

2Timothy 3:13-17 –The Danger and Cure for Diabolical Deception

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The church in Ephesus was facing grave dangers from false teachers. These wicked men crept in to houses when the husbands were gone and deceived gullible women. In doing this, they showed whose children they were and his **modus operandi** – his method of operating. And since this danger of diabolical deception is all the more real today with the advances in modern communication technology, I thought it best to speak on this topic today.

Our headings are: The **Danger of Diabolical Deception**, and The **Cure for Diabolical Deception**.

Our goals are: That you will **resolve as redeemed children of Christ to make his Word your meditation all the year so that you would not be deceived by the Deceiver, but rather, advance his truth.**

The Danger of Diabolical Deception

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1. The Devil and his men are impostors...but they are not just pretending to be other people.... These wicked ones want to lead you astray by false doctrines.

2. How does the Devil like to lead people astray?

a. By pretending that something that is false is actually true. This is not a common way to attack Christians.

b. By pretending that something that is true is actually false ...like the Devil did to Eve...and also...

1Kings 13:18 He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.)

c. By pretending that something that is false is partially true, or pretending that something that is true is partially false. This third one is the most common...as it lulls men into a place of semi-security.

3. There is a progression in severity and how far the wicked will go to advance their father's cause! They will get worse and worse. And what happens if you don't budge and believe their half-truths? You are persecuted. You face pain.

2Timothy 3:10 But you have carefully **followed my doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

But notice how the Apostle Paul opened himself to show his doctrines that he received for Jesus Christ, as opposed to those wicked ones. The Ephesians were able to carefully examine (follow) the outcome of his truth: Persecution.

The Cure for Diabolical Deception

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.

1. You must continue in what you were taught. The cure for deception is **truth that is believed and lived.** Remember what happens when believers are ignorant or forgetful. Jesus' disciples **forgot he said he would be raised from the dead.** **Look** how they panicked when he was arrested and how some doubted he was raised! You have to know and keep reminding yourself of God's truth...every Sunday in church...every day in your home. Teach this to your children as Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him. Teach them the whole counsel of God as Paul did in Ephesus where Timothy was pastor. He did not teach his favorite subjects.

Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you **the whole counsel of God.**

2. Know that God's Word is unchangeable – for salvation and living. Someone living 3000 years ago was saved the same way as you have been saved. The 10 laws are forever. Remember the "facts" about vestigial organs? Those "facts" have now been changed. So-called "science" changes, but God Word doesn't. You can count on God's truth.

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

3. Know that the Bible is authoritative. It is God-breathed - a better word that "inspired" which gives the sense of breathing in. Since the Bible was breathed-out by God, it is authoritative. God directed men to write and he told them what to write. By the way, **no book has faced so much vicious attacks and survived.** No one can find any contradictions in a Bible written over 1500 years and many writers, though many try. You see predictions fulfilled, like for Josiah,

Cyrus, the great Empires, and especially, Christ. **But it is the witness of God's Holy Spirit in your heart that convinces you that it is truth.** One more interesting thing about the Bible's authority: 2Timothy -was probably (and I believe it to be so) the last book written in the New Testament. So Paul was including the New Testament books as well. Sadly, North Americans are in clear rebellion against Scriptural authority. They often say: "Why are you trying to enforce your belief on me?" Or: "That might be right for you, but it is not right for me." But there is one truth.

4. Know that God's Word is profitable for doctrine. The Bible gives doctrine "dogmas" – truth. There are some who think doctrines are cold and that there is no benefit from it. (No creed but Christ.) But doctrines warm your soul. Doctrines are important to teach you how to worship, how you live, and they are also important in counseling. (If you don't know the doctrines of Christ and your salvation, you cannot fix any counseling problem. You must not pull down by your living what you build up by preaching. Doctrines guide you in marriage, how to work, how to pray, and why you need to fix your problems. Doctrines are not only for Sundays! The false teachers of Ephesus were interested in their own ideas and advancements, not God's. So they lied. Deceptive devils continue to do their lies today: Spanking destroys. You must put yourself first. Unfair taxation is fair. You are hurting your children unless you give them that new piece of technology. It is wrong to eat meat or wear fur. Everyone has a right to pure water, high speed internet, and universal day care.

5. Know that Scripture gives Reproof. Reproof is the "exposure of error." You can say to the wacky environmentalist: "That is **Wrong**." God does not excuse wrongs based on ignorance. He does not permit relativism – "we are all right." There is no error in the world that one could not judge by the Scripture.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

6. Know that Scripture gives Correction. Correction: To straighten out-like when a leg is broken and must be reset. We use words like: "orthopedic, and orthodontic, straightening out of what was crooked. Say of doctrines: "This is **Right**." Correction is redemptive...to reclaim what was lost or damaged. But there is an inherent attack against discipline by deceivers. They speak against laying down the law...lest someone's feelings get hurt. This psychology is wrong. Luther said that the Bible had feet and ran after him, it has hands and grabbed hold of him.

7. Know that Scripture gives Instruction. Instruction in truth nurtures the soul and produces integrity – in the young or old. The Bible covers principles for every situation in life -for every conceivable想到的area. It tells you how to care for the environment. It tells you how to face the future and how to interpret the Mayan calendar. It explains why nations' attempts to find peace with others don't work. It tells you how to vote at election time. It tells you what kind of school you should use for your children. It tells you how to raise your children. It tells you how to deal with terrorists and how to deal with foreign trade and international relations. It certainly guides you in your worship. So you are not free to do anything as you please!

Exodus 25:9 "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

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

8. The Bible is sufficient to make you mature, science and technology aren't. Some things you do not know. The Bible says that the "secret things belong to God. Calvin: "A man who is not satisfied with the Scripture desires to be wiser than God." Yet, **Pentecostals argue that they need new revelation.** They infer that the Bible is not enough. So they say or imply: "What I think the Holy Spirit is telling me is above what the Scriptures say." Because their final authority is not the Scriptures, but feelings of what they think the Holy Spirit is saying, this has led to many religious, political, and social problems. Truth becomes subjective. Authoritative truth is changed for what the people "say" the Holy Spirit said! Papists argue **that the Bible is not sufficient.** The Pope says Mary was perfect and born perfect, yet the Bible says everyone was born in sin. (Mary herself pointed out her need for salvation. Lk 1:47-48.) By saying the Bible is not sufficient or correct, they call God a liar, and they are diminishing 减少the value of the Bible!

9. The Bible equips you not only for some good work...but all good work. Works that are outside of the scope of Scripture-like special pilgrimages-are useless. They may even be harmful.

10. You are warned not to teach anything else...to add or subtract 减去from God's Word...upon the pain of hell. And you are not to listen to those who teach anything contrary to the Word of God. You may hear them but don't follow them.
Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. (go to hell)

Revelation 22:18 - For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues 灾难 that are written in this book; Sadly, the doctrine of the Bible is one of 2 most attacked doctrines today.

11. Positively, following God's Word removes worry and uncertainty. One man said to me once: I want to do for God what my "gut tells me." But God does not want you to go on your "gut feeling" because feelings are corrupted by sin. A preacher said: "I will not work under anyone – except when the Holy Spirit tells me." By doing this he rejects the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. God wants you to believe and live according to his authoritative Word. God's wants to relieve frustration 挫折 in his children. What care! What mercy! What comfort to you, young people!

12. When you don't understand something in the Bible you must diligently 勤奋 study it.

|| Peter 3:15-16 ...in all his epistles 信件, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

13. No individual's word is of equal value and authoritative as the Bible. Even though a man might be holy and his works helpful, his words are not authoritative. Calvin and Luther were great men, but their teachings have errors. It doesn't matter how much you like an author, never consider his words as equal to the Bible. These are warnings to Mormons, SDA's, and Jehovah's Witnesses who hold to or treat other writings as equal to the Bible. There are other subtle (non-religious) cults as well. The CBC and David Suzuki are not authoritative but people believe them as gospel truth. Planned Parenthood is not authoritative but people believe them. They say: "No one is hurt by deviant behavior or murder, it is just a matter of personal choice and freedoms?" God disagrees. The Bhagavad Gita, or the Koran, Buddha's writings or Confucius' writings are not authoritative. Even true science must be interpreted based on truth of God's Word. (Scientists argue there was always rain and rainbow. That's a lie. God created it after regular creation and new principles of science were formed.) Certainly evolutionists aren't authoritative.

Conclusion:

One of the biggest challenges facing Christian leaders today is dealing with false teaching within the church. When one holds his ground for truth you might hear these objections: "Why can't we all just get alone? Why can't we accept our differences?" **Challenges also come from outside the church in direct ways, like being killed for worshipping Jehovah or speaking of him, and in subtle ways—like in North America.** Here you hear half-truth or half lies. Often when you don't buy into the devil's lies you might be fired from your job, failed in your college course, or not get a promotion like you should. But the Scriptures are from God, therefore it is authoritative. **Man must** bow to God's Word in full obedience. The Scriptures are from God, therefore they are profitable. **You would want to** use them.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You must hold off the deceptions of the world that are aimed at you and your children. You must do this because you belong to Jesus Christ. Sometimes he calls you to suffer as the Apostle Paul did for believing and speaking truth. Christian leaders in the homes and in the churches, continue to know and speak truth. Christ's glory is at stake. The hearts of your children are at stake. Remember, yours is a religion of Divine origin – the only religion of Divine origin. Modern idea of truth is to open the tent regardless... so more can join. But you hold the line for your Redeemer. How can you and your children honor Christ if you have no standard to do so? How can men be saved from sin if there is no truth? Will you commit yourself this New Year to know the Word of God well?

Finally, since God's Word is the only book that teaches you how to be saved from your sins, if you are not a Christian read, learn, believe, and obey God's Word.