**Protection from Impure Ministries**

**and Polluted Anointing**

**2 The 2:9** *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,* ***10*** *and with all* ***unrighteous deception*** *among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.* ***11***  *And for this reason* ***God will send them strong delusion****, that they should believe the lie,* ***12***  *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

**Introduction**

-As we near the end of the Age, we can expect acceleration in the devil’s work of deception. Therefore, we also need to receive an increasing measure of discernment in order to protect ourselves and our flock.

-There is a need for believers to be reminded and warned; to practice discernment, and to expose and neutralize the lying deceptions of the enemy.

-The Bible mentions about false christs, false apostles, false prophets, false teachers, false prophecies, false doctrines, false signs and wonders fallen angels disguised as angels of light, Satan’s servants disguised as servants of righteousness.

(We are not just to point out errors that we see in others BUT we also want to guard our hearts).

-There are pure and impure ministries.

-Satan has successfully used deceiving manifestations to deceive believers and unbelievers alike.

-And we want to be aware of his evil schemes so he will not take advantage of us. 2 Cor. 2:11

-We want to be watchful against him making inroads into our life and the work of God to bring in mixture and polluted anointing.

-Praise God! He has already provided through Christ the protection that we will need to face this great challenge of deception.

-God’s discernment and wisdom are available in order to protect ourselves and to finish the work He has tasked us to accomplish.

-For my time tonight, I would like to share with you some thoughts on how we can better prepare to protect ourselves from Satan’s deceptive scheming.

1. **Deception will be one of the greatest challenges the Church is going to face in the last days. (Maybe even greater than persecution).**

-We need to have a good grasp of this so we can better prepare against the onslaught of deception.

-Jesus Himself warned us four times in Matthew 24 about its coming. Mat. 24:4,5,11,24

-Notice that Jesus said, “Take heed!”

-This phrase is also translated as “Be careful” (AMP); “See that” (ESV); “See to it” (ISV); “Watch out” (MSG); “Don’t let” (NLT).

-Jesus said this for the obvious reason that His disciples (and us) can be deceived.

-Jesus said it’s going to happen.

-No amount of prayer or spiritual warfare could un-happen the coming of deception.

-We can only prepare and fortify ourselves so that when it happens we will be ready and alert to reject it and protect ourselves and the people we lead.

-No one can dismiss these warnings of Jesus by saying, *“I have the Holy Spirit, I cannot be deceived.”*

-Anyone who says that is already deceived.

-So here’s the thing, any person listening to me, including myself, can be a candidate for deception.

-Since we know that Satan is fully capable of supernatural signs and wonders, we need not accept all signs and wonders necessarily as from God.

-In 2 Thes 2:1-3 Paul declared that there will be a coming apostasy before the coming of the LORD Jesus.

“**falling away”** – Gk.*Apostasia* = apostasy

-This agrees with what he said in 1 Timothy 4:1-2:

-Professing Christians will be deceived along with those who are perishing because of: 2 Thes 2:10, 12

1. a lack of or not having enough love of the truth in them.*v.10 – they did not receive the love of the truth*
2. they approve of wrongdoing.*v.12 -pleasure in unrighteousness*

-sins in the church are tolerated and compromises are allowed.

-Paul said that, to these people, God will send strong delusion.v.11- *And for this reason* ***God will send them strong delusion****, that they should believe the lie,*

 **delusion** – *something that is believed to be true or real but that is actually false or unreal.*

-This is one of the most frightening statements in the Bible.

-If God sends to a person *strong delusion*, that person will be deluded.

-A person who is deluded will believe lies.

- And if you believe the lie, according to Paul, you will be judged and condemned. *v.12 - that they all may be condemned*

**What is God’s provision for us that we may escape deception in the last days?**

**-God’s provision for us to be sure that we can escape deception these last days is that we know and apply the truth of God’s Word.**

-Paul prophesied in the Holy Spirit about the beguiling work of “seducing spirits” and “doctrines of demons..” in the last days.

-What will seduce the believers to believe doctrines of demons?

-Perhaps, one among many, is the display of purported power of God – lying signs and wonders.

-The seduction to false doctrine is intensified by the manifestation of power.

-Miracles, signs, and wonders do not determine truth.

-It is the Word of God that decides what’s true, not signs and wonders.

-Signs and wonders through Satanic anointing attest his lies.

-Refuse to be goaded just go along! Stick to the Truth!

-You can be sure that the Holy Spirit will ring the alarm within you whenever you hear untruth and once He does, listen to Him.

-Allow no one to goad you in dismissing what you are sensing and tells you to be open and simply receive.

-Remember: Deception will be one of the greatest challenges the Church is going to face in the last days.

1. **Be aware that the enemy will always attempt to sow mixture in the work of God.**

-God does signs and wonders but so does the devil.

**Don’t be so engrossed with manifestations of power to the point that you ignore the bad elements that are present.**

-We need to constructively criticize for our own good and the good of our flock.

-Most revivals that started right veered off the path because of existing issues in the lives of those leading the revival.

-That’s why we need to be on guard for signs of mixtures.

-We need to test all things we hear and see in other ministries.

-The devil is relentless in trying to make inroads into our hearts so he can contaminate us and then the work of God.

* *contaminate – to make the pure impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance.*

-Satan’s tactic is to mix the good with bad.

[We see this in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares] - Mat 13:24-30

**-When we are cognizant of the possibility of mixture in a ministry we can pray for protection and make better spiritual judgment.**

-We cannot just swallow everything we hear and see from ministries.

-God wants us to practice discernment.

In **1 The 5:21** *we are told to Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

**[AMP]** *But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.*

-Hold fast what is good and reject the bad.

-Expose the bad for what it is.

-Don’t allow the mixture of bad things to remain unchecked.

-The mixture will serve as open door for the enemy to go in and out of your life and ravage you and the flock that you lead.

-One of the things that I have come to a realization to as I study for this message is this...

**-If those [we] leading the work of God are not completely surrendered to Jesus, the enemy will take advantage of the “cracks” in their [our] lives and infiltrate the work of God.**

-It has happened in the past and is happening now, and will happen in the future

-It has destroyed ministers and brought the work of God and revivals into disrepute.

-We need to be aware as leaders that if we carry a divided heart we can become a channel for mixture.

-One of the verses that has really become a part of our prayer life together as a couple is this...

**Psa 86:11** Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

**Consider some examples:**

* Balaam
* Judas
* King Saul

-His jealousy of David gave entry for the evil spirit to move him to attempt to kill David multiple times.

-At one time he prophesied in the Holy Spirit and at another time in an evil spirit.

**1Sam 10:10** *“...then the Spirit of God came upon him, and* ***he prophesied among them****.”*

**1Sam 18:10** *And it happened on the next day that* ***the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house****....****11*** *And Saul cast the spear, for he said,* ***"I will pin David to the wall!"*** *But David escaped his presence twice.*

-The lives of these men are written for our warning.

-Their lives ended in tragedy.

-They loved their sins more than they loved God, and they became vessels of mixture, and instruments of the devil.

-Mixture brings confusion, division, and then destruction.

-When mixture is allowed to thrive, it will undermine and destroy the work of God and the lives of God’s people.

-Manifestations of power impress people so much that they just embrace everything they see and hear even when unbiblical.

 -They fall into the trap of the fascination for manifestation!

-At times even demonic manifestations are attributed to the Holy Spirit. e.g. people barking like dogs [heard from others]

-If we really want to experience true revival and pure anointing from God we need to maintain the purity of our heart.

-When revival comes the Lord will make sure that we are not passed over.

-Let us keep our spiritual hunger and thirst and He will fill us in His time. God fills the hungry and thirsty.

**Isa 44:3** *For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your children.* ***4***  *They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank. NLT*

-If we keep our hearts hungry and thirsty for God, He will show us whenever the enemy will try to sow mixture and pollute the anointing.

1. **Be discerning as to who is receiving the glory. [Those who minister at the platform.]**

**-When the Holy Spirit is at work, it is the Father and the Son that is glorified.**

**-When another spirit is at work man and/or organization is wrongly exalted.**

-The example of Peter:

**Acts 3:12** *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?****13****The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.*

-Peter was so quick to point the amazed crowd to whom the glory should be given – to Jesus Christ!

-Satan wants to rob God of the glory so he tries to deflect it to anything whenever he can.

-One of the main causes why a ministry or revival movement goes astray is pride.

-Pride is one of the greatest problems (if not the greatest problem) in the ministry today.

-Pride can be considered a rebellion against God because it attributes to one’s self the honor and glory that only God is due.

-It is a common problem and a very destructive problem.

-The Bible says that...

**Pro 16:18** *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

-When pride is present in a ministry, a fall is in the offing.

-The enemy is not in a hurry to bring any ministry down.

-He will wait until the moment he thinks is most destructive against the person and the work of God.

-It doesn’t matter how much power, signs and wonders are being displayed in a ministry...

...if you sense God is not the one being glorified be very wary in receiving anything from it.

-Pride creeps in subtly and faster in successful ministries.

-But anyone can be snared by it.

-No one is immune.

-Be very cautious to receive personal ministry from ministers with evident pride.

-Never allow them to lay hands on you.

-In fact, as a matter of general rule, be cautious to allow yourself to be laid hands on by anyone you don’t fully know. 1 Tim. 5:22-24

Example:

-An acquaintance was promoting to me a seemingly successful ministry where miracles of healing are present.

-My wife and I read his book and the content seemed to be OK but when I began to watch his videos I had a check in my heart.

-My discernment tells me that he is proud and arrogant.

-The more I watch, the more I was drawn away.

-Recently, my wife told me that she read from Christian internet news that he and his wife got divorced and are legally fighting over their properties.

*“Pride is a sin that the enemy will not make one feel guilty of.”*

1. **How can we protect ourselves from falling prey to impure ministries and polluted anointing?**
2. **Keep a humble heart.**

**1 Peter 5:5b** *and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”* ***6****Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

-Humility is a like a garment that we put on.

-We need to do it our self.

-God places upon us the responsibility to humble ourselves.

-It is something that we must do ourselves.

-It is a decision that we have to make.

**Psalm 25:8** *Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.* ***9****The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.*

-Humility qualifies us to be guided and taught by God Himself.

-To enrol in God’s school, the requirement is not intellectual ability, but humility.v.9

-If you want knowledge and revelation, then strive to be humble.

**Isa. 57:15** *For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity,  whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who  has a contrite [crushed] and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

-God keeps company with those whose heart is crushed and trembles at His Word.

-If you want to experience genuine revival, humble yourself before the Lord.

-If pride opens the door of our life to demonic activity, humility closes the door and guards it.

1. **Receive the love of the truth.**

-I learned that this will be covered by Sis. Seth and Pastor Tim so I will not expound on this except to say...

-My simple take on this is: we have the love of the truth if our life is being governed by the Word of God.

-The spirit of antichrist which is already at work will not be able to penetrate our defences if we have the love of the truth.

1. **Cultivate the Fear of the Lord.**

**What is the fear of the Lord?**

**-The fear of the Lord** means **to have a deep respect , reverence and awe for God’s power and authority**.

**Pro 19:23** *The fear of the Lord leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil.*

-(In this verse) There are three blessings to the person who fears God.

* He will experience the kind of life that God intended for man.
* He will live in satisfaction. (He shall not suffer want).
* He will not be visited with evil. (God’s protection will be upon Him).

-When you are living in the fear of the LORD, God places His hedge around you.

**Job 1:1** *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.*

**Job 1:10** *Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side?*

-There is protection from the attacks of the evil one.

**2 Cor.7:1** *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

-There are two commands here, one negative and one positive.

1. *“let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.”*
* This is a cleansing that God wants to do in cooperation with us.
	+ Filthiness of the **flesh** – outward moral sins
	+ Filthiness of the **spirit** – inward sins like pride, self-centeredness, bitterness, hatred and the like
1. *“perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

-The fear of God helps bring us to complete holiness.

-Evil cannot thrive in the atmosphere of holiness.

-Holiness drives evil out.

1. **Surrender selfish ambition; embrace the crucified life.**

-What is selfish ambition?

-It is the desire to put one’s self forward and not having the spirit of humility.

-It is a desire to put one’s self in a high-ranking position.

-Obviously, it is rooted in pride.

-Selfish ambition is a symptom of carnality.

**2 Cor. 12:20** *For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults.*

-Coupled with envy it is a bringer of confusion and all things evil.

**James 3:16** *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

**Signs** that a person is driven by selfish ambition:

1. He uses people – to get him where he wants to go.
2. He loves to take the credit.
3. Results are always more important than people.

**Gal. 2:20** I have been **crucified with Christ**; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gal. 5:24** And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh (Adamic nature) with its passions and desires.

-Being crucified with Christ means dying to our own passions and desires.

-It is a once and everyday experience of dying to self.

**Luk 9:23** *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

**1Co 15:31** *I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

-The daily surrender of our life to Christ shall put a hedge of protection around us that no deceiving spirit will be able to penetrate.

-Our discernment shall increase in an unprecedented way and we will be able to serve God in a way that will please Him.

**Conclusion**

1. Deception will be one of the greatest challenges the Church is going to face in the last days.
2. Be aware that the enemy will always attempt to sow mixture in the work of God.
3. Be discerning as to who is receiving the glory.
4. How can we protect ourselves from impure ministries and polluted anointing?
* Keep a humble heart.
* Receive the love of the truth.
* Cultivate the fear of the Lord.
* Surrender selfish ambition; embrace the crucified life.

May God’s mercy and grace be upon us all to grant us protection from impure ministries and polluted anointing.

My prayer & benediction Jude 24,25!