

## **SUPERSTITION**

Last Friday was a special day of sorts. It was Friday the 13th, a day heralded by advocates of a way of life that most times is stranger than fiction. Superstition takes many forms. Those who believe in superstitions find themselves regulated by things they often don't understand.

Many of us are superstitious to a degree and may not even know it. We always get dressed in the morning in a particular order to give us good luck for that day. We eat certain foods on Jan. 1st, to get the new year started off right. As we grew, we carried a rabbit's foot, wore a blue shirt, or never crossed the path of a black cat. Some superstitions go even farther by restricting our lives. We never open an umbrella in the house, step on a crack, walk under a ladder, and we become afraid of Friday the 13th. Superstitions range from the horror seen in a movie to our own beliefs about that "creepy" house down the street. We don't throw salt over our shoulder but will worry if our ears are burning.

What superstitions do is control both the mind and the emotions. We are happy, scared, apprehensive, or bold depending upon the superstitions we hold to. Sadly, we are sometimes terrified and completely dominated by things which do not exist and have no rational bearing on the circumstances about us. We have allowed ourselves to be governed by "wives tales" that can only lead to confusion and disarray.

The apostle Paul said in Colossians 2 "See that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception..." Not only was false doctrine a problem in the early church, so was superstition. Our warning is not to fall captive to these schemes of men.

One good example of superstition is that of astrology. Astrology is far different from astronomy; the two should never be confused. Astronomy is the study of the stars by scientists, while astrology is the belief and practice that the stars pre-determine and guide one's life. Many people read their horoscope every day to see what to do and what not to do. Those who believe the stars really do offer guidance will argue their lives always fit, the predictions given them in the horoscope.

This argument is easily defeated in two ways. First, those who think their lives are guided by the stars are perfect examples of self-fulfilling prophecy. This simply means that if one has the idea that they are a failure, that is exactly what they will become. In the morning when one reads how they are supposed to act that day, they do so, based on the suggestion given them. The rest of the day activities will follow the attitude now firmly lodged in the brain. The more one believes in the horoscope, the more they will act out their self-fulfilling prophecy. Secondly, the argument is defeated by reading more than one horoscope. Rarely, will these agree. After reading several lines of guidance from different sources, it, become impossible to know which one is right. If the stars really did guide us, there would be only one clear meaning from the same set of stars.

Our Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) makes no pretense to follow any kind of superstition. True guidance for one's life can only be found in God's word, the Bible. I didn't celebrate Friday the 13th in any way last week, in fact I was saddened to think of the many who did, and are held by the slavery of superstition.