

# LET NO MAN DECEIVE HIMSELF

I Cor. 3:18

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## INTRODUCTION:

1. The greatest deception in the world is *Self-deception*.
2. Many in the world and in the church are guilty of self-deception – Rom. 12: 3, 16.
3. The New Testament has much to say about self-deception:
  - a. Man can deceive himself about something, when he is nothing – Gal. 6:3.
  - b. Man, who deceives, can be deceived – 2 Tim. 3:13.
  - c. He who tries to mock God is deceived – Gal. 6:7.
  - d. He who says he does not sin is deceived – I John 1:8.
  - e. He who thinks he can live in sin, and go to heaven, is deceived—I Cor. 6:9.
  - f. He who thinks he can become bosom companions with the world, and not become worldly, is deceived – I Cor. 15:33.
  - g. He who thinks the only thing he needs to do is hear the Word, is deceived – James 1: 22.
  - h. Men will be deceived about the second coming of Christ – 2 Thess. 2:3.
  - i. False teachers will deceive the hearts of the simple – Rom. 16:18.
  - j. Satan deceived Eve – I Tim. 2:14.

### I. **MAN MAY DECEIVE HIMSELF BY MINIMIZING HIS SINS – I John 1:8**

- a. There are two things about those who say they live above sin:
  - i. They deceive themselves.
  - ii. They exhibit the fact that the truth is not in them.
- b. Some in this present day claim sinless perfection.
- c. We deceive ourselves by seeing the mote in a brother's eye, and never seeing the beam in our own eye – Matt. 7: 3 -5.
  - i. The Pharisee could not see his own sins – Luke 18: 10 – 14.

### II. **WE MAY DECEIVE OURSELVES BY THINKING GOD IS LIKE MAN –Psa. 50:21.**

- a. Man hides from man, so he thinks he can hide from God – Gen. 3:4; Heb. 4: 13.
- b. Man deceives man, so he thinks he can deceive God – Acts 5: 1 – 10.
- c. Man is slack in his word, so he is tempted to think God is also like man in this respect – 2 Pet. 3:9.
- d. Man thinks that one religion or church is as good as another, so he thinks God also feels the same way – Matt. 15: 13 – 14; Isa. 55: 8 – 9.

### III. **WHEN A MAN ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE BIBLE, HE HAS ONLY DECEIVED HIMSELF.**

- a. Through the centuries, many deceived people have requested a perverted word.
  - i. Isa. 30:10 *"Which say to the seers, use not; and to the prophets, prophesy no unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:"*
- b. Paul warned of these poor deluded people, who have itching ears, and want it changed – 2 Tim. 4: 3 – 4.
- c. The curse on the one who changes it – Gal. 1: 6 – 9; Rev. 22: 18 – 19.
- d. In judgment we will be judged by it in its completeness – Rev. 20:12; John 12:46.

### IV. **MAN MAY DECEIVE HIMSELF BY THINKING HE CAN SOW ONE THING AND REAP SOMETHING ELSE – Gal. 6: 7 – 8**

- a. Reaping as one has sown is a universal law.

- b. One cannot live a life of sin and go home to heaven when he dies – Rom. 6:23; Tit. 2: 11 -12; Rom. 12: 1- 2.
  - c. A church cannot sow to the flesh and reap a spiritual harvest:
    - i. Churches sometimes sow to the flesh by spending their money on picnics and parties, fun and frolic, and recreation.
    - ii. The church sows to the spirit when they spend their time and money preaching the gospel.
    - iii. Churches that are sowing to the flesh, and think they will reap a spiritual harvest, are deceived.
- V. MAN MAY DECEIVE HIMSELF BY THINKING HE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HE REALLY IS—Gal. 6:3.**
- a. Rom. 12:3; I Cor. 4:6.
  - b. The Pope, Church Councils, Editors, and Preachers.
- VI. MAN MAY DECEIVE HIMSELF BY PLACING FAITH IN TOMORROW – James 4: 13 – 14**
- a. This was true of Felix – Acts 24: 25.
  - b. Many who know the truth are waiting until tomorrow to obey the gospel.
- VII. MAN MAY DECEIVE HIMSELF BY TALKING TOO MUCH**
- a. James 1:26; I Pet. 3:10