHO IS THE SOURCE?

Many who engage in occult practices claim that their power is from God; but those acquainted with God's Word know better. The real test of one's source of power is God's Word (John 8:47, 14:23-24). God does not give His power to those who do not keep His Word: "If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

God also tells us, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world ... every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist" (1 John 4:1,3).

The Bible is emphatic about these counterfeit supernatural activities: "There shall not be found among you anyone who ... practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

REAL OR FAKE?

There is a deadly battle raging between good and evil. Some say each side makes an attractive promise. However, Satan's is counterfeit, while God's is genuine. Satan's leads to eternal loss, while God's leads to eternal life. Satan's appeals to man's sinful nature, while God's gives man a new nature through repentance. It is either one or the other. There is a real danger in getting caught up in the counterfeit realm of Satan. There is eternal blessing in accepting the truth of God. Which will you choose?

God said that Jesus Christ is the real thing: "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Luke 9:35). And Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). God proved His love by sending His Son into this world to die for sinners. Christ proved His love by bringing salvation and blessing to sin-sick humanity. He bled and died on Calvary's cross as the supreme sacrifice for our sins.

God also says that Satan is the master counterfeiter – an expert at deception; but this is how he will end up: "The devil ... was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone ... tormented day and

night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). According to the Lord, if you fall for Satan's false promises, you will have the same end: "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil" (Matthew 25:41).

PROTECT YOURSELF!

Do not fall for Satan's lies. Trust the Lord Jesus Christ. "The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). If you confess your sins to Him, He will forgive you, cleanse you by His precious blood and make you His child. This is the only way to protect yourself against the master counterfeiter!

– S. Hadley

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