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**Topic: Historical Growth and Development of Satanism and the Challenge of the Church towards Satanism.**

*Presented by Pastor C. Mangthangvunga      Date of presentation: 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 (Tuesday)*

We cannot deny the fact that the worship of Satan or Satanism is prevalent in our today's world. Nowadays, we often hear the mockery of Christian churches by the Satanists. They used to enter inside the church and desecrated it. Usually, they burnt Holy Bible and Hymn books, drawn the Satanic signs, and wrote words ridiculing Christianity. One of our churches in Mizoram is also one of the victims of this kind of disrespect. During the end of the month of April and the beginning of May in 2012, The United Pentecostal Church in Kolasib, along with Presbyterian Church, Kolasib Venglai and Catholic Church, Thingdawl, were desecrated by the so-called worshipper of Satan.

There are different kinds or groups of Satanism, yet their main philosophies are almost the same. It is a high time to know the happenings in our surrounding. We need to know more about Satanism and its philosophies, the worshippers of Satan and what things do they want. How did they influence the people and which instruments do they use to spread their codes.

In this paper, we shall study the different kinds of Satanism, the growth and development of Satanism, especially the Church of Satan. We shall also see the philosophies of Satanism, and different symbols of Satanism. Then, we shall learn the challenge of the Church today towards Satanism.

## 1. SATAN

The term 'Satan' (Hebrew שָׂטָן) means 'adversary' or 'accuser,' in either a personal or judicial sense.<sup>1</sup> In the book of Job and Zechariah, the definite article precedes the noun, literally, 'the satan' or 'the accuser,' thus some argued it should be a title. But, others argued that it should be a proper name, since it is seen without the definite article 'Satan'.<sup>2</sup> It appears eighteen times from the mentioned three books in the Old Testament. In the Greek New Testament, it appears in two forms: once as Σαταν (Satan) and thirty-four times as Σατανας (Satanas).<sup>3</sup>

In the Bible, Satan is identified with the tempter who encourages the fall of Adam and Eve; he is the accuser who torments Job in the hope that he will curse God; the one who offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him; and the evil one who puts betrayal

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Inc., 2012), 697.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/satan/> (2.5.2015).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/satan.html> (30.4.2015).

in the heart of Judas.<sup>4</sup> Satan is not omnipresent and not omnipotent or omniscient. He has no ability to create, he is not even able to govern or manage any large number of creatures.<sup>5</sup>

Satan is also identified or known as Abaddon / Apollyon (Rev. 9:11), Accuser (Rev. 12:10), Adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), Angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), Anointed covering cherub (Eze. 28:14), Antichrist (1 Jn. 4:3), Azelel (Lev. 16), Beast (Rev. 14:9), Beelzebub (Mat. 12:24), Belial (2 Cor. 6:15), Deceiver (Rev. 12:9), Devil (1 Jn. 3:8), Dragon (Rev. 12:9), Enemy (Mat. 13:39), Evil one (Jn. 17:15), Father of lies (Jn. 8:44), God of this age (2 Cor. 4:4), Lawless one (2 Thes. 2:8), Leviathan (Is. 27:1), Liar (Jn. 8:44), Little horn (Dan. 8:9-11), Lucifer (Is. 14:12), Man of sin (2 Thes. 2:3), Murderer (Jn. 8:44), Power of darkness (Col. 1:13, 14), Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:1,2), Rulers of the darkness (Eph. 6:12), Ruler of demons (Lk. 11:15), Ruler of this world (Jn. 12:31,32), Serpent (Gen. 3), Serpent of old (Rev. 12:9), Son of perdition (2 Thes. 2:3,4), Star (Rev. 9:1), Tempter (Mat. 4:3), Thief (Jn. 10:10), Wicked one (Eph. 6:16).<sup>6</sup>

## 2. SATANISM

*Satanism* is a broad term referring to a group of social movements with diverse ideological and philosophical beliefs. Satanism includes symbolic association with, or admiration for, Satan, whom Satanists see as an inspiring and liberating figure.<sup>7</sup> Satanism, according to certain of its exponents, is the oldest of all world religions, and it is the only one that by doctrine lays claim to having its origin in the Garden of Eden. Adam's firstborn son, Cain, is thought to have celebrated the first Satanic Mass, and today, any lone Satanist can celebrate a valid Mass if the occasion arises.<sup>8</sup>

There are some Satanists revere and worship Satan as an actual deity or force, and are known as *Theistic Satanism*<sup>9</sup>, they believe that Satan is a real being rather than a symbol of individualism. This group includes teenagers who focus on music with satanic lyrics; they have experience in occult activity. The elements and activities found in Witchcraft<sup>10</sup>, New World

<sup>4</sup> <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Satan> (30.4.2015).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/satan.html> (30.4.2015)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.markbeast.com/satan/names-of-satan.html> (2.5.2015).

<sup>7</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism> (25.4.2015).

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3406300098.html> (30.4.2015).

<sup>9</sup> Like Geifodd ap Pwyll, who wrote 'I Worship Devil.' Some extract from his article are like this, "I believe in the existence of Devils... I believe in them as essentially benevolent deities of carnality, intellectual power and progress. They are dark yet beautiful spirits that, strangely enough, actually work for the advancement of humankind. They are not really these stupid fallen angels that want to destroy humanity and the world. Instead, they are mysteriously sentient forces that mastermind every deviation from dogmatic thought that occurs among human beings, and that inspire all of human advancement. They are the gods that rule the Earth. Even the Christian Bible itself refers to Satan as "The God of this World!"...I worship Satan, whom I also call Azazel, Lucifer, and Apep. He is Dark, yet He brings Light. He is the ultimate Enemy of all tyrannical religious regimes, and He is the Promethean friend of Man. He leads us out from oppression, and He puts the fear of Man in the hearts of the gods." <http://theisticsatanism.com/geifodd/devilworshiper.html> (28.4.2015).

<sup>10</sup> Witchcraft broadly means the practice of, and belief in, magical skills and abilities that are able to be exercised individually, by designated social groups, or by persons with the necessary esoteric secret knowledge. Witchcraft often occupies a religious, divinatory, or medicinal role, and is often present within societies and groups whose cultural framework includes a magical world view. Mostly, witchcraft can share common ground with related

Order or Illuminati<sup>11</sup>, pornography, paganism, and the drug culture, are also considered to be very close related with Satanism.

## 2.1. THEATRICAL SATANIST (SIMPLE DABBLERS)<sup>12</sup>

This kind of Satanist is found among the youths, usually about 10 to 16 years of age. They get their information from friends, certain kinds of music, books, movies, videos, and television. Crimes they might commit would be: vandalizing a stop sign, smashing a tombstone, breaking into a church and stealing something, or ripping up a Bible. Many high school age children go through this phase of living on the "darker side of life." An increasing number of junior high and elementary age kids are dabbling as well, but most young people pass through this phase relatively unaffected. These children are rebelling; they are not religiously motivated. Theatrical Satanism has little organization to it.

Some youths find Satanism as a way to deal with the pressures of life. For example, a recruiter might suggest using an incantation (invocation to devil) to help a student get a good grade on school test, or to get their instant pleasure such as intoxicating materials and money. The incantation builds up a little self-confidence, and gets a good grade, drug and money through friends, which made them think it works. Next time they might be asked to go to a cemetery. This begins a gradual evolution into Satanism.

## 2.2. EXPERIMENTAL SATANIST (ADVANCED DABBLERS)<sup>13</sup>

Many of youth between the ages of 14 and 20 move on to this second phase, which is characterized by personal study or practice. The Experimental Satanist may have sensed a power over others or the unseen world and is trying to control it. These youths borrow from all aspects of the occult and make up their own style of worship. They perform rituals<sup>14</sup> - thus the title

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concepts such as sorcery, the paranormal, magic, superstition, necromancy, possession, shamanism, healing, spiritualism, nature worship, and the occult. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witchcraft> (28.4.2015).

<sup>11</sup> The Illuminati secret cult was formed in 1776, the same year in which America got independence, by a German, Adam Weishaupt, in the German city of Bavaria. The group, which started with 5 elite foundation members, was aimed at ruling the whole world through taking control of every influential and powerful position possible, and through luring every influential personality into its fold. Sources have revealed further that, in order to achieve its agenda, The Illuminati has no reservations whatsoever for adopting devilish means such as witchcraft, terror, blackmail, and so on. For this reason, it chose the devil as the overseer of all its affairs – the reason why all members must revere the devil and his allies and mock everything related to God. <http://naijagists.com/the-illuminati-signs-and-symbols-revealed/> (28.4.2015).

<sup>12</sup> <http://gothicsubculture.com/satanism-youth.php> (30.4.2015).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> For example: Venus Satanas, a Satanist, posts in her blogs said, "...the rituals that I do now only include the lighting of a special candle, and the meditative focus on the image of the Baphomet. Satan is such an important part of my life that I don't feel that I need to go 'overboard' in my expression, but I do feel the need to give recognition and respect to that force that has helped me in so many ways..." <http://spiritualsatanist.blogspot.in/search/label/Satanic%20Ritual> (30.4.2015).

"experimental". Part of their rituals may involve cutting their body to obtain blood to drink during a ceremony. They may kill animals as a sacrifice. Some have been known to commit acts of homicide. While these youth are somewhat religiously motivated, their primary motivation is still rebellion. The rituals that I do now are very simple compared to what I have done in the past. I keep a simple altar. You can see the pictures of it at my shop.

Experimental Satanism has a definite organization and leadership structure (which is created by the group's participants). When a juvenile joins a group of Experimental Satanists, he is required to attend certain activities and make commitments. In the beginning stage he is told that Satan has all power and that God is weak. God doesn't care about mankind. That is the reason why there is so much misery in the world. He is told about the ability to obtain riches here on earth and about reincarnation and how he can return to earth with great powers. Beginning ceremonies are introduced to him at this point.

If he decides to continue with the group, he is told he must make strong and binding commitments. He will eventually be required to give his soul to Satan in return for the riches and powers he will receive. It is stressed that roasting in hell for all eternity is just a myth perpetrated by the Christians. Through Satanism he will receive powers beyond anything he can imagine. To demonstrate his loyalty to the group and to prove to Satan he is sincere, he might be asked to become sexually involved with the group or to commit a serious crime. This is also a tactic to keep him from telling on the group. He will be required to go through some type of ceremony in which he swears allegiance to Satan and denounces God. He promises to fight against and do anything to destroy Christianity.

This will sometimes be a verbal covenant, but will often be a blood covenant where a communion made of blood, urine and alcohol will be taken. He is told that a demon (he is often told the demon's name) has been assigned to watch him and report to Satan. The demon will destroy him if he disobeys those in authority or tells on the group. He may be told that members of his family will die if he breaks his covenants. He will probably take part in animal sacrifices and may eventually participate in the killing of a human, usually a member of the group. It must be emphasized again that this type of satanic group is created entirely by its local participants. The goal of the group's leader is not to worship a deity, but to gain control of others within the group.

### 3. THE CHURCH OF SATAN

The other groups of Satanism are *Atheistic Satanism*, they are formal religious groups who claim to worship Satan (even though they deny the existence of supernatural beings or gods including, the being of Satan) and revel in their departure from mainstream religion, like the Church of Satan.<sup>15</sup> The philosophies and teachings of Satanism are almost the same even they are

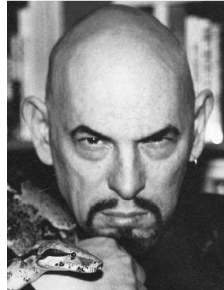
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<sup>15</sup> James A. Beverley, *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 633.

theistic or atheistic, self-style or group. The Church of Satan, founded in 1966, is a vivid organization which rationally insists the teachings and ideas of Satanism. This church has stated its contention that they are the first formally organized religion to adopt the term *Satanism* and asserts that Satanism and the worship of Devil (or the being of Satan) are not congruent. The Church of Satan promotes itself as the only authentic representation of Satanism.<sup>16</sup>

So, let us look deeper into the establishment and development of the Church of Satan.

### 3.1. THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH OF SATAN – ANTON SZANDOR LAVEY



Anton LaVey

The Church of Satan was founded by Anton Szandor LaVey. He was born on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1930 at Chicago, Illinois, USA. Anton LeVey's father, Michael Joseph, was a native Nebraskan, whose parents emigrated to the U.S. from France. His mother, Gertrude Augusta Coultron, was a native Ohioan, whose parents emigrated to the U.S. from Russia.

While Anton was young, his parents moved the family to the San Francisco Bay Area. In his teen years, LaVey dropped out of high school to join the circus and had responsibilities with animals and music, both of which he enjoyed. LaVey met Carole Lansing when he was 20 years old and married her a year later. Lansing gave birth to their daughter Karla in 1952. The pair divorced in 1960. LeVay soon entered into a relationship with Diane Hegarty who gave birth to their daughter Zeena in 1963. Also in the early 1960's, LaVey was the weekly speaker at a group called "The Magic Circle." At the encouragement of his students, on April 30, 1966, LaVey announced the establishment of The Church of Satan, inaugurating what he called, "The Age of Satan."

The media was infatuated with LaVey. His satanic weddings and baptisms received significant public attention. He was even a guest on television talk shows. California newspapers called LaVey "The Black Pope." In the 1990's, LaVey had a relationship with Blanche Barton, who gave birth to their son, Satan Xerxes Carnacki, in November 1993. LaVey died from pulmonary adema on October 29, 1997 in San Francisco, California. A satanic funeral was held in Colona, a town in San Mateo County just outside San Francisco. His body was cremated and the remains were divided among family members. He authored the books such as *The Satanic Bible* (1969), *The Satanic Witch* (1989), *The Satanic Rituals* (1972), *The Devil's Notebook* (1992), *Satan Speaks!* (1998).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism> (28.4.2015).

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.religionfacts.com/satanism/anton\\_lavey](http://www.religionfacts.com/satanism/anton_lavey) (25.4.2015).

### 3.2. THE PHILOSOPHIES OF SATANISM

The Church of Satan is an atheistic and materialistic religion that champions individualism, epicureanism, secularism, and egoism, and propagates a worldview of naturalism, etc. Adherents describe it as a non-spiritual religion of the flesh, or ‘...*the world's first carnal religion.*’<sup>18</sup>

The Church of Satan asserts that “In Satanism, each individual is his or her own god—there is no room for any other god and that includes Satan, Lucifer, or whatever other name one might select or take from history or fiction.” In their website, *churchofsatan.com*, they continue to state like this, “our position is to be self-centered, with ourselves being the most important person (the “God”) of our subjective universe, so we are sometimes said to worship ourselves. Our current High Priest Gilmore calls this the step moving from being an atheist to being an “I-Theist.”<sup>19</sup>

Adherents see the character of Satan as a symbol of pride, carnality, liberty, individualism, enlightenment, and undefiled wisdom, and serves as a conceptual framework and an external metaphorical projection of the Satanist's highest personal potential. Satan (Hebrew: שָׂטָן *satan*, meaning ‘adversary’) is seen as a symbol of defiance to the conservatism of mainstream philosophical and religious currents, mainly the Abrahamic religions, that see this character as their antithesis.<sup>20</sup>

### 3.3. THE NINE SATANIC STATEMENTS<sup>21</sup>

The Nine Satanic Statements articulate what ‘Satan’ means to the church:

- 3.3.1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence.
- 3.3.2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams.
- 3.3.3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit.
- 3.3.4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it instead of love wasted on ingrates.
- 3.3.5. Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek.
- 3.3.6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires.
- 3.3.7. Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his ‘divine spiritual and intellectual development,’ has become the most vicious animal of all.

<sup>18</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satanism> (25.4.2015).

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.churchofsatan.com/faq-fundamental-beliefs> (28.4.2015).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.churchofsatan.com/nine-satanic-statements.php> (28.4.2015).

3.3.8. Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification.

3.3.9. Satan has been the best friend the Church has ever had, as He has kept it in business all these years.

### **3.4. THE ELEVEN SATANIC RULES OF THE EARTH<sup>22</sup>**

The Eleven Satanic Rules of the Earth are as follows:

3.4.1. Do not give opinions or advice unless you are asked.

3.4.2. Do not tell your troubles to others unless you are sure they want to hear them.

3.4.3. When in another's lair, show them respect or else do not go there.

3.4.4. If a guest in your lair annoys you, treat them cruelly and without mercy.

3.4.5. Do not make sexual advances unless you are given the mating signal.

3.4.6. Do not take that which does not belong to you unless it is a burden to the other person and they cry out to be relieved.

3.4.7. Acknowledge the power of magic if you have employed it successfully to obtain your desires. If you deny the power of magic after having called upon it with success, you will lose all you have obtained.

3.4.8. Do not complain about anything to which you need not subject yourself.

3.4.9. Do not harm little children.

3.4.10. Do not kill non-human animals unless you are attacked or for your food.

3.4.11. When walking in open territory, bother no one. If someone bothers you, ask them to stop. If they don't stop, destroy them.

### **3.5. THE NINE SATANIC SINS<sup>23</sup>**

The Nine Satanic Sins are as follows:

3.5.1. Stupidity

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.churchofsatan.com/eleven-rules-of-earth.php> (28.4.2015).

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.churchofsatan.com/nine-satanic-sins.php> (28.4.2015).

3.5.2. Pretentiousness

3.5.3. Solipsism<sup>24</sup>

3.5.4. Self-deceit

3.5.5. Herd Conformity

3.5.6. Lack of Perspective

3.5.7. Forgetfulness of Past Orthodoxies

3.5.8. Counterproductive Pride

3.5.9. Lack of Aesthetics

#### 4. THE SYMBOLS AND SIGNS OF SATANISM<sup>25</sup>

There are many signs and symbols of Satanism. But let us see some of the common ones.



**4.1. Horned Hand:** This is the symbol of a hand in which the middle and ring finger are bending downwards to meet the thumb. The index and little finger form the horns. There are two versions of the horned hand. One is used as a sign of recognition between those in the Satanic group. In this version the thumb covers the middle and ring finger. When the horned hand is flashed with the thumb pointing outwards, it's actually cursing the person it's being pointed to.



**4.2. Circled Pentacle / Pentagram:** A real popular symbol used by many that dabble in the occult. Many pagans such as those who practice wicca and other forms of witchcraft wear the emblem as a pendant. The upward point of the star is representative of the spirit. The other four points all represent an element; earth, air, fire, and water. The circle touching all 5 points indicates that the spirit, earth, air, water and fire are all connected.

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<sup>24</sup> a theory in philosophy that your own existence is the only thing that is real or that can be known...  
<http://www.merriam-webster.com> (30.4.2015).

<sup>25</sup> The symbols and signs shown are collected from these sources, viz., <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/satanic-symbols-and-their-meaning.html>, <http://www.crossroad.to/Books/symbols1.html>, <http://www.nazarite.net/satanic-symbols.html>, <http://www.religionfacts.com/satanism/symbols>, and <http://www.encyclopedia.com> (29.4.2015).





**4.3. Inverted Pentagram:** This symbol involves a star enclosed in a circle. However, the star is inverted, with its basal two points up. This symbol stands for evil and is used to invoke evil spirits.



**4.4. Anarchy:** It means the absence of all law and disobedience to any existing law. The lines of the "A" often extend outside the circle. To many Satanists and other fast-growing occult groups it represents their slogan, "do what thou wilt." A former occultist explained that it represents the 'Amodeus': a demonic force driving teenagers toward sexual perversion and suicide.



**4.5. Peace Symbol:** It is also known as the Cross of Nero. Nero believed that there would be world peace without Christianity; thousands of Christians were martyred under the rule of Nero. This is what the "peace symbol" represents regardless of what it means. Satanists now use it to denote an upside-down cross with broken arms, thus signifying the defeat of Christianity.



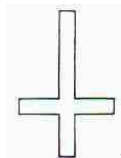
**4.6. Baphomet:** The picture of the horned goat head is a symbol used by Satanists to mock Jesus, who is known as the 'Lamb of God', who gave His life for sinners. It represents the deity of Satanist and the power of darkness.



**4.7. Sigil of Baphomet:** The Baphomet head can be seen inside the inverted pentagram, and the Hebrew characters situated in the outer ring spell out "Leviathan," (לִיָּאֲתָן) a mysterious creature from the Hebrew Bible, whose identity is shrouded in mystery. This symbol has been used from the days of the Spanish Inquisition to the present as it is the cover art for Anton LaVey's The Satanic Bible.



**4.8. Satanic Cross:** This is an upside-down cross with a question mark at its base. The inverted cross is to mock Jesus and the question mark at the base of it stands for questioning the very existence of God. Within the church of Satan, it stands for the three crown princes; Satan, Belial, and Leviathan. Moreover, it also stands for Lucifer's supreme power.



**4.9. Peter's Cross:** In Christian tradition, the Apostle Peter, who most believe was the leader of the 12 apostles, was martyred in Rome sometime between 64-68 A.D. He was reportedly crucified upside-down, so as not to die in the same manner as his Savior, Jesus, because he was unworthy to die in the way. The upside-down cross was later adopted by some satanic organizations to convey the idea of Christianity in reverse, and has been a Satanic symbol ever since the 7th century. These symbols are used during Satanic worship times to mock Jesus Christ. It symbolizes rejection of Jesus. Satanist think if they invert a symbol, it will make it evil or if they spell something backwards it makes it cool.



**4.10. Ankh:** It is also known as the Long Life Seal. While Christians try to say the ankh is not a cross, make no mistake about it, the ankh is indeed another rendering of a cross. This symbol originated in Egypt and symbolizes reincarnation. Egyptians were pagans and worshipped many gods like the sun-god Amen-Rah, and the pagan sun-trinity: Osiris, Isis and Horus. The ankh and the common cross were both used equally in ancient pagan sun-worship.



**4.11. Satanic S:** The Satanic S is a lightning bolt, which stands for the 'destroyer'. Mostly it is seen with the Inverted Pentagram.



**4.12. Alchemy Sulfur:** A modification of the sign for sulfur in alchemy, which represents fire and brimstone, the symbol is used in The Satanic Bible by Anton LaVey.



**4.13. All Seeing Eye:** It is also known as the 'udjat'. It is used to symbolize the eyes of Lucifer, who is believed to see everything happening all over the world. The eye of Lucifer and those who claim control of it have control of world finances. Used in divination, Hexes, curses, psychic control and all corruption are worked through this emblem. This one is a symbol of the Illuminati.

## 5. THE CHALLENGES OF THE CHURCH TOWARDS SATANISM

We, the Christians, are surrounded by the people who follow Satanism. We cannot neglect the fast spreading of their philosophies among the youth. We need to wake up and work hard in order to fight back their ideas and attitudes. Out of many, let us look here again in more detail only some of the attitudes of Satanism, which are prevailing in our today's world. We will also mention how we could challenge back as a Church.

### 5.1. Materialism

Firstly, they advocate materialism. Materialism is defined as 'a belief that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life, or a way of thinking that gives too much importance to material possessions rather than to spiritual and intellectual things.'<sup>26</sup> In philosophy, materialism is the belief that only material things exist.<sup>27</sup> Only what we can see and what we can touch is real, and there is no a spiritual realm beyond what exist as we can see. So, the Satanists do not care about the life after death since they think it only as imagination and not as reality. They only think about accessing to the material is what matter. In their Satanic Rule, we see, 'Acknowledge the power of magic if you have employed it successfully to obtain your desires. If you deny the power of magic after having called upon it with success, you will lose all you have obtained.' Here, they allow applying any means in order to get what they want to have.

As a Church, we need to spread the message that having possession on this world is not our objectives, but to have a possession in heaven. In Luke 12: 13-21, we see the Parable of the Rich Fool, who saved his possessions and comfort his soul. This materialistic fool person did not have any portion in heaven. Jesus himself taught us when he says, "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor dust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Mat. 6: 19-21). To the youth, we must tell that getting the latest gadgets or fashions do not bring real happiness, we must not seek happiness in these worldly possessions, but the real joy will be there when we meet Jesus. We must not look at the things which are seen, for they are temporal, but we must look at the things which are not seen, for they are eternal, as we are taught in 2 Corinthians 4:18.

<sup>26</sup> H. Vanlalauva, et al., *Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Aizawl: Faculty of Aizawl Theological College, 2007), 184.

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com> (30.4.2015).

## 5.2. Individualism

Secondly, let us see their philosophy of individualism. Individualism is the idea that freedom of thought and action for each person is the most important quality of a society, rather than shared effort and responsibility.<sup>28</sup> According to the individualist, all values are human-centred, the individual is of supreme importance, and all individuals are morally equal. Negatively, it embraces opposition to authority and to all manner of controls over the individual, especially when exercised by the state.<sup>29</sup> Because of this, they regard ‘Herd Conformity,’ which is a behavior that follows the usual standards which are expected by a group or society, as sin. Satanism is self-gratification and unlimited freedom. It says "do what you want" while parents want them to obey. It brings out rebellion; some youths use it to fight back at their parents.

As a Church, we must proclaim the importance of living together as a community. Human beings are designed to survive and live as social community. We cannot live long by alone; we need someone to share our joy, sorrow, and to live with. We see the lives of the first Christians; they shared their belongings and praised God together (Acts 2: 42ff). In his letter to the Philippians, Paul said, “*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interest of others*” (Phil. 2: 4). In many passages, we are taught to find peace, love, brotherhood, with our neighbors and to human beings. So, we must preach how to live peaceably with others, following the rules and regulations of the community (cf. Rom. 13:1).

## 5.3. Egoism and Aesthetic

Thirdly, they also advocate the idea of egoism. They are seeking for the sense of status, power, and fame. They want to feel special or important, and they want to gain friends and acceptance. Egoism means self-centeredness, selfishness, self-seeking, self-serving, self-regard, self-love, self-admiration, self-importance; boastfulness, etc.<sup>30</sup> That is why they represent Satan as Pride. For them, lack of Aesthetic is sin. Aesthetic is relating to the enjoyment of beauty. It is - decorative, beautiful, ornamental, attractive, tasteful, pleasing, etc. If one does not have aesthetic feeling, one cannot admire oneself, or feel the pride of egoism, which could in turn become a sin for them.

For us also, it is very easy to find ourselves as the best, most valuable, and boastful in a negative way, but, we must not judge ourselves like that way. Paul said, “*... I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord*” (1Cor. 4: 4). In 1Peter 5:5, we also see, “*... all of you be submissive to one another, and clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*”.

As a Church, we also need to influence the youths today, that beauty rests not in the outer dress we wear, but in the hearts. Of course, we must cloth ourselves with honest dress which makes us confident, but we must not seek for the self-admiration or boastfulness because of our looks. In 1Timothy 2: 9, Paul said, “*in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves*

<sup>28</sup> Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Third Edition (CD-ROM).

<sup>29</sup> *Britannica Ready Reference Encyclopedia* (New Delhi: Encyclopedia Britannica India Pvt. Ltd., 2005)

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com> (1.5.2015).

*in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”*

#### 5.4. Epicureanism

Lastly, they embrace the idea of Epicureanism. Epicureanism is an ancient school of philosophy founded in Athens by Epicurus in ca. 307 BC. The school rejected determinism<sup>31</sup> and advocated hedonism<sup>32</sup>. Epicureanism regarded mental pleasure was more highly than physical, and the ultimate pleasure was held to be freedom from anxiety and mental pain, especially that arising from needless fear of death and of the gods.<sup>33</sup> Because of this, they represent Satan as carnality<sup>34</sup>, who can fulfill their sexual desire. They encourage Satanists to commit the so-called sin, if it leads them to their physical, mental, or emotional gratification. Instead of abstinence or refraining, they favor indulgence<sup>35</sup>.

We, the Christians, must preach that the worldly pleasures do not last long, and we must find the real happiness in Christ. We must seek how to live according the words of God, in such a way that other people may consider us, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God (cf. 1Cor. 4:1). 1Jn. 2:16 tells, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”* And we must also live a holy life, pursuing peace with all people (cf. Heb. 12:14).

## 6. CONCLUSION

Now, we have gone thoroughly through some of the attitudes of Satanism and how the Church should challenge it back. I know this paper is very limited and insufficient, but, I hope it gives us some insights relating to the topic in one way or the other. As mentioned earlier, we are living in a world where many youths are attracted by the attitudes of Satanism, using the materials such as – commercialization of music and literature that have Satanic theme, drugs, alcohol, sex, and pornography, etc. We cannot do away with it; we have to act out to save our youth.

We must not be fooled by Satan. Many people used to imagine Satan as black figure, having thorns and tail, holding trident in his hand. But Satan attracts people by beautiful in appearance, charming music, pleasure, high status, richness, self-gratification, etc. Let me

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<sup>31</sup> Determinism: the theory that everything which happens must happen as it does and could not have happened any other way. *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Third Edition (CD-ROM)*.

<sup>32</sup> Hedonism: living and behaving in ways that mean you get as much pleasure out of life as possible, according to the belief that the most important thing in life is to enjoy yourself. *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, Third Edition (CD-ROM)*.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com> (1.5.2015).

<sup>34</sup> relating to the physical feelings and wants of the body; sexual OR relating to / given to crude bodily pleasures and appetites <http://www.merriam-webster.com> (30.4.2015).

<sup>35</sup> the behavior or attitude of people who allow themselves to do what they want... the act of doing something that you enjoy but that is usually thought of as wrong or unhealthy <http://www.merriam-webster.com> (30.4.2015).

conclude my paper with the verse, where Paul insists Timothy to turn away from: *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”* (2Tim. 3:1-5).

**Points to discuss:**

1. Tell how the philosophies of Satanism and the things which will come in the last days, as we see in 2Timothy 3:1-5, are related.
2. Discuss how Satanism has affected the lives of youth today.
3. Discuss some precautions to take from the influence of Satanism.
4. What consequences do we find in the lives of those who practice Satanism, physically and mentally?
5. How can we help Satanist in such a way that they might be freed from the clutches of Satan?

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