

LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU

Introduction

1. The word “*deceive*” is defined as...
 - a. “To deceive” (Thayer).
 - b. “To seduce wholly” (Strong).
 - c. “*exapatáō*; contracted *exapató*, fut. *exapatéō*, from *ek* (G1537), an intens., and *apatáō* (G538), to seduce, deceive. To deceive completely, beguile, seduce, meaning to lead out of the right way into error” (CWSD).
2. Solomon wrote, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death*” (Proverbs 14:12 NKJV). There is God’s *one* way that leads to life, and then there are the *many* ways of men that lead to death. The fact that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23), and that many choose to travel the broad road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13) is proof that man is easily deceived.
3. We were all deceived at one time (Titus 3:3), but now, by the grace of God, we have come to know the truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13). It is essential though, to be continually alert because the Devil is always seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). So, in this lesson, we will take the time to remind ourselves of three things: (i) We can be deceived, (ii) The things that can deceive us, (iii) That God does not deceive us.

I. WE CAN BE DECEIVED!

“*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*” (2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV)

A. We can be corrupted by Satan’s craftiness.

1. The Serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, which led to sin and separation from God (Genesis 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:14).
2. Paul was concerned that the Serpent had deceived the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:3).
3. Paul warned the Romans of those who deceived the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:18).
4. Paul warned the Ephesians not to let anyone deceive them with empty words (Ephesians 5:6).
5. We can even deceive ourselves (1 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 6:3).



B. True, Satan is seeking to deceive us, but we don’t have to let him deceive us:

1. The fact that the Scriptures admonish us *not* to be deceived (1 Corinthians 3:18; 6:9; 15:33; Ephesians 5:6; Galatians 6:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; James 1:16; 1 John 3:7) is proof that we are capable of remaining sober.
2. Peter admonishes us to be sober and vigilant against the Devil (1 Peter 5:8), which means we can resist him (James 4:7).

II. THINGS WHICH CAN DECEIVE US

A. Satan and his ministers seek to deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)...

1. These seek to deceive by smooth words and flattering speech (Romans 16:17-18; Colossians 2:4; 2 Peter 2:3), and by enticing people through the lusts of the flesh (2 Peter 2:18).
2. We can prevent ourselves being deceived by marking and avoiding them (Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10-11) and holding fast to the apostles’ doctrine (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 John 1:9; cf. Acts 2:42).

B. Sin (Romans 7:11). Many people underestimate the influence and power of sin (1 Corinthians 5:6; 15:56).

1. Sin is always crouching at the door waiting for an opportunity to lead astray, and even to have rule over its victim (Genesis 4:7). Sin allures with the promise of pleasure (Hebrews 11:25), freedom, and fulfilment (Genesis 3:1-7), but it always ends in death (James 1:14-15).
2. Sin desires to rule over us but we must rule over sin (Genesis 4:7; Colossians 3:5-9, 12-13).

C. Ourselves (self-deception). David Collins says, "*The lies of Satan and his ministers do not deceive people; they merely help people deceive themselves*", and the German poet, Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, said, "*We are never deceived; we deceive ourselves*".

1. There are several warnings in the Scriptures about deceiving ourselves (1 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 6:3; James 1:22, 26; 1 John 1:8; Deuteronomy 11:16).
2. In general, it is pride and conceit, and not having a love of the truth that leads to self-deception (Proverbs 16:18; Luke 18:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10; cf. 2 Timothy 4:3-4).
3. We can prevent ourselves from self-deception by developing humility and a love of the truth (1 Corinthians 3:18; Luke 18:14; Romans 12:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

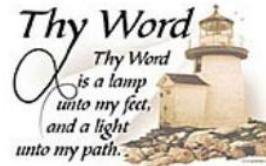
III. GOD WILL NEVER DECEIVE US

A. God will not deceive us because...

1. God is love and love does not deceive (1 John 4:8, 16; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; cf. Romans 5:8).
2. God is perfectly holy (Psalms 99:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16; cf. Revelation 4:8).
3. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).
4. God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19).
5. God always remains faithful (Hebrews 10:23; Deuteronomy 7:9) because it is His very nature (2 Timothy 2:13).
6. God never changes (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8).

B. If we know that God will never deceive us, then we also know that we can trust His word:

1. All scripture is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20).
2. God's word is pure (Psalms 12:6; 119:140; Proverbs 30:5).
3. God's word is truth (Psalms 119: 142, 160; John 17:17).
4. God's word is righteous and faithful (Psalms 119:138, 172).



Conclusion

1. The fact that man is easily deceived is seen in that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23).
2. It is Satan that seeks to deceive us through all kinds of lies, and he succeeds because we underestimate the power, influence, and consequences of sin. As well as Satan, there is another person of whom we must be wary...ourselves! There are numerous warnings throughout the Bible not to deceive ourselves.
3. Can we prevent ourselves being deceived by Satan and his ministers, sin, and even ourselves? Yes! As we have seen, God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all, and we can put our complete trust in Him and His word. So, if we continue in prayer, study, and obedience to His commands, then we will never be deceived.