

## Escaping Deception - November 8, 2020

Deception is a great issue in life. It is the spirit of this world.

It is used to cover one's faults.

Or to gain an advantage over others.

Deception is used to take something from another.

Deception seeks to control others.

Deception is many things: Deception misleads and distorts the truth;  
It promotes beliefs and concepts that are not true.

Satan is a deceiver, a thief, a liar; He controls the spirit of this world.

He offers many counterfeits, distractions, to rob mankind of eternal life.

Illusions of fame, wealth, happiness... only to leave a person totally empty.

He wants to control the universe, and steal God's position.

The first thing we learn about Satan in Genesis, is that he is a deceiver.

He came to Eve in the garden, with a plan to deceive her and Adam.

Deceit is also the fallen nature we are born with. Sometimes...

Books have an attractive cover, but inside it is filled with subtle lies.

A car may look beautiful outside, but under the hood are many problems.

People can be very good looking... charm, charisma, but inwardly evil.

Sodom looked like the garden of the Lord, but it was ripe for judgment.

Outward attractions can be a facade... underneath is something else.

Even in sports, a major element is to cleverly outwit your opponent.

In baseball, a pitcher throws a curve to the batter, or changes his speed.

In football, the quarterback fakes a handoff, and keeps the ball...

In basketball, the player pretends to pump a shot, then shoots later.

A boxer bluffs a swing, then comes from another angle.

The spirit of this world is to outdo others, to promote self. Competition.

And this spirit will use every means and conniving to get to the top.

**Rather than outdo others, or compete with them, to be number one, Scripture tells us to esteem others better than ourselves.**

**Php 2:3\* Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

**Ro 12:10\* Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;**

**2 Co 10:12\* For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**

**So, competition and deception go together.**

**In politics, people speak lies about their opponent, to get elected.**

**This is the spirit and thinking of this world.**

**And Satan, the prince of this world, is behind it all.**

**Lucifer wanted to be God, and to steal God's position.**

**He deceived 1/3 of heaven into following him.**

**Lucifer was a fabulous musician, very beautiful, tremendous charisma.**

**But he used all of these things to draw others to himself, not to God.**

**He used all of these extraordinary gifts to deceive many people.**

**This is exactly what the coming antichrist will do.**

**Satan uses deception because he wants something - to be Number one.**

**He wants to be God — he wants all glory and attention directed to himself.**

**As Christians, we have been called to replace Satan and his angels.**

**So he hates us, and wants to take advantage of us, and control us.**

**He has lost all his privileges, and he wants us to lose everything too.**

**He is jealous of us, and wants to deprive us of eternal life.**

**And so his main instrument to rob us eternal life, is deception.**

## **To be kept from deception**

**Only by walking close to God, will we be kept from deception.  
We must walk in humility, depend on God, surrender our intellect.  
We need to walk in wisdom, we need discernment.  
We need a clean heart with pure motives.  
And we need to know God's word, and know it well.  
To be rooted and grounded in the truth.  
And to greatly love the truth.**

## **Warnings against deception**

**Deception is the hallmark of the last days, just before Jesus comes again.  
In Matthew 24:4, when asked what are the signs of your coming?  
The first thing Jesus said was, take heed that no man deceive you.**

**“Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the [age]? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you..... And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.” Matthew 24:3, 11, KJV.**

**Mt 24:24\* For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

**In Matthew 24:10-11, Jesus warns that many Christians will be offended, when persecution and difficulties come.**

**Being offended and angry at God for allowing difficulties, then...people will listen to those who are false. But those who endure to the end will be saved. These are wise, refusing to be offended, these are not deceived.**

**The coming antichrist will deceive many Christians.  
Why does God allow antichrist to come? ... to test his people.  
Will we be offended and bitter when difficulties come?  
Offended people harden their hearts, and turn from God.**

**The antichrist Will be very good looking and handsome.  
He will have tremendous charisma and sound very reasonable.  
He will quote Scripture, and sound very rational.  
And he will perform tremendous signs and wonders.  
By his miracles he will deceive many.**

**Two men of past centuries, are coming up from hell.  
The antichrist and the false prophet.  
They will perform tremendous miracles.**

**Rev.12:13-14\* And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,  
14\* And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.**

**Paul warns that Christ will not come until first, the AntiChrist be revealed.  
2 This. 2:1-4: “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

**V9-12 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

**When people ignore the truth, and love a lie, God will give them error.**

**This is the reason we must love the truth. Jesus is the truth.**

**Jesus is the word of God, he is the truth. We must love the truth.**

**Jesus is the light, we must hate darkness and deceit.**

**If people love deceit and dishonesty, they will be drawn to darkness.**

**Before the antichrist comes, people will be warned over and over.**

**Yet, with all of the warnings, still many will follow the wrong man.**

## **Paul warns Christians**

**Paul warned the Corinthian believers that they could not continue in sin and go to heaven. He warns them not to be deceived:**

**“Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, KJV.**

**Paul warns the Corinthian Christians not to be deceived. You cannot return to the sins that you were living in before coming to Christ.**

**These things can keep you out of heaven. Don't be deceived.**

**The Scriptures warn us over and over, not to be deceived.**

**“Be not deceived: evil [associations] corrupt good manners.” 1 Cor. 15:33**

**We have to be careful who our friends are.**

**Wrong friendships can corrupt us.**

**“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”; Galatians 6:7, KJV.**

**When we sin, we will reap the results of our sins. Don't be deceived.**

**This is a warning to Christians.**

**“Whosoever abides in him sins not: whosoever [continues to live in sin] has not seen him, nor known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.” 1Jn 3:6, 7**

**Eph 4:14\* That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the [trickery] of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

**We must be careful who we listen to ... even preachers in the pulpits.**

**There are many wrong doctrines that sway people in wrong directions.**

### **Other forms of deception**

- 1. Deception from listening to the wrong people, is one thing.**
- 2. But self deception can be even worse. Harder to rescue the self-beguiled**
- 3. And how terrible when God himself sends deception, as a judgment**

### **Self deception**

**“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.” 1 Corinthians 3:18, 19, KJV.**

**Self-deception - I am extraordinary, unique, I have unusual understanding.  
I am wise, I know what I'm doing, I have it all together.  
I am God's chosen vessel, I don't need the advice or counsel of others.  
The wrong kind of self-confidence. It is pride.**

**Obadiah 1:3 warns, the pride of your heart has deceived you.**

**I Corinthian's 8:2 if any man thinks he knows anything  
He knows nothing yet, as he ought to know.**

**Galatians 6:3 if any man thinks himself to be something, when he is  
nothing, he deceives himself.**

**First John 1:8 if we say we do not have a sinful nature, we deceive  
ourselves. Yes we have a new nature, but we have an old nature that must  
be held in check.**

### **GOD DECEIVES THOSE WHO CONTINUALLY REJECT HIM**

**“... Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their  
abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears  
upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did  
not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I  
delighted not.” Isaiah 66:3, 4, KJV.**

**People become what they continually practice. “But evil men and seducers  
shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” 2 Tim 3:13**

**But then we see Lydia, in Acts 16:14: “And a certain woman named Lydia,  
who worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she  
attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.” Acts 16:14, KJV.**

**Lydia continually worshiped God, and opened her heart to God.  
Therefore, when greater truth was presented, God opened her heart.  
As we practice opening our heart to God, and responding to him,  
He will continue to help us to open our heart.**

**God opens or closes our heart, depending on what we practice doing.  
God hardened Pharaoh's heart 10 times, because Pharaoh constantly  
hardened his heart.**

**Is very dangerous when people practice closing and hardening their heart.**

**Let us love God, and love His truth, and never harden our heart,  
or be offended.**

**If we will practice this, we will not be deceived.  
Let us walk in the light as he is in the light. Amen**