

The Word: Small Group week 4. Do not be deceived! Doctrines of demons

We have been warned often to not be deceived. Why and how does that happen? Deception is going to rise as we draw closer to the end of this world. As the Bible points to Jesus, then it is Jesus that we are deceived about. We are told by numerous writers to not be deceived, what are the consistent areas of our deception and what does Jesus say to do so that we are not deceived? What is the great deception of our day? I believe it is denying the Holy Spirit and being satisfied with religion. Deception prevails until truth in some form intervenes. The truth of God Word is essential. Are you daily being washed in the Word of God?

1. How often are we warned about being deceived?
2. How susceptible are we to being deceived?
3. What is the process of my deception?

2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (ESV): But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Deception 1, Proclaiming another Jesus: Sometimes it is easy to spot this. We had a man a couple of weeks ago that visited our services and introduced himself as Jesus. Not the Spanish form of Jesus. That's easy to spot. But what about when something in our life begins to take the throne of our heart, and it can be so subtle. Let's look at this mighty churches deception.

Revelation 2:2-4 “ I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Simply put, what does your life proclaim?

Deception 2, receiving a different spirit.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose

consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

This may be a shocker to you, God made you to have the Holy Spirit in you. And because of the way God made you, if you do not enthrone God in your heart, whatever you do enthrone can open the door for you to be lead by another spirit. This was Paul's concern for these people.

Deception 3, accepting a different gospel.

What other gospel is there? Well, the Gospel simply means, "Good News." The basic message that the Corinthians received from Paul was the message that you have heard that we deeply need Jesus. And there are no "add-to's", as some false teachers were trying to convince the Corinthians. Is there anything that you were taught or that you believe you must be or do in the name of religion that is not taught in Scripture? Today is a good day for the remnants of that old stuff to fall off of you. We have to be so careful of what we add to the Gospel message. Let take it and lay it down today. The Bible is the only source of truth for us.