

A Pandemic Of Deception

By: Phillip Hayes

I believe we are in a genuine pandemic! It's not a physical disease but a spiritual disease, and it is deadly! I have been serving God for over fifty years and I have never seen as many false teachers, preachers, and so-called prophets as I see today! The internet is virtually convulsing with these filthy dreamers! What is amazing is none of their prophecies come to pass yet they continue to be supported by deceived individuals! We're in a Pandemic of Deception!

The sad thing is most Christians are blind to what is happening all around them and throughout the world. Many have deceived themselves into thinking they cannot be deceived, thus they will continue to be deceived! You say, how can that be? Let me explain it this way.

The greatest defense you can possibly have is being alert to deception. If I said to you, Wake up! Look out! There is danger here! In a natural setting, would you take heed, awaken yourself and look around you for the danger that you have been warned of? Of course you would! However, God's preachers and prophets have been warning you for years of the false Christianity that is being portrayed throughout the world and you have not taken heed! As a matter of fact many of you have swallowed the deception of modern Christianity hook, line and sinker! You have been caught in the web of lies that's being spoken today.

Jesus warned us this would happen! *“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many”* [Matthew 24:4-5]. Isn't it amazing the first thing Jesus warned us about in the end time is deception! He said, there would be many deceivers and they would be preaching that Jesus is the Christ! Jesus said many would be deceived!

Is it possible that you are already deceived and don't know it?! The majority of professing Christians today have never read the New Testament and know nothing of the Old Testament. Most cannot quote one single verse of scripture! They depend solely on what their favorite TV or YouTube preacher says without questioning or comparing what they are hearing with the Bible. When some Christians do read their Bibles it is one of the many perverted translations offered today such as “Good News For Modern Man” or the “New World Translation”. I would say the chances you are already deceived is about 99.9%!

I want you to awaken to a fact that is clearly found in the Bible and it reveals what will happen in the Judgment. Many are going to judgment thinking they are saved and discover they are not saved and have been deceived! I believe the following few verses are the most frightening found in the Bible. Jesus said, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and*

in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" [Matthew 7:21-23].

Think about this! These poor individuals were certainly deceived! They lived their lives thinking they were saved! But in fact, they were not! What a horrible thing to happen!

Look closely at what our Lord is saying that will happen in the judgment. First, these people are coming to the judgment seat of Christ. Jesus is the Judge! Secondly, there are many that came before Him. Thirdly, they were professing Christians! They called Jesus Lord! Fourthly, not only were they Christians, but they were actively involved, zealous Christians. No bench warmers here! They were active participants in the things of God. They prophesied in His Name! They cast out devils in His Name! They performed many wonderful works in His Name! However, Jesus said, "I never knew you!" They were deceived!! Can you imagine serving God, being faithful to church attendance, faithful in giving and tithing, supporting missions, casting out devils, prophesying and wind up at the judgment lost?

As I thought on these things an old song by Jim Ed Brown came to mind. I could only remember a couple of lines and they are powerful. It went something like this, "Sorry I never knew you. I find no record of your birth. Sorry, I never knew you. Go and serve the one that you served down on earth."

Deceived! They may have been church members but Jesus said they were "workers of iniquity". Iniquity means: "illegality, without law, lawless, wickedness". These poor professing Christians thought they would be saved although they lived wicked, lawless lives!

Some teach that when you heed the call of a minister to come forward and be saved, you are eternally saved no matter how you might live your life from then on. They teach as long as you stay in church, you will receive great rewards in Heaven. However, if you leave the church and go back into the world, you are still saved because once you're saved, you're always saved. You lose your rewards they say, but you still have eternal life! This all sounds ridiculous to serious Bible students, but it is taught on a wide scale.

I have had the unpleasant experience to attend funerals of individuals who lived very wicked lives and died in that condition. In some cases I have actually heard the minister comfort the family of the deceased by telling them their loved one is in "a better place now". He or she is in Heaven now because they joined the church when they were a child. The ministers that teach this nonsense are deceived! If you believe such teaching, you are definitely deceived! "Workers of Iniquity" will not enter into eternal life according to the Lord Jesus!

Today, deception is everywhere! It's a Pandemic: Radio, TV, the internet, modern perverted Bible versions, churches. Yes, many churches have become the very seat of Satan! Satan is a preacher and always has been! As a matter of fact we find Satan preaching in the Garden of Eden to Eve! He preached to Jesus in the wilderness! He preached to the early Christians, and he is preaching today. Satan can appear as an angel of light and his ministers are transformed as ministers of righteousness. He is the Master of Deception!

I believe we are in the last of the last days. In the end time the Bible predicts a time of great apostasy. The term apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia* ("ἀποστασία") meaning "rebellion", "state of apostasy",

"abandonment", or "defection". Here is the prophesy, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away"* [2Timothy 3:1-5].

In addition the Bible predicts they will not endure sound teaching. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables"* [2Timothy 4:3-4].

I have been referred to as an "Old School" preacher. This term "Old School" is used as a derogatory term to identify ministers and churches that hold to holiness, godly living and separation from the world. Many of the modern ministries are involved in New Age teachings and the Charismatic movement portrayed on television and the internet. They try to imitate the latest tactics to present Jesus and His Message as being cool and fashionable. Their dress, stage settings, mood lighting, songs and preaching is all designed to attract the worldly. They are of the world, the world hears them, and follows them! I thank God, He separated me from them! I am "Very Old School"!

God has forewarned us of the many ways we can be deceived. I want to share a few scriptures with you in hopes they will awaken you to be very diligent and careful during these perilous times. Keep this in mind. According

to the Lord Jesus, the chances of you being deceived are very great. He said, "Many will be deceived"!

Several years ago, the Lord gave me 4 ways a professing Christian could be deceived.

#1 You Can Deceive Yourself:

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" [Galatians 6:3]. Just thinking you are saved doesn't make you saved. Remember, Jesus said they would come before Him saying they prophesied in His name, cast out devils in His name, and performed many wonderful works; but they were not saved. Repeating the "Sinners Prayer" (which is not in the Bible), shaking the preachers hand, and joining the church will not save you! Jesus said, "You must be born again"! Don't deceive yourself!

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" [James 1:22]. How many times have you heard the Word preached, cried "Amen" but failed to walk in what was preached? You come to church, hear the Word and leave the same way you came in. You hear how you should lay aside the weights and sin that easily overwhelms you, but you never do it. You hear how Christians should support the preaching of the Gospel. You hear about missions and that you should give that the poor may be fed and clothed, but you leave without being moved to action. If this describes you, you are deceiving your own self!

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life

everlasting” [Galatians 6:7-8]. Be not deceived! You will reap whatever you sow! When sowing is mentioned today by the tele-evangelists and others, they are referring to you giving them your money. “They want you to sow into their ministry.” However, these particular verses are not referring to money. We sow many things in our lifetime. Some good, most not so good. Our words are seeds! We can sow harsh, cruel, discouraging words, or we can sow encouraging comforting words. We can curse, or we can bless! Sowing to the flesh is living a sinful life. Sowing to the Spirit is walking and living in the Spirit. Don’t deceive yourself, if you are living a sinful life, you will reap corruption or death.

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” [Luke 6:38]. In this scripture Jesus is speaking about money. You may believe and accept other scriptures, but what about this one. Do you give? You may want God to bless you, but you don’t give. According to Jesus, you must give first, then you will receive! We can sow money. Here is the scripture for that. *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” [2Corinthians 9:6-7].* Don’t deceive yourself! Give, and you will reap!

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit

the kingdom of God" [1Corinthians 6:9]. Be not deceived! The Apostle Paul is using very plain speech in this passage. Are you guilty of any of the things Paul listed? If you are, Apostle Paul said you would not inherit the kingdom of God! Today, the common idea is for a woman and man to live together for awhile to see if they are compatible before they marry. The Bible calls this lifestyle fornication! It's a sin! If you are "shacked up" with someone, you are a fornicator and you will not inherit God's kingdom. However, God's Grace is available if you repent and forsake your sin! Apostle Peter warned, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" [1Peter 4:18]. Hebrews 12:1 instructs us to, ". . . lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us". Don't deceive yourself!

#2 Man Will Deceive You

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" [Matthew 24: 4-5]. Notice, Jesus said men would deceive you and they would come in His Name! They would declare that Jesus is the Christ, yet they would be deceivers! Millions of people today are being deceived because they believe everyone preaching "Jesus" is of God. But the Bible says we are suppose to "try the spirits" to see if they are from God! You are supposed to search the scriptures to see if what preachers are saying is true. Most accept whatever is said without comparing it to the Word of God! Recently I listened to a well known, well respected prosperity preacher for about ten minutes. Within those ten minutes he misled the people twice when

defining a word in the Bible. Don't accept what man says! Check it out for yourselves! Don't let men deceive you!

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" [Matthew 24:11]. Jesus said many would be deceived by false prophets. Although it is very evident when a prophet speaks something that doesn't come to pass, he is a false prophet! The internet and television is dominated with these kind! Although it is rare, a false prophet could speak something that actually comes to pass, but that doesn't mean his teaching is true. God's Word warns us about these kind also: *"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" [Deuteronomy 13:1-3].* The word "proveth" means to test. Sometimes God tests His people to see if they will follow after prophecies, signs and wonders or God's Word!

"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" [Matthew 24:24]. Here again, Jesus warns of false Christ's and false prophets that can actually show great signs and wonders! The word "Christ" means anointed one. Therefore false Christ's are false anointed ones! Please remember, these false prophets will preach some Truth, but it will be perverted. It is also possible that some of their prophecies will come to pass! The anointing upon them is false and powered by the demoniac!

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" [2Timothy 3:13]. The deception is not going to get any better! These evil men will continue to wax worse and worse. This is what we are witnessing today! They are deceived, and they will deceive whoever they can.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" [Colossians 2:8-10]. Don't allow these men to persuade you that they have revelations beyond the Word of God, or that you have to have them to interpret the Bible for you. Philosophers seek for truth. A real Christian has found the Truth! The Truth is only found in One Person and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only answer to fallen man. God the Father can only be found in Jesus Christ. When one searches for and expects to find God in the religion of Islam, New Age, Judaism, Mormonism, Catholicism, Buddhism, or any other religion, they have been deceived! No human being can be saved without acknowledging that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" [2John 1:7]. Apostle John is clear. Many of the preachers will not teach that Jesus was a man that suffered the horrible death of the cross and was resurrected from the dead. Many teach that Jesus was God incarnated instead of God manifested in the flesh. There is a great deal of difference in these two words! I have heard preachers say, "the Word was made flesh so His flesh was God." If

that were so, He could have never died! If Christ was not a man, He could not have qualified as our mediator of the New Covenant. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* [1Timothy 2:5]. I might also add, if Jesus Christ is not risen from the dead and alive today, we have no hope of eternal life.

The following verses we find in Romans gives a clear description of the deceivers we are contending with today. We may see them as friendly, well spoken, sincere men and women, but God reveals, *"Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes"* [Romans 3:13-18].

As you continue to read from Romans chapter three, verse nineteen, we find their message described in detail. In the early church these men were Jews that had accepted Christ but were preaching that Christians must keep the Law to be saved! This deception is still preached today! Beware of men and women that desire to bring you under the Law of the Old Covenant. They are deceivers! If any man dares to preach a message contrary to what you read in these next few verses, they are under the curse of Apostle Paul (See Galatians Chapter One). Read the next verses carefully! *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law*

and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" [Romans 3:19-24]. By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God's sight! Paul warned Christians in Galatia of the very same! *"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" [Galatians 5:4].* They had fell from Grace! Don't let any man deceive you!

#3 Satan Will Deceive You

Obviously Satan uses man to deceive. He makes them appear to be ministers of righteousness but they are "Messengers of Satan"! Satan himself can appear as an angel of light or an apostle of Christ! He is the Master of deceit!

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" [Revelation 12:9]. Satan has deceived the whole world! Paul described him this way, *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" [2Corinthians 4:4].* Paul says, he is the god of this world! Think about it! The whole world lies in deception. Multitudes are on their way to hell, lost without Christ! Paul places this blame on one entity, and that my friend is Satan! The only human beings on earth

that are not deceived are the blood washed, Holy Ghost filled, born again Christians who have resisted Satan's ploys to deceive them! Realizing this should motivate every believer to do all they can to spread the true Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

I know some of you are worried about Satanism and witchcraft. However, you should be more concerned about what you are hearing every Sunday morning in churches; and on the internet and television every day and night! Certainly, Satan is in Satanism and witchcraft! This should be obvious to anyone! But here is what the Bible warns concerning the working of Satan and how he deceives. Read closely, *"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; whose end shall be according to their works"* [2Corinthians 11:13-15].

For years I have preached and warned that Satan is a preacher! He disguises himself and appears to be your best friend. I have been condemned by carnal men and women concerning this statement. Nevertheless, the Holy Scriptures do not lie! In the above verses Apostle Paul reveals that Satan can appear as an angel of light, and his ministers (demons) are transformed as ministers of righteousness! They preach a perversion of righteousness, but very few today can detect it!

This perverted righteousness is how Satan deceived the Galatian church! They thought they would be fulfilling righteousness to go back under the Law! It was and is a lie! Satan possesses and anoints men and women to pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I'm warning you! Be careful who you listen to! Always remember, they will

preach Jesus, but not the Jesus of the Bible. They will preach holiness and righteousness, but it will not be found within the Apostles teaching in the New Testament. Their message will concern the flesh (the outward man) not the spirit (the inward man). Don't let Satan deceive you!

#4 God Will Deceive You

"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" [2Thessalonians 2:11-12]. This is by far the saddest of all the ways to be deceived! *"God will send a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie!"* Why would our loving and kind God have to resort to this! My answer is God has done everything possible to save mankind! He sacrificed His Own Son for the Sins of the people. Further, He gives us His Holy Spirit to lead us, to guide us, to show us things to come, and to pray for us. Verse 10 reveals the beginning of this decision God has made, ". . . Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved". They could have been saved! All they needed to do was receive and obey the Truth! But they would not!

If after hearing the Truth preached, you reject it and live according to your own lusts there is a consequence that you must pay. God will deceive you and allow you to believe a lie and be damned! Many today are living ungodly lives bound with drugs, alcohol and sexual pleasures believing Heaven will be their home. They have refused the Truth and God has no choice but to fulfill His Word. It doesn't have to be this way! Sad, so very, very sad