1. DECEPTION & DISCERNMENT in the Last Days

(The numbers in these notes correspond to the same numbers on the Powerpoint presentation of this message)

**2)** The LORD JESUS WARNED US THAT DECEPTION WILL BE A MAJOR SIGN of the Last Days, MT.24:23-4

- So it is crucial that we develop our spiritual discernment in these Last Days for **2 REASONS:**

**3) REASON #1.** **We need Increasing Discernment to Counter the Increasing Deception of the Last Days.**

**4) T**here will be increasing deception until Christ’s return-

a) Warned by Christ: Mt.24:3-5 & 24:23-26

b) Warned by Paul: 1 Tim.4:1 & 2 Thess.2:9-12

c) Warned by John: Rev.13:6-14, 16:13-14, & 17:1-5 (the false Church)

**5)** Our growing spiritual discernment must develop faster than the deepening deception of the Last Days. Otherwise we can be swept away by deception (Rev.12:5, Is.59:19) to become part of the false church (Mt.13:37-41), the harlot of Antichrist, Rev.18:1-4. (There are two women in the book of Revelation: the Bride of Christ & the Harlot of Antichrist.)

**6) REASON # 2.** **Developing Spiritual Discernment will help us Prepare a Victorious, Glorious Church** in these Last Days, Is.60:1-3, Mt.16:18, Eph.5:27, & Rev.19:7-8. The bride of Christ is prepared by the water of God’s word (Eph.5:27), the opposite of the water (words) from the dragon’s mouth in Rev.12:5 that seek to destroy the Church. God’s words cleanses, satan’s words deceive!

**7) AREAS OF GROWING DECEPTION:**

 **GROWING DECEPTION # 1 - DECEIVING DOCTRINES:**

**8)** 3 LEAVENS (false doctrines) that Jesus warned about, Mt.16:12 “Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” LEAVEN = FALSE DOCTRINES THAT SLOWLY< SILENTLY GROW & CORRUPT

1. A)The Leaven of the Pharisees: LEGALISM: Outward appearance of holiness, but corrupt of heart: (you clean the outside or your cup and dish, but inside your hearts you are full of greed and wickedness, Lk.11:39. Legalistically obeyed the Sabbath, but could not follow the spirit of the Sabbath, and rejected Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath!
* People today start many legalistic doctrines that teach religiosity, not relationship!
* Many rules about clothes for church-almost always rules for ladies: how long their hair...
* Follow Jewish rituals, put on prayer shawls, act Jewish
* Narrow legalistic doctrines
1. **B)** The Leaven of the Sadducees: LIBERALISM

The Sadducees did not believe in angels, or the Resurrection, or heaven: they were SAD-U-SEE! They only believed part of the Bible- LIKE MODERN LIBERAL CHURCHES THAT REJECT much of the Bible, ALSO REJECT MIRACLES & HELL, THE SUPERNATURAL, & BIBLICAL MORALS -some accept gay marriage.

1. The leaven of Herod: “Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."-Mark 8:15 HEROD’S FALSE DOCTRINE: A CORRUPT ALLIANCE OF POLITICS & RELIGION

**12)** HEROD THE GREAT: Said he wanted to worship the king, but actually wanted to kill Him,

 Mt.2:7-16. He built the Temple of Herod, while murdering countless people!

\* HEROD ANTIPAS, heard John the Baptist gladly and followed much of John’s advice, but then turned around to behead him, Mk.6:20-27. Herod Antipas also said that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead (Mt.14:1-2) and was very glad to later meet Jesus (Lk.23:8), but soon mocked Him and sent Christ back to Pilate who then sent Christ to the cross, Lk.23:11-24.

**13)** The HERODIANS joined with the Pharisees in Mk.12:13-15 and praised Jesus while trying to

 trick Christ into teaching rebellion against the government.

**14)** THE LEAVEN OF HEROD: A CORRUPT ALLIANCE OF POLITICS & RELIGION (many political

 leaders will act religious, but only to deceive the religious. Adolf Hitler, when rising to

 power, gathered a group of pastors, showed them ‘his’ well-used Bible to deceive them.

1. DOCTRINES OF DEMONS, 1 Tim.4:1. Demons have false doctrines- because they R deceived, and so they try to get others to agree w/ their deceptions!

\* It is the responsibility of the Christian leaders to protect the immature Christians from false doctrines, and help the body of Christ to come to full spiritual maturity, Eph.4:11-14.

**16)** From being spiritual babies we are to mature to become spiritual “young men.”‘Young men” are

 strong because the Word of God abides in them, and equips them to overcome the devil.

**17)** When Christ was a young man (about 30) he overcame the devil with 3 scriptures from the

 Book of Deuteronomy, Lk.4:3-13.

\* Do you know the written Word of God? Have you read the book of Dueteronomy?

\* We must also know the living, spoken Word of God! “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) of God."

**18) GROWING DECEPTION # 2. FAKE REMEDIES AND QUACK MEDICINES,** Eccles.7:17. “Do not be overly wicked, nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?”

**19)** FACT: It is good to take good health supplements, and take vitamins & mineral

supplements- done with wisdom & discernment!

 DECEPTION: Many fake and dangerous ‘remedies’ and ‘cures’ are being sold by ignorant or

 corrupt people!

BEFORE YOU PROMOTE HEALTH PRODUCTS TO OTHERS, MAKE SURE IT WORKS FOR YOU!

**20)** TEST #1 -DOES IT WORK? TEST #2 -DOES IT WORK SAFELY? (Is there medical proof it is safe

 to use long-term?) MANY QUACK CURES ARE DANGEROUS!

 MANY QUACK MEDICINES & ‘MIRACLE CURES’ CONTAIN DANGEROUS AMOUNTS OF STEROIDS

**21)** A newspaper in Pakistan tested all the quack medicines being sold in the nation: 60%

 contained illegal steroids

 - A medical study at Rawalpindi, India: 53% of the various quack pills sold contained at least 1

 type of illegal steroid: some, 2!

**22)** STEROIDS BRING IMMEDIATE HEALTH RESULTS IF USED SHORT-TERM BY WISE DOCTORS

 -BUT STEROIDS CAUSE MANY HEALTH PROBLEMS IF UNWISELY USED LONG-TERM

**23)** STEROIDS CAN BRING IMMEDIATE HEALTH RESULTS: CURES ASTHMA AND ARTHRITIS,

 PEOPLE FEEL STRONGER, MUSCLE STRENGTH GROWS (SO ATHLETES CHEAT),

 STEROIDS CAUSE CHILDREN TO GAIN WEIGHT: **BUT** STEROIDS CAUSE MANY HEALTH

 PROBLEMS IF USED LONG-TERM OR WITH HIGH DOSES: CAN CAUSE STROKES & HEART

 ATTACKS, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, KIDNEY & LIVER DAMAGE…

**24)** LONG-TERM USE IS VERY DANGEROUS!

**25)** QUACK REMEDIES FOR COVID-19:

\* Volcanic Ash from Taal volcano

\* Drinking bleach (WARNING: THIS CAN BE DEADLY)

**26)** \* Inhaling hot steam (DANGEROUS- CAN DAMAGE & BURN YOUR SINUSES & HEAD)

\* Indian politicians were promoting drinking cow urine to stop covid-19!

**27)** DON’T BE DECEIVED THAT A QUACK CURE CAN PROTECT YOU FROM COVID-19! GET THE

 HELP OF A WISE DOCTOR AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

**28)** If you have the symptoms of covid-19, don’t be deceived that it is something else-“just a flu”
 - Do not let fear keep you from getting help!
 -Do not ignore it and hope it will get better.

At the start of an emergency or crises, there is a well-known human response sometimes named “Denial & Delay.” This wrong way that many people face emergencies is understood by Rescue Workers, Medical Staff, and Military Commanders. If a disaster or emergency is near or has already come, many people at first deny that they are facing a dangerous problem, they are not familiar with this danger and assume it is not happening to them. As a result, they often delay in getting help or responding to the emergency. Many times fear paralyzes them from taking action to save themselves in the crisis. WE ARE IN A PANDEMIC & WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROPERLY RESPOND!

**29)** **THE STORY OF RICK RESCORLA**: Rick Rescorla was a brave, decorated U.S. Army veteran.

 During war he earned a Silver Star medal, also a Bronze Star, and also a Purple Heart.

 After retiring from the military, Rescorla was hired to be the head of security for the Morgan

 Stanley company at a big skyscraper where this firm had 2,700 employees.

Rick regularly put these thousands of Morgan Stanley employees through rigorous drills on

what to do in the event of a crisis. People complained the company was losing business,

 wasting their time on security drills… until a certain day…

One morning, while sitting at his desk, Rick heard a loud sound - He looked out his window and

saw the next door building on fire. Then an announcement came over the building’s public

address speaker system, explaining how there was no reason to panic – how everyone should

remain seated. But Rick Rescorla knew better.

**30)** And because he’d spent hundreds of hours training his people to ignore the “official” advice

on the building’s Public Address speaker system, the Morgan Stanley employees followed

Rescorla’s orders. With his portable loudspeaker, Rick quickly started moving all the Morgan

Stanley employees to exit the building down the stairs- the elevators were not working.

The employees of the other companies in the building often spent 30 minutes or more shutting

down their computers, making phone calls, and collecting their belongings. Thousands of

people died because of their foolish delays.

But that day, the thousands of employees of the Morgan Stanley company, followed the former

soldier’s plan and stated quickly moving out.

But then, the situation got worse. As Rick was directing thousands down the stairwell from the

44th floor, a second explosion rang out- But this one was a lot closer.

**31)** The second explosion occurred in Rick’s own building, about 40 floors above his head. It

shook the entire building and knocked many of the Morgan Stanley employees to the floor.

It was September 11, 2001. World Trade Center Tower 1 had been hit by an airplane 17 minutes

before. And then, at 9:03 a.m., terrorist hijackers flew a second plane into Tower 2, where Rick

 was trying to evacuate Morgan Stanley’s thousands of employees. But he didn’t panic, even

 after the second explosion. Instead, Rick grabbed his bullhorn and spoke clearly and calmly. He

said: “Be still. Be silent. Everything is going to be OK.”

Rick did this because he understood how people react in a crisis. He knew that many would at

first deny that there was a serious problem, and that many others from fear would not act upon

the danger, being afraid to do anything. So Rick repeated his orders, again and again.

Despite fire, smoke, the smell of jet fuel, and swaying buildings, Rick was able to mobilize his

employees to react quickly and wisely. Morgan Stanley was the biggest employer in the World

Trade Center Tower #2, occupying 22 floors of the building for all their offices. Incredibly, Rick

escorted all the thousands of their employees out to safety- except for only 12 last people

that had not followed his evacuation plans. Rick rescued almost every one of his people,

while the other companies lost 1000s of people thru delay, fear, and lack of wisdom.

NOW TODAY, WE ARE NOT IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ON 9/11. HOWEVER, WE ARE IN THE

MIDDLE OF A DANGEROUS PANDEMIC, WHILE SOME PEOPLE ARE DECEIVED & DENYING IT,

WHILE OTHERS ARE PARALZED BY FEAR AND ARE NOT RESPONDING TO THE DANGER.

Some people- even doctors- are ignoring that we are in a dangerous time. The Authorities at

The World Trade Center spoke over the public address loudspeakers for everyone to remain in

Their seats, that there was no danger. THAT WAS IGNORANCE AND IT WAS DECEPTION! Some

SIMILARLY, some people & some doctors today are saying, ‘Maybe you only have a cold-

-take cough medicine’ or, “You seem to have a flu- just take paracetamol”

**32)** With DISCERNMENT we can avoid DECEPTION, and with COURAGE and FAITH guide

the people of God through the Last Days to become a victorious, glorious Church!