

THE PRACTICE OF OCCULT THEOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

The practice of Occultism knows no place and time. Even though the world has undergone radical changes marked by advances in science and technology, there are still people who want to practice Occultism. Many of these occult practices are generally inherited from their ancestors and passed down from generation to generation until now. Many Christians carry out Occult actions for various reasons, such as fear of ancestral spirits, not being protected by them, or feeling that ancestral spirits do not bless them. Occult practices are actions that are far from Christian truth. The occult does exist on this earth. The purpose of this study is to analyze the current occult practice. The method used is qualitative research in the form of library research method. Therefore, a believer must be vigilant and on guard to avoid this occult practice.

INTRODUCTION

Today's world has been filled with the latest and ever-changing technology, making it easier for people to move in their daily activities. People are getting easier to communicate with others using intelligent and innovative smartphones. The world of medicine has become more advanced where the laser method is currently being used to perform surgery on patients who require surgery. In other words, in today's era, the use of logic is the most important thing. However, even though the world has used very sophisticated technology, some still believe in the occult, namely the belief in supernatural powers (Ardani, 2013). Sadly, the practice of the power of darkness is using modern technology.

Many Christians commit occult acts for various reasons, such as fear of ancestral spirits, fear of not being protected by ancestral spirits, or feeling that ancestral spirits do not bless them. Many of these occult practices are generally inherited from their ancestors and passed down from generation to generation until now (Saragih & Timo, 2020). Occult practices usually act that does not make sense and are far from the truth of the Christian faith.

Given the public's belief in this occult activity, it is unsurprising that this belief has been passed down to the next generation. Even people who have accepted Christianity are still following the occult. In the book by Eric J. Dingwal and John Langdon Davies, occultism begins with a thirst for certainty about something that is not yet known to humans (Dingwall & Langdon-Davies, 1968). The reason that religion cannot provide an answer to that thirst, humans move to the supernatural world, where there is something invisible power over the eyes of ordinary humans. Furthermore, that power can be good or bad in the human mind. Finally, man creates something that cannot be reached with the senses in his mind and admits that thought until, in the end, his creation becomes the thing he fears. There is supernatural power on this earth, and at its peak were born demons, supernatural objects, and sacred places (Pasaribu, 2003a). Because of that, certain people can determine or shape the communication between life and death, between humans and spirits.

Occultism, or belief in the occult, is often considered a joke in modern society. On the other hand, the occult is often seen as something to be feared. Regardless of whether the occult is true or not, several historical figures have been involved with occult practices throughout their lives, namely: Elvis Presley, David Bowie, Jimmy Page, Queen Victoria, and Mary Todd Lincoln, Heinrich Himmler, Isaac Newton. The occult does exist in this world; therefore, a believer must be vigilant and on guard to avoid falling into these occult practices. It is also not easy to be misled because the Bible says people involved in occult activities will not enter Heaven that God promised (Revelation 21:8).

METHOD

This research is to implement a research library research method. The research methodologies of literature review or literature study contain theories to research issues. The literature review provides a theoretical framework as the basis of the study. A literature review article provides a complete assessment of relevant literature and instantiates prior studies to build the knowledge framework (Paul & Criado, 2020). The challenge of this investigation is to discover Occult Practices.

Library research develops concepts or theories that form the basis of research studies (Sujarweni, 2014). A literature review or study is required in research, particularly academic research, whose primary objective is to develop theoretical and practical benefits (Sukardi, 2021). This section evaluates the used concepts and theories based on the available literature, particularly articles published in various scientific journals.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Background of Occultism Practices

Shamans and shamanic practices have existed since the time of Moses for thousands of years and still exist today. Shamanism is a belief in the communication between a spirit and a human with the aid of a shaman who connects with divine beings (Gaidysheva & Parnyakov, 2014). Even though God has repeatedly forbade His people to do these activities (Deuteronomy 18:9-12). Even a British researcher, Amich Alhumami, who studied his dissertation in Indonesia, said, "Many parties believe that almost no high-ranking Indonesian official has managed to climb the ladder of power without the help of a shaman. Even the practice of shamanism in the form of witchcraft is also colored and becomes a power struggle" (Kompas, 2009).

Throughout 2013, 2 cases were covered by the mass media regarding the issue of begu ganjang, which occurred in mid-January in Asahan and Nagori Usang Tapian Dolok Regencies, where the residents in question were expelled from the village (SIB, 2013).

This is the highlight of this scientific study and also for the Church as God's agent in this world so that the Church can provide actual teaching regarding the dangers of occult practices.

1. Understanding the Occult

The word occult comes from English and French "occultism", which comes from the Latin word "*occultus*," which means hidden, invisible, secret or mystery, beyond nature. That is why it has been called supernatural.

The word occult was first used by a Frenchman named Eliphas Levi with the term occultism. In Western society, especially Europe, which was influenced by rationalism and science, especially after the Renaissance and revival, the occult developed more towards science or into a science and an art (Jura & Sairwona, 2018). At that time, occultism was discussed in the field of esotericism (similar to mysticism), namely understanding or

teaching and knowledge about things that are hidden or secret or mysterious in this world. It can only be understood by certain people or who have special knowledge. However, by the 1700s, scientists in France no longer recognized the occult as a science. This is influenced by absolute rationalism and science that began to triumph at that time. Occultism reappeared in science, art, and religion during the industrial revolution in Europe in the 18th or 19th century. It turns out that ratio, science, and religion, in this case, Christianity, cannot answer various spiritual or human needs. Industrial progress and prosperity in life do not give people inner satisfaction. This inner need is then sought to be fulfilled through understanding and efforts to search, find and unite with things or figures that are supernatural or supernatural or secret and mysterious.

There are several views of occult experts regarding the meaning or definition of the occult. Robert O. Wahl gives an occult understanding of hidden, secret, dark, and mysterious. When used in a religious context, occult means the practice of magical arts, which usually involves contact with spirits. Occultism includes the practice of divination, magic, and superstition (Wahl, 2006). Meanwhile, according to Kurt Koch, the occult is a belief in the supernatural, mysterious, supernatural, with various supernatural and mysterious figures, followed by various rituals or rites with a specific purpose (Koch, 1978).

Pondsius Takaliuang said that the word occult comes from the words 'occult' and 'ism'. Occultism means understanding or belief in the power of dark and supernatural powers beyond God's power. 'Occult' means dark, hidden, mysterious, and mysterious, while 'ism' means understanding or teaching (Takaliuang, 1987).

Thus, it can be interpreted that the occult is a belief in spirits in this world that can help, bless, hurt, and even kill, give good luck, and cause fear, which influences humans to worship it.

In the opinion of H. Soekahar, in a book entitled Satanism in pastoral ministry, he said: "Occultism comes from the Latin word *ocultus*, which means hidden, secret, unlucky, wretched, unseen, dark and mysterious. So occultism means seeing oneself with power, darkness, and magic in order to experience things that are secret, strange, and mysterious (Soekahar, 1983).

From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that the understanding of the occult is an understanding or teaching about hidden supernatural powers which exceed human strength. This power is in objects or the form of certain spirits that people must respect and use for their different lives.

2. Background to Occult Practices

Disaster, disease, plague, possession, and death. One form of tribal religious belief that still has a considerable influence today is the belief in the spirits of the dead. In every tribal religion, there is a belief that the spirits of the dead are still in this world and still have relationships with the living. Specifically, the belief that ancestral spirits still have a relationship with their living descendants in various manifestations will be a blessing if respected and lead to disaster if ignored. There is also a belief that spirits that have died have become good spirits which are believed to be able to fulfil wishes, for example: giving good luck, fertility, protecting from harm, and ancestral spirits are believed to be good spirits who care about the welfare of their offspring and evil spirits are believed to bring harm. This results in fear towards evil spirits and seeking protection through shamans, and towards good spirits maintaining an attitude of respect and gratitude, which is manifested in various ways (Saragih & Timo, 2020).

Respect parents for reasons of respecting parents and being obedient to parents, they receive heirlooms and amulets given by parents for protection. Second, for fear of the spirit of the deceased being angry, he often serves by giving and doing things to the deceased by giving offerings and praying at the grave to ask that the spirit of the deceased does not disturb and is not angry because if the spirit of the deceased is angry it can lead to various problems and disease outbreaks. Third, because shamans use spiritual things, they also often use spiritual objects that are usually used for spiritual services, such as the Bible, cross, candles, bread, and wine of the Holy Communion, which causes people to think that it comes from God. Fourth because it brings profit and help. Fifth, because of the demands of customs, customs are often mixed with occult practices and are used by the devil to deceive humans. Sixth, because there is convincing evidence, and Seventh, because they are driven by fear that they use the services of the power of darkness, so they seek help from the power of darkness (Hutapea, 2019).

Bambang Yudho, in his book "How To Overcome Occultism", explains the main targets of the occult, or people who are usually affected by the occult, (Yudho, 2006) namely:

First, children who are still mentally unstable. Children's minds, emotions, and spirituality are not yet stable, so they cannot distinguish between good and evil. Children are often the main targets of the devil because they can carry out the devil's program fundamentally and for a long time. Children are easily persuaded through the tricks of the animation film shows, storybooks, and games that are interesting to follow. The children feel proud to be able to carry out various great activities through occult means. However, spiritually, children do not realize the danger. Children will grow up and become the next generation who can ultimately influence others to participate in occult practices.

Second, The one who opens his heart to demon spirits. In a society familiar with the world of darkness, the devil's power is a power shamans have used for specific purposes. Examples alternative medicine, using jinn, dancing with the power of evil spirits, and using spells to kill.

Third, People who are overcome by hatred and uncleanness. Every Christian who is overcome by hatred, uncleanness, hypocrisy, resentment, and envy has the possibility of partaking in the occult. Their involvement with the occult is to vent hatred or revenge.

Fourth, famous people in society. Famous people outside of God, like rock singers and artists, can easily influence people through their popularity. The devil often uses them as a means of promoting occult activities, including the use of illegal drugs and free sex behaviour.

Fifth, spiritually blind Christian leaders. Christian leaders will easily influence their congregations through the teachings they convey, and their impact will influence the congregation's behaviour. The devil always tries to influence church leaders who are spiritually blind so that they are quickly filled with thoughts that are contrary to God's thoughts.

Sixth, the leader of the nation. The nation's leader is the devil's target to influence the nation he leads to fight, colonize, destroy, and adhere to ideas contrary to God's Word. The devil controls many national leaders, allowing some of their people to kill en masse against God's people.

3. Forms of Occultism

Based on the types of occult practices that exist in today's society as well as in the past, it can be carried out with the following activities:

- a. Spiritism is a practice based on the belief that the dead have a relationship with the living (Takaliuang, 1987). The living can call the spirits of the dead through playing *jelangkung*, called psychics (Wulfhorst, 2006). Besides being summoned, the spirits of the dead are also believed to bless their descendants, so ceremonies to honour the spirits must be carried out, for example, visiting graves by making offerings.
- b. Divination or *Tenung*, namely dark science in the name of a particular thing or a particular means to be used to know the events and fate of a person in the future (Takaliuang, 1987). The fortune-teller is usually believed to be able to provide the best way to show the way in the future that is real in the present life. Practice can be seen with:
 - 1) Astrology is the science of the stars that relate the date of birth to the future fate of humans.
 - 2) Fortune-telling with cards, and hand lines, namely with this one's fate, is believed to have been implied in the person's hand line.
 - 3) Chronomatic, the science of divination, is used to find the best day and time. For example, an excellent day to get married, build a house, plant seeds, and enter the house. Moreover, conversely, sometimes dates are considered unlucky, for example, the number 13, so every 13th is considered an unlucky day.
- c. Magic, witchcraft or incantations. It is rooted in a belief that people, objects, places, or circumstances contain power (Wulfhorst, 2006). A shaman masters magic. A sorcerer's shaman maintains a genie who can be ordered to bring witchcraft and insert it into one's body at any time.
- d. Black magic, namely dark science that is troublesome, injures, damages, crazes, and kills other people (Takaliuang, 1987). The purpose of black magic is for evil things.
- e. White Magic is dark science whose purpose is for good and helpful things but also destroys humans. White magic is a wolf in sheep's clothing, like a robber in priestess robes. Although white magic has a good purpose, it is still evil in the eyes of God. White magic is a fulfilment of 2 Corinthians 11:14, which uses the guise of kindness as its basis.
- f. Amulets are goods or powerful objects that contain supernatural powers and are considered soulful (Takaliuang, 1987). This amulet is used for self-defence, achieving goals, or as an antidote or conqueror of opponents.
- g. False Miracles are strange events carried out to deceive or deceive people's vision, for example, walking on coals of fire, stopping the rain, or eating glass.
- h. Witchcraft (Javanese: *tenung, teluh*) (Poerwadarminta, 1989) is a person's attempt to harm others by using black magic. The term witchcraft is sometimes also used to refer to inserting foreign objects into the victim's stomach, a type of magic (Saksono, 2007). Witchcraft is a manifestation of the power of darkness, a demon called the occult. Witchcraft is the science of killing, destroying, and destroying humans. In other words, witchcraft is someone's attempt to harm another person remotely by using black magic. Witchcraft is often carried out by people who grudge against others. In other words, witchcraft attempts to influence or disturb other people with bad intentions by using natural objects or invisible forces. Witchcraft is usually intended to harm others, namely to make others suffer, get sick, and even die.
- i. A person uses attractive witchcraft (*pemanis*) to need the sympathy of others. In general, this sweetener is used to lure the hearts of the opposite sex. Those with sweeteners easily seduce and conquer someone opposite sex (Yudho, 2006). However, there is a fatal consequence: the sympathy was not pure or forced.

- j. *Pelet* or witchcraft is a form of magic/ sorcery. The dictionary defines *memelet* as "to influence with or as if by witchcraft and incantation" (Hawkins, 2004).
- k. *Pitonggam* is usually used by those who want to have power. When he speaks, those who hear him seem to be listening intently. What he said and ordered his subordinates always did by parroting (Pasaribu, 2003b).

4. Consequences of Believers Involved in Occult Practices

The impact of believers who engage in occult practices on people who do it directly and on their descendants is that they have negative impacts that can harm themselves and their descendants. Ancestors and parents who are involved with the occult will experience suffering, namely often experiencing manifestations of evil spirits, being haunted by evil spirits, torturing themselves and even others by beating others, being lazy to pray, not liking spiritual songs, depression, having angry character, revenge, live in fear, anxiety, worry, no peace and even can have an impact on his studies because he can no longer focus in school (Harefa, Gulo, & Gaurifa, 2022). It is not uncommon for people who practice occultism to have a fatal impact on their offspring by asking for sacrifices in various forms: strange illness, disability, and insanity.

Everyone involved in occult practices will surely experience fatal consequences and constantly be undermined by the occult power. The consequences of practising the occult in one's life will affect (Saragih & Timo, 2020). First, physically, the nerves are disturbed and physically tortured. Second, psychologically, you can experience depression, abnormal fear, unclean thoughts, and abnormal anger. Third, spiritually dead, or closing oneself to God's Word, wanting to blaspheme God's name. Fourth is the impact on descendants, and descendants will also be cursed. The Bible records that the curse extended to the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20). Fifth is the impact on eternity. People involved in occult practices will not get a share in eternity.

5. How Believers Win From Occult

For believers, occultism must be defeated, and what believers must do is as follows:

First, Believe in the Lord Jesus by increasing faith, spirituality, fellowship with God, increasing understanding of Allah's Word, and keeping life holy. Believers must understand that the occult is inevitable such as rock music being played everywhere; witchcraft used. Only when believers have the Lord Jesus and have an intimate relationship with God can believers avoid the occult.

Second, be careful and alert to the occult. Because of the unavoidable existence of the occult, believers must be wary of the occult. Not constantly afraid (overemphasize), nor reckless (underestimate), but always be careful of the occult.

Third, there is a release prayer for people who have participated in or become tools in the occult practice.

B. The Bible's View on Occultism

The Bible provides a comprehensive explanation of the occult. For this reason, the Bible explains that there are two powers at work: the power of light (Allah) and the power of darkness (devil) with all its manifestations. The power of Allah has defeated the devil. However, the devil is still trying various strategies to prevent people from entering the kingdom of Allah and fighting people who already believe in Allah (Saragih, 2016). According to the Bible, the struggle for life is not something that only concerns the needs of physical life but also things that are supernatural (Ephesians 6:12).

The Bible clearly states that the world of darkness is accurate, and the power of God is also real. In addition, many people realize that a manifestation of the power of darkness belongs to Satan. The manifestation can be seen because believers must understand this spiritual warfare and occultism in the Old and New Testaments.

1. Occultism in the Old Testament

In Exodus 20:1-7, Allah advised the Israelites that there should be no other Allah before Him but Him, the Creator of heaven and earth. The two laws are placed as the first and second laws. Because Allah had understood the attitude of human life, which is very interested in idol worship and in particular, the Israelites were trapped into very deep paganism when the Israelites were involved in worshipping the gods of Baal and the gods of the Canaanites. The Israelites had repeatedly offended Allah by worshipping other gods, which was known as spiritual prostitution.

In the Old Testament, there are several occult practices that Allah forbade to the Israelites as Allah's people (Handoko, 2020), namely, Allah forbids the worship of manufactured statues, obelisks, and idols (Genesis 23:24; Micah 5:12-13; II Chronicles 33:7). They are placing the symbol of an idol at the house's doorway (Isaiah 57:8). The house owner had raised the emblem above himself or his head. That is a sign that the Israelites did not worship and worship Allah. They sought spirits or fortune-tellers' spirits (Leviticus 19:31; II Chronicles 33:6). Ask the spirit or the spirit of fortune-tellers (Deuteronomy 18:11). They were offering a son or daughter as a burnt offering in the fire (Deuteronomy 18:10; II Chronicles 33:6). This habit is the habit of the surrounding nations who do not know Allah. Become a sorcerer, soothsayer, learner, magician, or caster (Deuteronomy 18:10-11). They are asking the dead for guidance (Deuteronomy 18:11). People's belief in the spirits of the dead wander. That is what drives people to practice summoning spirits or spirits of the dead. Become a sorcerer (Ezekiel 13:18). Also, according to the testimony of the woman Endor in I Samuel 28:9, every sorcerer, seer, and soothsayer must be cut off from among the Israelites. Because his actions are an abomination to Allah (Deuteronomy 18:12), tie the ropes of amulets (Ezekiel 13:18). They were wearing a head covering to capture souls (Ezekiel 13:18). Speak false divinations (Ezekiel 13:23). Worship the heavenly host and worship him (II Chronicles 33:3). They are an abomination to Allah and will be punished.

2. Occultism in the New Testament

The new testament also explains the activities of occult practices through the deception of Satan. Satan is a deceiver, and he tries to deceive everyone through signs so that those who see him are influenced and believe and want to follow his will and rebel against Christ.

The devil can also perform miracles but is fake. The goal is for people to be attracted and believe in it (Kasih, 2007). Satan's deception blinds one's spiritual eyes, which eventually makes one fall into and engage in the practice of dark powers.

Acts 8:9-24; 13:6-11 mentions the Pharisees casting out demons and sorcerers as rivals for the evangelists, and these activities are considered contrary to Christianity by Christians in Ephesus. They burn all objects related to Christianity, demons, and books of spells (Acts 19:19). Examples of people as powerful objects or talismans, such as prayer ropes, long tassels, and soil (Kasih, 2007).

God's word very clearly rejects all occult practices. The occultism that the Israelites loved so much had hurt God's heart and built God's jealousy as the creator and elector of Israel. In addition to violating God's Word, occult practices also impact people who do it (Takaliuang, 1987), namely, spiritually, they will experience depression, a closed attitude,

hostile toward God's Word. Psychologically, unreasonable fear, uncontrollable lust, anger, and frequent suicidal ideation end with the fact of suicide. Physically, sick nerves, infertility, unnatural death. The Bible strongly opposes occult practices, whether involved directly or indirectly. Compromise with Satan is forbidden by God not only being involved, but the Bible also warns and forbids imitating all occult rituals in any form because if imitated, the spirits of dark powers will gain access to destroy the faith of God's congregation and church.

The Word of God is light to man. God gave a man a ratio so that ratio is used to see the light. If the reason is used to see darkness, then what happens is moral decline, and this must be avoided.

C. The Church's View on The Practice of Occultism

There are various views regarding the occult practice. Some people do not believe in the devil's existence and the powers of darkness. The devil does not exist, and all occult practices are human thoughts only as a believer should not admit that the devil exists because the stories about the devil and the devil's work are old stories and fairy tales. Such responses are improper because the Bible repeatedly warns of the devil's existence and the devil's power that continuously affects human life. Moreover, Christians who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ should not give themselves up in the slightest to things that have to do with the power of darkness. Christians should not go to a shaman for help from a shaman (Dilla, 2015). For Christians, there is no Allah but that which is known in Allah the Father, Allah, and Allah Holy Spirit.

As a creation of Allah, we must realize that humans are the most glorious creation of Allah, who is given a cultural mandate to conquer the world (Genesis 1:26-31). Conquering the world means not to make the world which is also a creation of a God who controls humans. It is hoped that Christians must reject occultism because occult practices violate the truth of God's Word, and occult actions also have consequences for those who do them (Takaliuang, 1987).

WH Rassers revealed that people involved with the occult lead to confusion in life because the occult cannot be proven by scientific analysis. People who adhere to the occult will think in confusion and produce irregular life products (Rassers, 2008).

In Christian dogma, it is explained how Israel knew Allah. Allah seeks, determines, and chooses the nation of Israel to reveal Himself, not Israel who seeks Allah (Simanjuntak, Baito, & Marpaung, 2022). In His self-revelation, Allah gave ten Words of God (Torah) as a guide for life in His people. In the first and second commandments, Allah asked the Israelites only to worship the LORD (YAHWEH). Others should not be worshipped. The statement that I am the Lord your Allah affirms He is Allah. This means He is not a creation of the human mind, which seems to be the one who sent Allah down from heaven and became according to human desires. Finally, humans no longer believe in Allah but become trusting in Allah (ilah).

Following belief in God, then what arises is the desire to create a god that is tailored to his needs. For example, if a person wants wealth, then a god is created who can give wealth. So many gods were created, and the existence of these gods was very arrogant, to the point that even to summon the gods, one had to give offerings or perfume. Occult practice is a human effort that wants to get something or is afraid of something, so the method used for that (getting something or being afraid of something) is to do occult actions. In the human mind, there is an attitude of forcing his will until, in the end, he uses a method forbidden by God. The first and second commandments vehemently oppose the occult.

Christian belief does not eliminate or suppress customs but illuminates and renews meaningful customs among the Karo people (Gintings, 1995). Karo Man, in his religious attitude (religiosity) which is originally transcendental to the absolute because the absolute transcendental has the authority to interfere in human life. That is why humans throughout history and in all places as well as a culture have the potential to receive salvation because of the absolute intervention of God. This is a method for Christians not to be exclusive and introverted but to be inclusive amid the plurality of the nation's society and ethnic customs. Such an approach is not the same as syncretism because there is only one certainty of salvation, namely in the Lord Jesus, which is inclusive to seek other ways in the culture outside the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Christians are not anti-custom because the Word of God has come to the Karo tribe so that the Karo tribe can receive the Gospel as a high-cultured Karo tribe. God's word needs to illuminate the customs of the Karo tribe so that the Karo tribe can become more robust in revealing their identity as Karo Christians. Karo Christians also need to remain careful so that the prevalence of Karo customs, which often contain elements of old beliefs and the influence of mythical fears, can damage and break belief in the Lord Jesus. Therefore, in carrying out Karo customs, they must be grown and strengthened with the Word of God and the help of the Holy Spirit. People whom the Lord Jesus Christ has saved see by faith that God's plan for all His creation is united in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10; I Cor. 15:20-28).

Tribal religion, including the belief that long before the Karo people became Christians, had been trying to find a Dibata (God) whom he did not know, praying to the powers, he was looking for that he felt were outside of him and beyond him. There are still some old beliefs that still become the culture of the Karo tribe even though they have long been Christians, namely:

The first treatment of sick family members. If a family member is sick, his family tends to take him to a dukun or so-called 'Guru Sibaso' because there are people who still believe that 'Guru Sibaso' or 'shaman' has the talent from God to heal. If 'Teacher Sibaso' can no longer be cured in a critical condition, they take the patient to a doctor. As a result, patients are often treated late, which leads to death. Some people think that seeking treatment with 'Guru Sibaso' or 'shaman' is just for treatment, not for worshipping 'Guru Sibaso' or 'shaman'. Because there is an antidote to their reasoning, which is quoted from Exodus 20:3,5 and Deuteronomy 5:7,9), their understanding that they are only seeking treatment does not acknowledge 'Guru Sibaso' as God and worship him because what they understand is that they are only utilizing the healing talents that exist in 'Guru Sibaso.' Their actions are recognized as a policy received from God (Matthew 10: 16) to get healing through people given by God as an antidote to disease.

With these two reasons (perhaps there are many other reasons they use to justify themselves), they often perform ritual worship of the sick in a culture in their families even though they claim to be Christians.

Second, the customs of the Karo people, which are religious, contradict the Christian faith, namely: Erpangir Kulau, which is a medium for making 'Belo pengarkari' to prevent misfortune, disaster, bad luck, and the power of evil; Tambar-tambar Karo accompanied by old beliefs (traditional medicine: some are neutral, but some are wrapped in old beliefs; tabas tabas or mantra mantras.

By looking at the phenomenon of Karo people's lives who still believe in old beliefs even though they have long been Christians, the door to evangelism is still very open to Karo people. The goal is that Karo people can understand the truth of God's Word, and Karo people are no longer involved with these occult practices.

Occult practices are strictly prohibited in the view of the Christian faith. As the source of Christian belief, the Bible has reminded God's people not to engage in occult practices from the beginning in the Book of Genesis.

CONCLUSION

Occultism comes from the word 'occultus,' which means hidden, secret, unseen, mysterious, dark, or darkness. Thus, occultism can be interpreted as an understanding that adheres to and practices the power and power of the world of darkness or the world of evil spirits.

A shaman is usually cult as a teacher by fanatical followers. These occultists possess magical powers by associating dark spirits from the underworld. They believe that the spirits of the dead are always near the living. They are believed to be able to comfort, guide, and help and can also be asked to take revenge, haunt, threaten and disturb. Certain shamans are given the expertise to predict, cure illness, bring wealth, and provide a mate. Modern spiritual experiences in the same occult principles are carried out, only changing the packaging and appearance.

Occultism brings humans into the bondage of idolatry, and any human involvement in the occult will distance humans from God. In harnessing magical powers through occult practices, a person is usually bound by specific conditions which can have dire consequences if violated. Those conditions will bind the human being for the rest of his life, and he is under the devil's power.

The reality is that many Christians live their lives ruled by darkness. The tradition of parents is one of the causes. Therefore we must decide on all kinds of occultism that believers have practised. The church needs to hold revival services with a particular theme: release from the bonds of dark power. Also, the Theological College should ideally provide pastoral counselling to every new college student in the hope that they will be released from the power of darkness. Also, the College of Theology, in collaboration with the church, held a seminar on the theme of the dangers of the occult to believers.

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