

## Satan's Tactics to Deceive the World from the Truth – Part 2 | 3/4/18

- Satan will seek to disrupt the church by twisting the Scriptures.
  - The Scriptures also warn us that Satan will attempt to disrupt the church by saying things that **twist the Scripture**. His intention is to break down the house of God.
    - Acts 20:29-30
      - “I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men **speaking twisted things**, to draw away the disciples after them.”
    - **If people can be persuaded into believing a “new interpretation” of the Scriptures, they can be fooled into having a false view of the Gospel and its true meaning.**
    - Satan’s goal here is to draw away the disciples, to draw away the followers of Jesus Christ into believing a lie.
    - Examples of twisting the Scriptures:
      - Redefining biblical words by giving them new definitions.
        - To take words from the Scriptures that have a clear meaning and to instead give them new definitions to perhaps meet one’s theological perspective.
          - Examples: heaven, hell, salvation, sin etc.,
          - Jehovah Witnesses do not believe in a literal Hell:
            - *God does not even contemplate eternal torment. The idea that he would punish people in hellfire is contrary to the Bible’s teaching that “God is love.”--jw.org*
        - The Scriptures give definitions to these words, we cannot twist them into some other meaning must because of our personal or theological views.
          - This is also why it is important to obtain definitions for the original Hebrew and Greek in cases where the English isn’t clear.
      - Attempting to “modernize” or accommodate the Scriptures to match the current culture.
        - It is very common to have churches today that seek to make the Scriptures “fit” today’s modern world.
        - If the Scriptures are going against the grain of society then they need to be interpreted differently.
        - **The root problem that causes this is when the Scriptures are viewed through the lens of human reason.**
        - We cannot try and make the Scriptures politically correct.
        - Examples:
          - Satan was the first to twist the Scriptures
            - Matthew 4:5-7
          - Queen James Bible 2012
            - A bible that has modified all passages of Scripture that refer to homosexuality as a sin to suite today’s modern politically correct view.
            - The thought here is that since a number of people today accept it, then it is not possible that the Bible truly meant for it to be wrong.
          - Progressive Christianity
            - A “modern” version of Christianity that sees the Scriptures as fallible and historically inaccurate, so we are free to shape Christianity as we see fit.



- This is why Christians cannot be silent, we must share the truth with others so that the light can be seen even among all the lies.
  - Based on what you see in the world today and what falls under the umbrella of “Christianity”, do you think the world has been successful in making the Scriptures say whatever they want?
- But the Scriptures are eternal, they cannot be modernized, changed or turned into something it is not.
  - Scripture is literally breathed out by God, therefore it is exactly as God desired it to be.
    - **The Scriptures are not a book ABOUT God, it is instead a book FROM God.**
    - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
      - **“All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
    - If the Scriptures are God breathed, **then they are inerrant** and exactly as God intended them to be.
    - They are perfectly able to lead one to salvation
      - 2 Timothy 3:15
        - “and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”
    - **They make one complete because God included everything we need to live out the Christian life.**
      - Salvation, Godly living, sin, death, life and what is eternal.
    - **The Bible LITERALLY is the Word from God.**
      - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
        - “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted **it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God**, which is at work in you believers.”
      - 2 Peter 1:20-21
        - “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For **no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man**, but men **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”
    - What else can we infer when we know the Scriptures are “God breathed”, that they came directly from God?
    - The Scriptures since they are breathed out by God are living.
      - Hebrews 4:12
        - **“For the word of God is living and active**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, **and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**
      - A regular book is just words on pages, that can bring stories to life in our minds or give us knowledge.
      - However, the Scriptures are unlike any book that ever was or ever will be. They are LIVING.
      - **The Holy Spirit works in our hearts as we read them, and He makes them come alive.**

- How would you explain to someone that the Scriptures are living?
  - What impact do they have on our life since they are living? Does this mean that the Scriptures can affect people differently?
- Numerous times in Scripture we are told that it is perfect, it is eternal and cannot be changed. This includes the Old and New Testaments.
  - Matthew 5:18
    - “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”
  - Matthew 24:35
    - “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
  - Revelation 22:18-19
    - “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
  - 1 Peter 1:23-25
    - “since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. **The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the lord remains forever. And THIS word is the good news that was preached to you.**
  - How important are the Scriptures if Jesus said that not one iota, not one of His words will pass away?
  - If the Scriptures are really from God do you think He could make a mistake? Is he not capable of preserving His word for us?
- God Word has the same meaning regardless of the year or the culture.
  - If Jesus waits another 5000 years to return, the Scriptures will have no less meaning or impact upon the world.
  - While the culture and the world will move on, the Word of God will always mean the same.
- **If the Word of God contradicts what you think is “right” then YOU are the one that must change NOT the Scriptures.**
  - Unfortunately, the world doesn’t want to be told that, they want to live as they please and make the Scriptures fit their life.
  - The COMPLETE Scriptures are our guide, if we simply pick and choose what we like then we are blinding ourselves from the full truth. We are making God’s Word say what we want it to.
- **Instead Christians are called to rightly handle (cut straight) the Word of truth.**
  - 2 Timothy 2:15
    - “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the world of truth.**”
  - As Christians it is our job to correctly handle God’s Word. We cannot change it, modify it or make it say something that it doesn’t. We must teach its simple truth regardless if its culturally or politically correct.
    - Paul made clear that he would not tamper with God’s Word
      - 2 Corinthians 4:2a

- “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word...”
    - **Christians must strive to live this out in their lives and treat God’s Word for what it is.**
  - We are called to preach the word
    - 2 Timothy 4:1-2
      - “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **preach the word**; be read in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”
      - The Word itself being God breathed will do its work through the Holy Spirit.
  - **Do you think the Scriptures alone (with the Holy Spirit) can do the work or is it necessary to have them “explained”?**
- Satan seeks to discredit Christianity as being foolish, but God delights in His simple message.
  - **A great tactic that Satan uses to turn people away from the Gospel is to simply make it seem as if Christianity is foolish and something of a fairy tale.**
    - This of course is quite effective, even though there seems to be a significant number of Christians and believers in general in the world, the voice of those who see Christianity as foolish is very loud.
    - We are told this would happen in the Scriptures
      - 1 Corinthians 1:18
        - **“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
        - God told us that His message would be folly to the unbelievers in the world, that many would see it as simply ridicules.
      - **What parts of the Gospel do you think are commonly looked upon as foolish to the world and why?**
    - God however chose to use the simple message of the cross to send His message into the world.
      - **God could have come down and shown Himself to everyone**, He could speak in a voice that the whole world could hear. However, He chose instead the simple message of the cross.
      - 1 Corinthians 1:20-25
        - “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, **it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.** For Jews **demand signs** and Greeks **seek wisdom**, but we preach Christ crucified, a **stumbling block** to Jews and **folly** to Gentiles. But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”
        - **God is well aware that we seek to use our knowledge and intellect to understand things, however He made it so that these alone could not be used to hear and understand the Message so that it would have to be by FAITH.**
          - It pleased God for it to be done this way, **for it to be by FAITH.**
          - If we could figure it out ourselves then we could boast, but since it is by faith in the things that are humanly impossible we HAVE to rely upon Him.

- **How would you describe the power in the simple message of the cross? The message that seems folly with human wisdom alone? Yet to the Christian it is more real than anything else?**
- Christians must persevere and continue to shine the light of the Gospel.
  - We will always face a world in which Satan is against us, however that does not mean that we take it lying down.
  - In fact, it is quite the opposite, Christians must more than ever take a stand for the Gospel and share their faith.
  - We must share the knowledge of the glory of God.
    - 2 Corinthians 4:6
      - “For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
  - **We must put aside our fears of being ridiculed or being made fun of for our beliefs, and take a stand for the truth.**
  - We must have mercy on the lost and try to save those we can.
    - Jude 20-23
      - “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. **And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire;** to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.
- What can we do to guard ourselves from Satan’s tactics? How do we know the truth?
  - By studying and leaning upon the Scriptures
    - Job 23:12
      - “I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.”
  - Seeking the truth for ourselves
    - Acts 17:
      - “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
  - Live out our faith
    - James 1:22-25
      - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.