

Have You Been Deceived?

by Wayne Goff

The truth is that all of us have been deceived at one time or another. Some of these deceptions are more serious than others. For example, if a potential suitor deceives you into thinking he/she is an excellent potential mate and you marry him/her, then the deception has tremendous consequences!

Perhaps you have been deceived by a slick-talking salesman into buying something you really didn't need or want. Well, that may be sad, but it's not exactly earth-shattering.

What we need to realize as Christians **today** is that Satan is alive and well, and is deceiving many Christians into believing his lies. Satan is good at what he does. He dresses up lies today and calls them by new names which seem perfectly acceptable. He encourages people to defend these lies based upon emotion, not logic or reason. And he makes you think they are harmless in and of themselves, so what is the big deal anyway?

Jesus warned us in **Matthew 24:4**, "*Take heed that no one **deceives** you.*" And the apostle Paul added to that statement the following: "*Therefore let him who **thinks** he stands take heed lest he fall*" (**1 Cor. 10:12**). We are all far more vulnerable than we think. We tend to be naive, trusting and generous in our dealings with people and issues. So that leaves us vulnerable even if we are honest and sincere.

Some people are deceived into thinking they are wise, when they are maybe just worldly-wise, **1 Cor. 3:18**. Some will be deceived into thinking that the unrighteous will inherit heaven! **1 Cor. 6:9**. Some will be deceived into thinking that "*evil company*" does **NOT** corrupt good habits! **1 Cor. 15:33**. But perhaps the most important Scripture on the subject is **Galatians 6:7**: "*Do not be **deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*" Satan would have us believe that any particular sin is beneficial for you, rather than destructive. God warns us not to be so deceived.

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**" (1 Timothy 4:1).* Be careful, be studious, and be aware!

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