

The Art Of Deception

2 Timothy 3:1-17

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The Art Of Deception

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 3:18, "*Let no man deceive himself. If any man thinketh that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise.*"
- ▶ Ephesians 5:6, "*Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience.*"
- ▶ 1 John 1:8, "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*"

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- ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:9, "*Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men.*"
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:33, "*Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.*"
- ▶ Galatians 6:7, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*"

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- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:13, "*But evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*"

4

The Origin Of Deception

In the garden of Eden. Satan. 1 Timothy 2:14; Genesis 3:1-6

- ▶ Drew Eve into a negotiation. **Verse 1, "Yea, hath God said?"**
- ▶ Misquotes God from Genesis 2:16. (3:1) "**Ye shall not eat of any tree ...**"
- ▶ Denies the danger. (3:4) "**Ye shall not surely die ...**"
- ▶ Promises advantage. (3:5) **Eyes open, be as gods.**
- ▶ Seeks to make God look unreasonable.

5

Manner In Which We Are Deceived

Sometimes contrary to our will. 1 Kings 13

- ▶ Young prophet was sincere, couldn't be bought.
- ▶ But he was deceived by someone else, a false prophet ... "**He lied to him.**"
- ▶ Consequences still imposed.
- ▶ False teachers. Jeremiah 23; Romans 16:17-18; 2 Peter 2:20; 3:16

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Manner In Which We Are Deceived

- ▶ **Sometimes according to our will.**
Galatians 6:2-3; Isaiah 30:8-10;
2 Timothy 2:4
- ▶ 1 John 1:8, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

By false thinking.

- ▶ Wishful thinking. Jeremiah 9:1-5; 37:1-9
- ▶ *"a man thinketh himself to be something ..."*
cf. Romans 12:3; Luke 18:10-14
- ▶ Proverbs 23:7, *"For as he thinketh within himself, so is he ..."*

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

- ▶ **By not hearing carefully.** James 1:21;
Matthew 7:24-27
- ▶ Take heed what ye hear. Matthew 10:27
- ▶ Take heed how ye hear. Luke 8:18

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

By not bridling our tongue.

- cf. James 1:26
- ▶ Many times, instead of thinking and talking, we need to be listening.
- ▶ Peter at the transfiguration. Mark 9:5-6; Luke 9:33; Matthew 17:1-5
- ▶ Peter's denial. Matthew 26:35; cf. Luke 22:31-34

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

Misrepresenting our true condition.

- cf. Revelation 3:15-18
- ▶ Laodiceans thought they had it made ... *"Rich and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing."*
- ▶ *"Knew not ..."* God knows who and what we are.
- ▶ *"Wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."*
- ▶ Thinking ourselves free from sin. cf. 1 John 1:8
- ▶ Need to *"examine yourselves."* 2 Corinthians 13:5

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

Comparing ourselves among ourselves.

2 Corinthians 10:12

NOTE:

- ▶ Enoch and Noah, who walked with God. Genesis 5:22-24; Genesis 6
- ▶ Abraham. Father of the faithful, who obeyed God. Hebrews 11:9-10
- ▶ Moses. Wise choice. Hebrews 11:24f
- ▶ Christ is the standard. Ephesians 4:13; cf. Galatians 4:19

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We Deceive Ourselves ...

By thinking like a fool. Luke 12:16-21

- ▶ Left God out of his life.
- ▶ Left man out of his life.
- ▶ Made self the center of everything.
"I", "My", "Me", "Mine."
- ▶ Confidence in material things ...
"Much goods laid up."
- ▶ Counted on time that was not his.
Verse 19. "Many years." cf. James 4:13-14

13

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God Cannot Be Deceived!

God is not mocked. Galatians 6:7-8; Hebrews 4:12-13

- ▶ David tried to conceal his sin ... God knew.
2 Samuel 11-12; Psalms 51:1-4
- ▶ Though David deceived others, God knew.
- ▶ God knows all. 1 Peter 3:12; Romans 2:16;
Numbers 32:23

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The Art Of Deception

- ▶ The origin ... Satan.
- ▶ Manner ... Deceived by others.
- ▶ Manner ... Deceived by ourselves.
 - Wishful thinking.
 - Not listening carefully.
 - Talking when we should be listening.
 - Blind to our own condition.
 - False comparisons.
 - Thinking like a fool.

**But
God
Always
Knows!**

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