

## Doctrine of Deception

1. Deception is not easy for with insight and discernment the deceiver can be made manifest.
  - *2 Samuel 3:25 Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.*
  
2. People pled not to be deceived.
  - *2 Kings 4:28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? Did I not say, Do not deceive me?*
  
3. Faithful are the words of those who exhort others not to be deceived.
  - *Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
  
4. Men who try to rule other men will try to deceive the weak by mocking God.
  - *2 Kings 19:10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.*
  - *2 Chronicles 32:15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?*
  - *Isaiah 36:14 Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you.*
  - *Isaiah 37:10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.*
  
5. The righteous person is forbidden to deceive their neighbor.
  - *Proverbs 24:28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.*
  
6. When a nation does not seek to be moral and ethical, deception will be common.
  - *Jeremiah 9:5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.*

7. For a variety of reasons religious leaders will deceive the people of God if possible.

- *Jeremiah 29:8 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.*

8. Self deception in times of national danger is not uncommon.

- *Jeremiah 37:9 Thus saith the Lord; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart.*

9. When the Lord brings revival to His people the false prophets become ashamed and stop wearing rough garments to deceive in imitation of true prophets such as John the Baptist.

- *Zechariah 13:4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:*

10. The Lord has warned the church that many people would come in His name to deceive.

- *Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

11. Unfortunately, many people are deceived by false prophets.

- *Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

***Special Note.***

In May, 2011 multitudes were misled by the prophecy of Harold Camping predicting the end of the world. When it did not happen on May 21<sup>st</sup> as expected, he simply set another date, October 21, 2011.

12. False prophets are able to deceive individuals through great signs and wonders.

- *Matthew 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.*

13. The motive for deceiving others is self interest.

- *Romans 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

14. As Christians are not to deceive others, neither are they to deceive themselves with prideful thoughts.

- *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.*

15. Those who are ruthless in their endeavor to deceive others are patient to do so.

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

16. Those who deceive others with empty spiritual words shall lead them to become the object of the wrath of God through disobedience.

- *Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

17. One of the easiest ways to deceive the people of God is through fear and false doctrine. The church of Thessalonica was being mis-taught that the resurrection had already occurred and they had been left behind. Paul had to write to comfort their fears and teach the gospel truth afresh.

- *2 Thessalonians 2:3 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;*

18. A Christian can be self deceived by embracing the concept of Christian perfection.

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

***Special Note.***

Despite the Biblical warning, John Wesley promoted the doctrine of Christian perfection reflected in the following work: *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* (as believed and taught by the Reverend Mr. John Wesley, from the year 1725, to the year 1777, Vol. 11).

19. There are many ways Christians can be deceived such as by embracing the idea that certain sins can be justified in the sight of God.

- *1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

*Special Note.*

When the German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer decided to join the attempt to murder Adolf Hitler, he did not justify the evil he was engaged in but only asked God to understand and forgive as he cast himself upon divine mercy.

20. Because of Christ's redemptive work at Calvary, Satan has been bound that he should deceive the nations no more until God grants Him renewed permission.
- *Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*
  - *Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*