

# SERMON NOTES

## Growing Up 2 - Do Not Be Deceived

Jesus warned us not to be deceived.

**Matthew 24:4, 11 (NKJV)** - " And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you....  
11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many."

**Ephesians 5:6 (NKJV)**- "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

**1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)**- Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

### What is deception?

"Being on the wrong path and NOT BEING AWARE of it." If we were aware that we were on the wrong path, we would not be deceived.

### How can I be safe from deception?

#### 1. Idols in my heart

**John 7:17 (NKJV)** : "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

**Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)**: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

**Proverbs 8:13 (NKJV)**: The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

**Ezekiel 14:4 (NKJV)**: "Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols,

**2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV)**: 10 And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**Psalms 81:11-12 (NKJV)**: "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would [have] none of Me.

12 So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.

**Romans 1:28 (NKJV)**: And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

**Remedy** - "God, I want to do what you want - I want to do what is right"

2. **Shepherds and Wolves** - We need to beware of wolves, and we need good shepherds to guide and help us.

**1 Corinthians 15:33 (NKJV)**: - "Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits.""

**Acts 20:28-30 (NKJV)**: 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

**Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)**: - 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,  
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

### **Signs of a wolf**

**Acts 20:30 (NKJV)**: "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

**Colossians 2:18 (NIV)** - 18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

**James 3:13-18 (NKJV)**- 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### **3. Practical Applications -**

**James 1:21-27 (NKJV)** - 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

7 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

**2 Timothy 3:13-17 (NKJV)** - 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.