

# THEY SHALL DECEIVE

## MATTHEW 24

Text: Matthew 24:24

(Matthew 24:24) "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Introduction:

If you have ever been deceived by anyone, you know how it hurts to be deceived - and the Devil is the master deceiver of all ages! The word Devil means deceiver. He is the master of deceit and the father of all lies.

The Devil is the arch enemy of your soul ... he is determined to see you burn in Hell if at all possible, and he had just as soon send you to Hell from the church as from the gutter. He does not necessarily want you to die a drunkard, a gambler, or a murderer; he does not care for you joining the church - just as long as you are not genuinely born again. It is perfectly all right with him if you are a deacon, or a Sunday School teacher, or sing in the choir - so long as you do not trust in the blood of Jesus for your personal

salvation. Yes the Devil would just as soon send you to Hell from church as from skid row.

God gives a solemn warning against deception.

(Matthew 24:24) "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Never think that you are too big for the Devil to attack you. He attempted to overthrow God in Isaiah 14. He tried three times to deceive the Lord Jesus in Matthew 4. The Devil has had 6000 years of experience of deceiving and damning souls, and he is a master-craftsman in the art of deceit.

I see in the Scripture at least 8 ways the Devil deceives.

## **1. HEARERS ONLY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

(James 1:22) "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

A. You come to church, sing the songs, fellowship with each other, hear the message, but what have you done about it?

1. You have heard:

a. You should repent and be saved  
... have you obeyed?

Jesus didn't come preaching, "sign a card; turn over a new leaf; be a good church member; go to church on Sunday morning and live the rest of the week as you please!"

His message is found in Luke.

(Luke 13:3) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

(Luke 13:5) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

- If the church members were taken out of the taverns, bars, night clubs, theaters and dance halls, most of those places would be forced to shut down.
- If you have heard the Word that one must repent and have not obeyed the Word you have been deceived!

b. Present your bodies a living  
sacrifice ... have you obeyed?

(Romans 12:1) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living

sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

If you have heard the Word that God wants our body for His use and glory and have not obeyed that you have been deceived.

c. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart ... have you obeyed?

(Matthew 22:36-38) "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? {37} Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. {38} This is the first and great commandment."

If you have heard the Word of God concerning the greatest commandment and have failed to obey it you have been deceived.

d. Not to forsake the assembling together.

(Hebrews 10:25) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

- How many service do you attend each week?

- How many services do you miss each week?
- You have heard it ... have you heeded it? If not you are deceived!

## **2. NOT ACKNOWLEDGING OUR SIN**

(1 John 1:8) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

The second scheme of the Devil to damn you through deception is found in this verse.

To not admit that you are a sinner is to deny Scripture and the Lord Jesus Christ all together.

A. All of our righteousness are as filthy rags.

(Isaiah 64:6) "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

B. We are all sinners

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

If you think that you are going to Heaven because you are a church member, or have been baptized, or a

Sunday School teacher, or a deacon in a church you have been deceived!

- Some Christians think that they no longer sin.

(James 4:17) "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

(Proverbs 24:9) "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men."

(Romans 14:23) "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

(1 John 3:17) "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

### **3. PRIDE**

If the Devil cannot damn or deceive you in one way he does not give up. The third avenue though which he seeks to deceive is pride.

(Galatians 6:3) "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."

A. Many today have traded the altar and mourner's benches for simply signing a card

B. Many pulpits are filled today with men not for their spirituality, but because of specialties and degrees.

C. Many in churches today hold positions not because of their zeal for the Lord, but because of their social status.

D. There are many in churches that believe that God could not get along without them.

(1 Peter 5:5) "... for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

If you belong to this crowd you are deceived.

## **4. WISDOM**

(1 Corinthians 3:18) "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

A. There are some so smart that they are foolish

(Romans 1:22) "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,"

1. Some are place the wisdom of this world ahead of the power of God.

Illustration: Young man called to preach, preached; now we send them to school and polish them up give him a degree. He comes back with everything in order, but the power of God is nowhere to be found in his message.

- B. The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

(1 Corinthians 1:27-29) "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; {28} And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: {29} That no flesh should glory in his presence."

1. Flesh has stolen the show today.

Be careful not to be deceived by wisdom.

## **5. SOWING DISCORD**

(James 1:26) "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."



Whispering, tale-toting, backbiting, gossiping, lying, half-truth-telling, discord-sowing, are people who have been deceived.

(Proverbs 6:16-19) "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: {17} A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, {18} An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, {19} A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

A. The tongue has to do with three of these seven things which God hates.

Illustration:

If you have to talk:

Let's talk about Jesus, the King of Kings is He  
The Lord of Lords supreme throughout eternity  
The Great I Am the Way the Truth the Life the Door  
Let's talk about Jesus more and more.

If you are using your tongue in a way that God didn't intend you to use it You Re Deceived!

## **6. SOWING AND REAPING**

(Galatians 6:7) "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

- A. You will reap what you sow
- B. You will reap later than you sow
- C. You will reap more than you sowed.

If you think that you will not reap what you sow you have been deceived.

## **7. VILE LIFE STYLE**

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10) "Know ye not 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, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

- A. Fornicators
- B. Idolaters
- C. Adulterers
- D. Effeminate
- E. Abusers of themselves with mankind

1. God describes these individuals in

(Romans 1:26-27) "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: {27} And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet."

F. Thieves

G. Covetous

H. Drunks

I. Revilers

J. Extortionist

## **8. EVIL COMMUNICATION**

(1 Corinthians 15:33-34) "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. {34} Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

Close:

(2 Timothy 3:1-15) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. {2} For men shall be

lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; {5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. {6} For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. {8} Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. {9} But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. {10} But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, {11} Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. {12} Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. {13} But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. {14} But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; {15} And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."