

WHERE TO LOOK IN TROUBLED TIMES

#3—WE NEED TO LOOK OUT!

2 TIMOTHY 3:13-14

Introduction

These are perilous times that we live in. They are troubled times. Many people, including many Christians, are wondering where to look to in these troubled times. That has been and continues to be the basis of this series of messages.

So far we have examined how that we should “*Look Up*” and “*Look Back*.” We said we need to **LOOK UP to God because God is our Shelter, God is our Strength, God is our Stability.**

We said we need to **LOOK BACK at the History of our Country and see our Beginnings, our Blessings, our Benefactor, our Backslidings of recent days; LOOK BACK at how God Deals With Nations That Sin; LOOK BACK at how God Deals With Nations That Repent; We Need To LOOK BACK To God! (Repent!)**

This morning I believe God would have us to see that we need to “*Look Out*.”

I. LOOK OUT FOR DECEPTION! (2 Timothy 3:13-14)

We are seeing an increase in “*evil men*” in the world today.
(Evil = hurtful)

We are also seeing an increase in “*seducers*” in the world today.
(Seducers = wizards)

Accordingly, there is an increase in deception because of the increase in those who are deceived themselves.

In light of all this, doesn't it make sense that we must look out for deception lest we be sucked in by it?

Some might ask, “Can a Child of God be deceived?”

The answer to that is “**most certainly!**”

There are 5 admonitions in the Word of God that say “*Be not deceived*.”

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One was from the LORD God Jehovah to Israel—Deuteronomy 11:16—“*Take heed to yourselves, **that your heart be not deceived**, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them.*”

One was from the LORD Jesus Christ to his Disciples—Luke 21:8—“*And he said, **Take heed that ye be not deceived**: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.*”

Two of those admonitions were from the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church—

1 Corinthians 6:9—“*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, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*”

1 Corinthians 15:33—“***Be not deceived**: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*”

The last of the admonitions is in *Galatians 6:7—*“***Be not deceived**; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*”

Some people are being deceived by ecumenism.

There are people who think we should break down the barriers of our differences and join in with the those who don't believe as we do.
(Inter-faith services they are called.)

What does God say? 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

(Where do they stand on the Book, the Blood, and the Blessed Hope?)

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Some people are being deceived by philosophy.

Colossians 2:8—“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

Satan wants us to rely upon human reasoning rather than God’s Word.

There are a lot of philosophies of men and vain deceit that are coming forth out of these acts of evil and terrorism.

Some of the philosophies may even sound good and make sense to the human reasoning. Nevertheless, many are diametrically opposed to the Word of God!

What is suppose to determine what we believe and how we live as Christians?

It is not what the various TV news anchors think or surmise!

It is not the commentary that we may hear on CNN , MSNBC, FOX News, Rush Limbaugh, or Glenn Beck or anyone else!

It is not even how we ourselves reason out what we believe to be right or wrong!

No, it is the Word of God that is to determine what we believe and how we live as Christians!

So, in looking out for deception there are several things we must keep in mind:

A. We Must Be Aware of the Spiritual Battle!

To not be aware of the Spiritual Battle sets us up to be blind-sided by the enemy!

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1. Satan Is Skillful At Using Distractions!

He wants us to be so caught up in living our physical lives that we neglect our spiritual lives.

He will get us involved in all kinds of things that don’t matter so that we neglect the battle.

2. Satan Is Skillful At Using Despair!

He wants us to be so caught up in living in fear that we abandon faith and quit the battle and live life the best that we can on our own!

3. Satan Is Skillful At Using Delay!

He doesn’t mind us intending to do something for God as long as he can keep us from doing it today!

So, We Must Be Aware of the Spiritual Battle!

B. We Must Be Awake in the Spiritual Battle!

1 Corinthians 15:34—“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”

Romans 13:11-14

C. We Must Be Armed for the Spiritual Battle!

Ephesians 6:10-18

Be a whole armor Christian.

1. Some Armor Is For Defense!

a. Our Loins Must Be Girded—Truth!

b. Our Hearts Must Be Guarded—Righteousness!

c. Our Feet Must Be Shod—Preparation!

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- d. **Our Shield Must Be In Place—Faith!**
- e. **Our Minds Must Be Guarded—Salvation!**

2. **Some Armor Is For Offense!**

*James 4:7—“Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.”*

- a. **The Sword of the Spirit—The Word of God!**
- b. **Prayer—Communication with Headquarters!**

D. **We Must Be Active in the Spiritual Battle!**

*1 Timothy 1:18—“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest **war a good warfare;**”*

*1 Timothy 6:12—“**Fight the good fight of faith.** . . .”*

2 Corinthians 10:3-4—“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

LOOK OUT FOR DECEPTION!

II. **LOOK OUT FOR DOUBT! (Matthew 11:2-3; 28:17)**

- A. **Don’t Doubt God’s Work! (Jeremiah 5:1-12)**
- B. **Don’t Doubt God’s Will!**
Ephesians 5:17—“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”
- C. **Don’t Doubt God’s Word!**

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*Mark 11:22—Jesus said “. . .**Have faith in God.** . . .”*

*God’s Word is in reality “. . .**the word of truth**” 2 Tim. 2:15*

Proverbs 30:5—“Every word of God is pure. . . .”

III. **LOOK OUT FOR DUTY! (John 4:34-35)**

There is work that needs to be done for God!

If we are not careful we will waste a golden opportunity for God!

We need to take advantage of every opportunity that the Lord gives us for Him!

Conclusion

If you were to die today—and it could happen—where would you be for all of eternity?

If you don’t have absolute assurance of heaven in your future, you can have it before you leave here today!

Satan wants to keep you deceived!

Satan wants to keep you distracted!

Satan wants to keep you distanced from the Saviour!

Come to Jesus today and thwart Satan’s devices in your life!

There may be some Christians here today who have lost awareness of the battle or who have gone asleep in the battle—its time to wake up!

There may be some Christians here today who have abandoned the battle—its time to put the armor on and get back in the battle—The souls of men are at stake!

There may be some Christians here today whose hearts are full of doubts—God is still in control, God has a master plan for your life even in the midst of trouble, God’s Word cannot fail!