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Deceive beguile & Craftiness Pt 2 Deceitful workers

This is our second study on the words deceive, beguile and craftiness in the scriptures. In our previous study we established that- (1) False prophets prophesy false visions deceits of their own hearts (2) Those that speak mischievous things imagine deceits, and (3) those that change the truth into a lie are filled with all deceit. In this teaching we establish that (1) deceitful workers are ministers of Satan transformed into the apostles of Christ, (2) deceitful workers handle the word of God deceitfully, and (3) deceitful workers perform lying wonders.

Our three points established from the scriptures -

1. Deceitful workers are ministers of Satan - transformed into the apostles of Christ

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness..." (2 Cor.11: 13-15).

2. Deceitful workers handle the word of God deceitfully

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (2 Cor.4:2).

3. Deceitful workers perform lying wonders

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth..." (2 Thes.2:8-10).

Illustration

I communicated with a Roman Catholic - Patrick from Nelson on email. Our communication lasted three years on one question which he never answered - but during the course of the discussion he said things that had me wondering if he was a believer that was simply deceived by Rome. Then, I challenged him on saying one thing one week and in a subsequent communication the opposite, and even when I laid it out for him, he lied his way through the dialogue. I felt like the man on the other end of his email was seeking to deceive me, very subtly, slowly, but with all consciousness in what he was doing. An he used the word of God deceitfully!

Question to think about.

i) How do you discern a deceitful worker from one who is simply deceived?

Answers from the scriptures

i) The difference between a deceitful worker and a simple deceived person - is
a) their response to truth, and whether they are skilled in the art of deceiving others,
b) their response to being rebuked. When I finally rebuked Patrick, he came out all guns blazing - and sought to rebuke me, it was almost like, he put off his sheep's clothing for a moment and exposed his true self - a minister of Satan. You will know them ultimately by their works (2Cor.11: 15), and they will seek glory as in the example in 2 Cor.11. Patrick lied- just like his father the devil - "he is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn.8:44). Beware of deceitful workers, they will lie in wait to deceive you!