

Coming Back from Deception
2 Corinthians 11:1-15, Pew Bible p. 969
January 8, 2023

Deception: causing someone to believe something that is not true, typically for personal gain.

I. Our Vulnerability to Deception (V. 1-6)

- A. People are often vulnerable to deception.

- B. We become vulnerable to deception when we:
 - 1. desire anything that is not God.
 - 2. tolerate evil.
 - 3. are ignorant of God's word.
 - 4. are isolated from God's shepherds.

II. Our Weapons Against Deception (V. 7-15)

- A. We become strong against deception when we:
 - 1. diligently protect against even the appearance of dishonest gain.
 - 2. clearly distinguish between good and evil.

- B. Final exhortations:
 - 1. Desire only Christ.
 - 2. Do not tolerate evil in your home.
 - 3. Keep learning.
 - 4. Avoid isolation.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15.
2. Have you ever been afraid *for* someone else's faith, that they would be led astray, as verse 3 says? Why were you afraid for their faith?
3. What does our desire for Christ have to do with our vulnerability to deception, according to verse 3?
4. Have you ever been deceived to believe something that is not true, as the Corinthians were in verse 4? Why?
5. What are some things you can do to protect yourself or others from spiritual deception?
6. When is it appropriate for Christians to accept money from other Christians for doing Christian ministry, according to verses 7-12? When is it inappropriate for Christians to accept money from other Christians for doing Christian ministry? What does this have to do with our love for people and boasting in Christ, according to verse 11?
7. What is the difference between the terms godly leaders work under and the terms false teachers work under, according to verse 12? Why is it important to know the difference?
8. Pray for our church members to be on mission to all people. Consider coming to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center across the hall from the Choir Room.

Church Bible Reading Plan

2 Kings 12-14

January Memory Verses: 2 Kings 19:15-19

Matthew 13:18-23

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- PRAYING this week for a new Bible Study we launched for unchurched residents at a nearby apartment complex.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia;
Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West,
Glendale, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
Marge D. (salvation for son, Matthew); Margaret J. (salvation for Tom & Bob);
and Rezwana D. (parents)
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Elaine D. (sister); Gary & Betty B. (brother-in-law); Family of Wayne & Twila D.;
Larry & Brenda D. (her sister-in-law); Gertrude A. (granddaughter); Family of John E.;
and Debbie & John P. (her brother)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Debbie B. (chemo); Mary R. (transplant recovery);
Laura M. (health issues); Stan & Twyla H. (health & other issues); Michelle LaM. (health issues);
Debbie P. (health issues); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Don R. (pneumonia and broken ribs);
Carolyn H. (father in hospice); and Ann C.-W. (health issues)
- Others that you are aware of