

Worship -Pt 4 Warning: be not deceived and worship the man of sin

This is our fourth study on the topic of worship. In our previous teaching we covered three points- (I) the lost turn to God from idols to serve (worship) the living and true God, (ii) some think they worship God but worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, and (iii) today- we are the circumcision, who worship God in spirit and truth. We will conclude our study on worship with a series of warnings- i) Jesus warned His disciples - there will be many false Christs that will come and deceive (I.e. do not worship them as Christ), and ii) Paul warned the church- many will fall away and the son of perdition, will be revealed and he will set himself up as God to be worshipped as God (i.e. do not worship him), and (iii) John warned those in the tribulation not to worship the beast (a man) or his image.

A little more detail on our three points-

1. Jesus warned His disciples - there will be many false Christs that will come and deceive (i.e. do not worship them as Christ)

[23] Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

[24] For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matt.24:23, 24). See Mk.13: 21-23

2. Paul warned the church- there will come a falling away and the son of perdition will exalt himself above all that is called God (i.e. worship him not)

[3] Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

[4] Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (2 Thess.2: 3, 4)

3. John warned those in the tribulation not to worship the beast and his image

[4] And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

[12] And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

[15] And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image...should...cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed (Rev.13: 4, 8, 12 & 15)

Illustration

Last Friday night on the street I met a man (Nick) - that was a graduate of the Bible college of NZ (Laidlaw College) and he stopped to ask for prayer. He had had prophecies spoken to him but he did not want to be deceived. So when we prayed he asked the Lord to help him not be deceived. Just prior to our time of prayer, James a fellow preacher, besought Nick to have a single authority- the preserved holy scriptures (AB), but it was not received. Following our prayer, I explained to Nick that I had put my BCNZ notes in the rubbish bin as they had deceived me. To encourage him in the faith I pointed out to Nick that he did not walk by his faith, but the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal.2: 20). I pointed out that the corrupt bible change the words to have the believer walking by their faith. Right there is the deception that BCNZ propagate- corrupt texts & man's interpretations. That is why many in the church who have not the scriptures can believe they are bringing in the kingdom- when Christ will reign. So they are expecting Christ's second coming, and are vulnerable to the son of perdition & false prophets.

Question

How do we heed the warning to not be deceived in this time that the scriptures speak of where there will be a falling away - to ensure that we will not worship a man that makes himself out to be God?

Answer from the scriptures

Believe the word of God. And today God has preserved His words in the Authorised Bible

Sit under a teacher that believes the Book and uses God's methods to interpret His words. In doing so you will be able to discern the deceivers- those who deceive through signs and wonders. Worship only the one true God and Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember: the church will NOT see false Christs during the tribulation, but the son of perdition will be revealed- so worship only the one true God and Father - through Jesus Christ, and none other!