

2Timothy 3:13-17 –Diabolical (恶魔的) Deception Without the Word

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Sola Scriptura 唯独圣经 is the teaching that **only the Bible** (Scriptures) explains what you must believe and how you must live in order to please God. The restoring of his doctrine was one of the main causes of the Reformation 宗教改革. **Before the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church forbade 禁止 people from having a copy of the Bible. And because the Bible was hidden, the RC's were then able to teach some heinous 可憎的, 极恶的 doctrines (教义) .**

But this deception happened many times before. Two thousand years ago there were already false teachers in the church who were pushing God's Word aside and **introducing heinous doctrines (damnable heresies 异端邪说) into the church** where Timothy was pastor. The false teachers would get into houses and deceive gullible 轻信的 women during the day when their husbands were away.

Since **the same thing is happening again today (the word is pushed aside and heinous doctrines are creeping 偷偷进入 in), the church would do well** to learn how to fix this problem **based on God's instruction and God's work in church history.**

Our headings are:

Diabolical Deception Displayed

Diabolical Deception Destroyed

Our goal: That you **avoid diabolical deception by returning to the Scriptures alone to learn what you must believe and how you must live.**

Diabolical Deception Displayed

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

1. The Devil and his men are impostors.

Today, these **"devils" pretend to be scholars and the creep into home via the internet, through pop groups, and through magazines.** Their goal is to deceive gullible women and men.

2. How do the Devil's servants lead people astray 走偏? By...

a. Pretending that something that is false is actually true: *Going to the Holy land will bring you closer to God.* Lie. Being in God's Word brings you closer to him. *Gender 性别 is a societal construct 社会建构...something you can determine as you wish.* Lie. Gender is determined by God at conception (概念, 定义). *Telling someone that their loved on who died is in heaven even though that person never believed in the message of the cross!* Lie. There is no hope without Jesus. *Or like Joel Osteen, telling others that God could save the Hindus in other ways.* Lie! Jesus is the only way and only source of truth!

b. Pretending that something that is true is actually false, like the Devil did to Eve...and like the lying prophet (先知) .
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.)

Spanking their kids will cause irreparable (无法修复的) hard to them. Lie. Done properly, discipline is restorative. *Evolution is based on science.* Lie. It is an illogical theory at best. *Loving yourself is the greatest love of all.* Lie. It is the worst of all!

c. Pretending that something that is false is partially true. They argue: *"You can marry anyone who claims to be a Christian."* But no, you should only marry one who is faithful to true doctrine!

d. Pretending that something that is true is partially false. *The Sabbath 安息日 was from God, but it is not really not for today!* *"Everyone man or woman should plan on being married" but singleness is superior."* They misquote Apostle Paul when he encouraged temporary restraint (克制) from marriage because of persecution 逼迫.)

3. If you don't give in to their deception, the wicked will persecute you!

Like Sanballat and Tobiah did to Nehemiah. When he wouldn't compromise and meet them they started to lie against him.

4. There are some who will allow themselves to be deceived because they are careless about the Word of God.

They listen to any man or woman who pretends to be knowledgeable about the Word. They follow the crowd. **The one who allows himself to be deceived by false doctrines is just as culpable (有罪的) as the one who deceives!**

Diabolical Deception Destroyed

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 (practice) what you were taught.

The cure for deception is **God's truth that is believed and lived.** Remember what happens when believers are ignorant 无知的

or forgetful. Jesus' disciples forgot he said he would be raised from the dead. So they panicked (恐慌) when he was arrested and killed and doubted he was raised! **So know and keep reminding yourself of God's truth**...every Sunday...every day in your home. **Teach this to your children** as Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him. Teach them the whole counsel 旨意 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**.
And practice what you are taught!

1John 2:29 If (since) you **know that He is righteous**, you know that everyone who **practices righteousness** is born of Him.

Oriental are not better in math. They become good by practice and discipline (纪律) !

2. Know that God's Word is unchangeable – for salvation and living.

Someone living 3000 years ago was saved the same way as you. The 10 laws are forever. Remember the "facts" about vestigial organs (残余器官)? Those "facts" have now been changed. So-called "science" changes, but God Word doesn't. Rely on it.

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

3. Know that the Bible is authoritative.

It is God-breathed - a better word than "inspired." This makes it is authoritative (有权威的). Yet no book has faced so many vicious 恶意的 attacks and survived. No one can find any contraction 自相矛盾 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 of Christ. **But it is the witness of God's Holy Spirit in your heart that convinces (说服) you that it is truth**. One interesting fact about the Bible's authority: **2Timothy was likely the last book written in the Bible 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 it is God's law, not mine! Hold it!

4. Know that God's Word is profitable for doctrine.

The Bible gives doctrine "dogmas" 教义, 信条 – infallible 永不错误的 truths you must believe. Doctrines are not cold. Doctrines warm your soul. Doctrines teach you how to worship, how to live, and they are also important in counseling 辅导.

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

Doctrines are the building blocks of your spiritual house. "No creed 教义 but Christ" is straw 无价值的. Doctrines guide you in marriage, how to work, how to pray, and why you need to fix your problems. **But think about doctrines today how deceiving they are**: You must put yourself first. Unfair taxation is fair. You have a right to other people's wealth! You are hurting your children unless you give them new technology. It is wrong to eat meat or wear fur. Food is not a right! Wrong!

5. Know that Scripture gives Reproof.

Reproof is the "exposure of error." So say to the idolatrous environmentalist (环境保护主义者): "Worshipping the earth is wrong! **Rebuke a man who doesn't spend time with his children!**"

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 (骨髓), and is a **discerner (分辨者) of the thoughts and intents of the heart**.

6. Know that Scripture gives Correction.

Correction: To straighten out-like 外形 when a leg is broken and must be reset. We use words like: "orthopedic 矫形外科, and orthodontic, straightening out of what was crooked. (Galatians 6) **Correction is redemptive (救赎性的)**...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: The Bible had feet and ran after him, it had hands and grabbed hold of him**.

7. Know that Scripture gives Instruction.

Instruction in truth nurtures the soul and produces integrity 正直. The Bible covers principles for every situation in life -for every conceivable area. It tells you how to care for the environment. 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...So you are not free to do anything as you please! Remember 1 specific principal instruction!

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

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

8. Know that the Bible is sufficient to make you mature.

Calvin: "A man who is not satisfied with the Scripture desires to be wiser than God." **Pentecostals (灵恩派) 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. Roman Catholics argue **that the Bible is not sufficient.** By saying the Bible is not sufficient or correct, they call God a liar, and diminish the Bible’s value. The Bible equips you not only for some good work... **but all good work.**

9. Know that you must not add or subtract from God’s Word...upon the pain of hell.

Don’t 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**被咒诅. (go to hell)

Revelation 22:18 -... 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** that are written in this book...

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. By doing this he rejected the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. God wants to relieve frustration in his children. What care! What mercy! What comfort to you, young people! You might be uncertain with how to treat pimples粉刺...but not how to serve God.

10. Know that when you don’t understand something in the Bible you must diligently study it.

2Peter 3:15-16 ...in all his epistles (书信), 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.

11. Know that you must examine all contemporary “so-called truths” based on the Word of God.

They say: “No one is hurt by deviant behavior, it is just a matter of personal choice and freedom?” God disagrees. And see how true science will confirm biblical truth! Always! **Democracy might be popular,** but it is not Biblical. God determines laws, not man! **When you hear that the PM Trudeau or President Trump must bring people together.**...it is foolishness. We must unite in truth...not with compromise. God Word is the absolute authority, not the Alberta or Federal government.

12. Know you must examine every new interpretation of Scripture based on a solid study of God’s Word.

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, but their teachings had errors.** It doesn’t matter how much you like an author, never consider his words as equal to the Bible. **The Bhagavad Gita, or the Koran, Buddha’s writings or Confucius’ writings are not authoritative.**

Conclusion:

Our biggest trouble today is dealing with false teaching in the press and in the pulpit (讲台). And when you hold your ground for truth you might hear: “Why can’t we all just get along? Why can’t we accept our differences?” Others push half-truth or half lies. But the Bible is God’s authoritative word. **Man must** bow to God’s Word in full obedience.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Attack the deceptions of the world that are aimed at you and your children, and commit to learning God’s truth to do so. Reject the popular but inaccurate weak teachers in the classroom and in the churches!

2. You must do this because you belong to Jesus Christ. He is your Creator and Re-Creator. You must do so because the hearts of your children are at stake. You must do so because the honor of Christ is at stake. You must do so because the honor of Christ’s church is at stake.

3. You may have to suffer for believing and speaking truth. Someone might leave the church because you won’t compromise, and that hurts. If you don’t toe the line, you might be fired from your job, failed in your college course, or not get a promotion like you should. But don’t stop. Honor your Savior!

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.