

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Deception

STEPS TO FREEDOM
TODAY from 2-5pm in the AUDITORIUM

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ If I tempt you... you know it
- ▶ If I accuse you... you know it
- ▶ If I deceive you... you don't know it

- ▶ Matthew 24:4 - *Jesus said: "Watch out that no one deceives you."*

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:3; 2 John 7; Matthew 24:11, 24, 25

SOURCES OF DECEPTION (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9)

- A. Ourselves (Jeremiah 17:9; Hebrews 3:13)
- 1 We have deceived ourselves if we only hear the Word and do not do it (James 1:22; 4:17; 1 Peter 1:13).
 - 2 We deceive ourselves if we say we have no sin (1 John 1:8).
 - 3 We deceive ourselves if we think we are something when we are nothing (Galatians 6:3).
 - 4 We deceive ourselves if we think that we are wise in this age (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).
 - 5 We deceive ourselves if we think ourselves to be religious and yet do not bridle our own tongue (James 1:26)
 - 6 We deceive ourselves if we think we will not reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7).
 - 7 We deceive ourselves if we think the unrighteous will inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9).
 - 8 We deceive ourselves if we think we can continue to associate with bad company and not be corrupted (1 Corinthians 15:33).

- B. False Prophets & Teachers
(Matthew 7:15; cf. Jeremiah 23:16-22, 25-40)
- 1 They will show signs & wonders
(Matthew 24:24; Revelation 13:11-14; Deuteronomy 13:1-4)
 - 2 They will work within the church (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
 - 3 They have common characteristics (2 Peter 2:1, 10-19)
 - ▶ Despise authority (v.10) ▶ Arrogant (v.10)
 - ▶ Carouse where they don't belong (v.13) ▶ Adulterous eyes (v.14)
 - ▶ Seductive (v.14) ▶ Greedy (v.14) ▶ Slaves of depravity (v.19)
- C. Deceiving Spirits (1 Timothy 4:1; 1 John 2:18; 4:1-6)

DISCERNMENT

- A. Motive IS CRUCIAL (1 Kings 3:1-12)
- 1 Not to promote self, nor gain an advantage
 - 2 But to understand justice (i.e. distinguish between right and wrong)
- B. DISCERNMENT IS ON THE PLANE OF good & evil
(1 Corinthians 12:10)
- C. DISCERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A FUNCTION OF THE spirit, NOT THE mind (1 Corinthians 2:14-15)
- D. DISCERNMENT INCREASES WITH maturity
(Hebrews 5:11-14; Proverbs 4:18)
- Come back THIS afternoon !

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Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon
Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that He has given us clear teaching in His Word, the power of prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us not fall prey to evil forces.

MY STORY

1. Describe a time when you were deceived. What did it cost you emotionally, monetarily or in some other way?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What insight did you gain from Sunday's sermon on the subject of deception?
3. How do fishermen use deception in fishing? How does this relate to how Satan tempts and tries to deceive us?
4. **Read 1 John 2:22-23 and 2 John 7-11.** When it comes to false religions, one of their common denominators is distorting the true identity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why is confusing the true identity of Christ such a high priority for Satan?
5. **Read 2 Peter 2:1, 10-19.** How do these verses help us identify false prophets and teachers either inside or outside the church?

6. **Read 2 Timothy 2:15.** How does following this directive help keep Christians from falling prey to many of Satan's deceptions?

7. **Read 1 Corinthians 2:14,15.** How do these verses relate to the phrase "discernment is essentially a function of the spirit, not the mind"? Explain.

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. According to the following verses, what are some of the ways that we can deceive ourselves? Have you been deceived in any of these areas?

- James 1:22
- James 1:26
- Galatians 6:7
- 1 Corinthians 6:9

TAKING IT HOME

9. Ask God to reveal any areas where you are currently being deceived. Also, ask Him to show you how to bring those areas in line with His Word.
10. What can you do this week to make yourself less susceptible to the deception of evil forces?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you not be deceived in any area of your life. Ask Him to give you great discernment.