

Overcoming The Destructive Cycle of Deceit

Learning to trust the Lord in a deceitful world

Introduction

- To deceive means to seduce or entice someone to leave truth and wander into error
- Follow a lie instead of truth
- Deception found in all areas of life
- Example - man promises woman he is the fulfillment of her dreams
- Example – invest with my fund and get 25% return

2

Introduction

- Example – Salesman promises his product will work perfectly and be the answer to your needs
- Example – religious teachers promise easy, painless, secure salvation
- Deception brings devastating results especially in religion, eternal torment
- Results – distrust in men and in God

3

Introduction

- Irony – the ones who deceive are themselves deceived by Satan, the Great Deceiver
- In contrast, God cannot lie and is perfect Truth
- Our focus will be on religious deceivers
- How can we trust in God and to a degree in one another while living in a deceitful world?

4

Overcoming The Destructive Cycle of Deceit

Character and behavior of deceivers
Cycle of deceit explained
Overcoming cycle of deceit through Christ

5

Character And Behavior Of Deceivers

2Ti 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
2Ti 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

6

Character And Behavior Of Deceivers

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
2Ti 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

7

Their Deceptive Character Originates From Satan

Joh 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

8

Cycle Of Deceit Explained

- Although there are many deceivers, irony is they themselves are deceived by Satan
- Distrusting in God and trusting in Satan
- Believing good will come or that no negative consequences will affect them if they teach or follow error
- How can people be deceived – because in the end they are willing to be deceived

9

Irony – Deceivers Deceived By Satan

2Ti 3:13 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

10

Irony – Deceivers Deceived By Satan

1Co 2:8 *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

11

Deception Possible Because People Are Willing

2Ti 3:6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,
2Ti 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

12

Deception Possible Because People Are Willing

Jer 5:30 "An appalling and horrible thing Has happened in the land:

Jer 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their *own* authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

13

Deception Possible Because People Are Willing

2Th 2:10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

2Th 2:12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

14

Overcoming Cycle Of Deceit Through Christ

- Identify and avoid deceivers
- Search for, learn and apply Truth to yourself
- Teach others to learn and apply Truth to themselves
- Continue in faith although persecuted by deceivers

15

Identify And Avoid Deceivers

2Ti 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

2Ti 3:9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

16

Search For, Learn and Apply Truth To Yourself

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

17

Search For, Learn and Apply Truth To Yourself

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

18

Search For, Learn and Apply Truth To Yourself

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.

2Co 13:5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

19

Search For, Learn and Apply Truth To Yourself

Eph 4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

Eph 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

Eph 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

20

Search For, Learn and Apply Truth To Yourself

Eph 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Eph 4:24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

21

Teach Others To Learn And Apply Truth To Themselves

2Ti 3:10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

2Ti 3:11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

22

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

2Ti 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

23

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Gal 1:13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

Gal 1:14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

24

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Gal 5:11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.

25

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Act 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.
Act 20:18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,
Act 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

26

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Act 20:20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
Act 20:21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
Act 20:22 "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

27

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Act 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.
Act 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

28

Continue In Faith Although Persecuted By Deceivers

Act 20:25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.
Act 20:26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.
Act 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

29

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30