

Being Deceived

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

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Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- I. The greatest danger to our soul is that we will be deceived.
 - A. When we are deceived we have believed a lie, and that leads us somewhere.
 - 1. To sin.
 - 2. To delusion
 - 3. To maddness
 - 4. To shipwreck and ruin
 - B. Sin is deceitful.

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

- C. Our own heart can be deceived very easily.

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

- D. Others are deceitful.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

- E. Satan is deceitful.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- F. The world is full of “others,” full of sin, and it is the realm the devil, so it is going to be full of deceit.

- II. When we are deceived we do not know it – we are completely convinced that we are right.

DECE'IVE – To mislead the mind; to cause to err; to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true.

- A. Delusion – false idea; false thinking.
- B. Illusion – false appearance; false show.
- C. Illusion leads to delusion.

- D. Delusion leads to stubbornness, which is NOT a virtue, but perverse and unreasonable obstinacy; inflexibility.

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

- E. Stubbornness means stiff, fixed, unmovable, unteachable, and that all adds up to unbelief.
F. Stubbornness is a reliable sign of being deceived and it causes you to resist God.

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

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- G. The absence of stubbornness allows God to work in your life and speak to your heart.

Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

2 Chronicles 30:8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

III. There are doors to deceit – mark them and put guards there for your soul’s sake.

Isaiah 44:20 He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

- A. Pride is a major door for deceit to enter into your soul.

Obadiah 1:3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

- B. Lust is a major door for deceit to enter in.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

1. Lust is basically wanting your own way and so you rationalize and justify and therefore deceive yourself in order to get what you want.

- C. Fear is a door for deceit to enter in.

Zephaniah 3:13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

1. Fear of the future and being left desolate or suffering loss – this is the opposite of faith and opens the door wide for deceit.

IV. The most dangerous kind of deceit is self-deceit.

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.

- A. You can lie to yourself and believe it.

- B. Most people will be in hell because they deceived themselves.
 - 1. They justified themselves
 - 2. They rationalized their behavior and deeds by comparing themselves with others instead of Christ himself.
 - 3. They convinced themselves that their thinking was right in spite of the fact that it contradicted God's laws, God's ways, and God's influence in their life.
- C. By looking at things on earth as they appear which are many times only illusions, you are deluded in your mind, deceived, and then you become stubborn, and you have deceived yourself.
- D. Self deceit makes you an idolater.
 - 1. You perceive God to be according to your illusions and delusions and you become very stubborn about it.
- E. Instead of being ruled by the Almighty God you become the ruler yourself.
 - 1. You make your decisions and judgments according to YOUR wisdom and not the Word of God.
- F. When you are self-deceived you are the hardest to be reached and therefore the one whose soul is in most danger.
- G. Be aware of the very present danger of being deceived by others, and by our own heart.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.