

Be Not Deceived

Text : **James 1: 16-26 ; I Cor. 6: 9-11**

A. Have you ever been taken in by a slick salesman ? Most people have.

S#1.
S#2.

1. How was he able to take advantage of you ?
2. Was he a smooth talker ?
3. Was he dishonest ? Did he lie about the product ? Did he bait and switch ?

B. Even nations get deceived by other nations.

S#3.

1. Remember the Gibeonites in Joshua 9.
2. Deception is an important part of the art of war.
 - a. Napoleon was skilled at deception. (e.g. *He pretended a treaty to take a strongly defended bridge without a fight. The enemy help push artillery.*)
 - b. Gen. Eisenhower use rubber tanks to make the Germans think the D-Day invasion would be at Pas De Calis instead of at Normandy.

C. The enemy of God is the most deceitful of all.

1. Jesus describe him as :

John 8: 44 – It is because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” S#4.

- a. As God is love, Satan is deceit.
 - b. Deception is as natural to Satan as breathing is to you.
2. The deceptive nature of Satan has brought misery on everyone since Eve.
 - a. **I Tim. 2: 14** – And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (cf. – **Rom. 5: 12** .. introduced sin) S#5.
 - b. Having been practicing deception for thousands of years, Satan is proficient.
 3. Deception has always been and continues to be Satan’s most effective tool.

Rev. 12: 9 – And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. S#6.
 4. A Christian must be constantly vigilant to prevent being deceived by Satan.

Rom. 16: 18 – For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. S#7.

That we may not be the unsuspecting, our lesson will consider the command : **S#8.**
James 1: 16 – Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

I. Christians are commanded not to allow themselves to be deceived. S#9.

A. James 1: 16 is stated as an empirical command.

1. **James 1: 16** – Do not be deceived, (*Thou shalt not be deceived.*)
2. The word “**deceived**” (*planao*) to lead astray, wander, roam about without purpose
Root of the English word “planet”

B. Paul states the same command to the brethren in other congregations. **S#10.**

1. **Gal. 6: 7** – Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
2. **Eph. 5: 6** – Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

C. The Apostle John repeated this command. **S#11.**

1. **I John 3: 7** – Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;
 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil;

2. He also warned that the devil would continually try to deceive us. **S#12.**

- a. **I John 2: 26** – These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.
- b. **II John 7** – For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh.

D. Deception has been an ongoing problem since the Garden of Eden. **S#13.**

1. Satan did not force or intimidate Eve to sin; he convinced her of a lie.
2. He used three persuasive arguments :

Gen 3:6 – When the woman saw :

- 1} that the tree was good for food,
- 2} and that it was a delight to the eyes,
- 3} and that the tree was desirable to make one wise.

she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

3. We are warned about those same three arguments today : **S#15.**

I John 2: 16 – For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

E. Why do James and two of the Apostles emphasized not being deceived ? **S#16.**
 Because it is a serious and ongoing danger.

II. Satan attempts to deceive us in many different ways.**S#17.****A. Satan deceives us by flattering words.**

1. People today want to be told words that make them feel good.

S#18.

- a. **II Tim. 4: 3** – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- b. Some “mega churches” do surveys to see what the community wants to hear.

2. **Rom. 16: 18** – For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

S#19.**B. Bad company can deceive us into thinking their actions are okay.**

1. **I Cor. 15: 33** – Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

S#20.

2. It is natural to have the desire for acceptance and for friendship.

but one must be careful who he/ she draws close. **Psa. 1: 1** .. *not walk w/ wicked*

* *Football team celebrations led to one sin after another.*

Stand with sinners

Set with scoffer

C. Satan uses sin to deceive us and to destroy our souls.**S#21.**

1. Satan uses sin to hook you like street dealers use drugs.

- a. People start off with light party drugs but progress to stronger and stronger.
- b. No one ever started using drugs or alcohol thinking they would become an addict.
- c. *President Trump said if you never have the first one, you'll never get hooked.*

2. **Rom. 7: 11** – for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

3. Sin is addictive and the penalty is death ... **Rom. 3: 23** – the wages of sin is death

D. Satan deceives people into thinking wrongly of God.

1. **Gen. 3** ... Eve came to believe that God was withhold good from her.

2. He cause people to think God is trying to make them sin.

James 1: 13 – Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; **S#22.**
for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone

E. Let us all heed the warning of the scriptures.

Heb. 3: 13 – But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

S#23.

III. None is so deceived as he who deceives himself.

S#24.

S#25.

A. The prophet Jeremiah warns us that our hearts are prone toward self-deception.

Jer. 17: 9 – The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?

B. James warns Christians about deceiving their hearts in regard to sin.

James 1: 26 – If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

C. Two different Apostles warn us about the danger of self-deception.

1. The Apostle John :

a. **I John 1: 8** – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. S#26.

b. The longer the Christian strives for sanctification the greater this danger.

2. The Apostle Paul :

a. **Gal. 6: 3** – For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

b. **I Cor. 3:18** – Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. S#27.

** Some think themselves too sophisticated to believe in an unseen realm.*

D. Jesus very powerfully warns us of the result of deceiving ourselves.

1. One who convince himself that he something that he is not faces condemnation.

2. **Matt. 7: 21-23** Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' #28

E. Those who strongly desire something find ways to rationalize having it.

1. The Jewish leader rationalized killing our Lord.

John 11: 47 – Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. **48** If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." **49** But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, **50** nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." S#29.

2. The person who steals time or material from their employer reasons that the company should be paying them more so it is okay if they steal a little.
3. The person who wants to divorce her spouse reasons that God would surely want for her to be happy so He will accept her corrupt decision.

IV. How can a man (woman) of God prevent himself from being deceived. S#30.

A. We must develop the mindset which requires us to prove what is God's will. S#31.

1. A clerk is taught what the real currency looks like so he know any different is fake.
 * *When studying denominational doctrines, the professor warned us not to spend our time learning all the errors of men, but to study the truth and know it well enough to recognize that anything different is error.* S#32.
2. Christians are commanded to develop the same kind of mindset as the clerk.
Rom. 12: 2 – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. S#33.
3. In order to avoid being deceived we must seek to understand the will of God.
Eph. 5: 15 – Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. S#34.

B. The attitude of the Berean Christians is still noble today.

1. **Acts 17: 11** – Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. S#35.
2. Only God inspired word is true and beyond scrutiny. (**John 17: 17**– Thy word is truth)
John 8: 31-32 – So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, S#36.
 "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

CONCLUSION :

- A. The command of James still stands : **James 1: 16** – Do not be deceived, S#37.
- B. We can only be deceived if we do not compare everything to the standard. S#38.
- C. If we allow ourselves to be deceived, like Eve, we are accountable. S#39.

INVITATION : Jesus is the real thing ... the way, the truth and the life S#40.

S#41. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 1: 16-26**

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. **18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

I Corinthians 6: 9-11

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.