

END TIMES DECEPTION – Part 2

By Abri Brancken, 15 Jul 2018

RECAP OF SESSION 1

In session 1 we began the process of looking at what deception is and how the Bible tells us that deception and heresy will increase in the last days. Let's take a look at the meaning of deception and heresy before we continue with Part 2.

DECEIVE DEFINITION

Mat 24:4 - And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you.

Greek: **Planao**

plan-ah'-o means: To cause to roam (from safety, truth, or virtue), go astray, go into error, be out of the Way, to wander. Planao occurs 39 times in the King James version of the New testament.

WHAT IS A HERESY?

Heresy – means a "choice". It is a heresy when you choose how much of the Bible you are going to believe. Heresies imply that you choose certain part and ignore or rejects others.

INTRODUCTION

The church in Ephesus was warned by Paul to guard and stand against false teachers.

Act 20:28-32

Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that **after my departure grievous wolves shall enter in among you**, not sparing the flock. **Also men shall arise from your own selves, speaking perverse things in order to draw disciples away after them.** Therefore watch and remember that for the time of three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now, brothers, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The warnings we have in Scripture to guard against false teachers imply that Christians can be deceived. The deception often comes from those that acknowledges Jesus, the Bible, salvations, etc. but they add to it or leave portions out. Paul told the Ephesian church that they will be hit from the outside and the inside by those spreading lies and false doctrines.

FOUR IMPORTANT POINTS

We should note 4 important things in this passage.

There are two sources of apostacy, outside and inside sources.

1. Grievous Wolves will enter from the outside. False teachers from without (2 Co 11:13-15); (2 Pe 2:1-3). People from without can come to divide the Body of Christ. Today, we have access to thousands of sermons, messages and ideas, due to technology, but we should not just accept every message simply because it claims to be Bible based or Christian. We must test it with Scripture like the Bereans did.

Grievous wolves – Grievous means weighty, burdensome. They point people into a direction that brings a load that Jesus never intended the people to carry. The burden comes because they depart from Christ who takes away our burdens. Their focus is not on the fact that eternal life is a gift, but that they will often focus on things we must do in order to be saved, apart from Christ. Self-righteousness is their focus. Deeds of the flesh cannot deal with the spiritual problem of sin. Instead of feeding the flock, would feed themselves. False teachers often draw people after themselves rather than pointing people towards Jesus. You can't trust all the preachers you hear.

The church in Galatia also had to deal with false teachers coming and adding to the Gospel. These teachers told them that they are saved based on faith and works.

Gal 3:1-2

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Paul uses an interesting word here, "Bewitched". The word "bewitched" in the Greek is "baskaino" and it occurs only once in the New Testament. Outside of the Bible the word means to "fascinate", or to "charm", in a bad sense. To seek to do harm to someone through false promises and concepts. Paul never uses this word again. They were bewitched (fascinated or charmed) to believe the departure from the true gospel.

Gal 1:8

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

2. False leaders from within them (3 John 1:9); (3 John 1:10); (Rev 2:6); (Rev 2:15). They are often difficult to see because we know them and see them as fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord. They are fellow Christians who do not hold fast to the essence of the Gospel message.
3. Paul tells us to watch
Watch means "be awake", to "wake up from being asleep". If the church is asleep in knowing Biblical truth we will not be able to be watchful and recognize the lies. A great deal of the church today is passive and asleep and very little Biblical knowledge. We live in a day where knowledge is available everywhere, yet the Biblical ignorance among Christians is increasing. We need to observe the approach of danger, and set ourselves against it.
4. Paul warned them for 3 years about the fact that false teachers will come. Continually cautioning them against false teachers, and their doctrines.

CONCLUSION

Mat 7:15-16

Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

You shall know them by their fruits.

The wolf cannot get among the sheep unless it looks like the sheep. It needs to pretend to be a sheep. How do you recognize the wolves? By the fruit they produce.

Are the fruits of the Holy Spirit present in their lives? (Gal 5:22-23 - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).

Do they have good character?

Are they becoming more like Jesus over time? Spiritual maturity is achieved through becoming more like Jesus Christ. If these fruit are not present in the lives of a believer, be careful to trust them.