

THE MATHEMATICS OF DECEPTION



Photo: marketplace.secondplace.com

The most dangerous deceptions are those that are closest to the truth. The winds of spiritual deception are blowing around the world today, but they are the same deceptions that have been seen before in previous centuries, only disguised in different forms or names.

‘What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is **nothing new under the sun.**’
Ecclesiastes 1:9

Several years ago I preached a message about deception using balloons. I blew up the balloons before the service and wrote a different false teaching on each one.

During the sermon I tossed the balloons into the audience. Then I read off the particular false teaching and had the person with that balloon read a scripture that revealed the truth on that issue.

God has given the church the whole Bible and spokesmen (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to **speak the truth in love** so that the church will grow up and not

‘be **blown** here and there **by every wind of teaching** and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming’ - Ephesians 4:14

The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits** and things taught by demons. - 1 Timothy 4:1

In a future message we will look at many specific false or unbalanced teachings that have circulated in the church but for now we will look at the mathematical table which can help us illustrate some types of deception by various groups.



They **add** to the **Holy Bible** - God warns about adding to the scriptures, which is actually subtracting from God’s Word, as it implies the Bible is not sufficient for our teaching in eternal truths. - Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19

- * **Jehovah Witnesses** have their own Bible, the New World translation (1950) in which they change the words to suit their own doctrines.
- * **Book of Mormon** has fanciful history and archaeological errors etc. Joseph Smith was into the occult dark forces when he began this cult.
- * **Muslims** call their book the 'Holy' Koran but it is filled with moral, historical and factual errors. Unlike the Holy Bible, it does not have hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled. Mohammed was afraid he had gotten his initial revelations from demons, but his family convinced him otherwise. You be the judge :)
- * The **Catholic Bible** omits #2 of the Ten Commandments which speaks of making or bowing down to graven images or idols. (they add the Apocrypha books, 2 Maccabees mentions praying for the dead and paying indulgences for purgatory.) Just to be fair.....Protestants have their own scripture twisting ideas too in order to suit their pet doctrines. Some seminaries have no teaching on false religions and spend more time studying what theologians think about the Bible rather than studying the Bible.
- * **Judaism**....many use the Kabbalah, the Talmud and Zohar which contain teachings used by Satanists, witches, warlocks and pagans. It is a mystical interpretation of the Torah.
- * **New Age manual...A Course in Miracles** (A nearly 1200 page volume said to have been dictated to atheist psychologist Helen Schucman by a voice who later revealed himself as Jesus. It is known as The New Age Bible. It is obvious that this was 'another Jesus'. It is filled with ideas from Gnosticism, Christian Science, occultism, pantheism. It is clearly demonic in origin. The stated purpose of this book is to 'correct the errors of of Christianity.'

Here are some ideas expressed in it:

There is no sin, and guilt and suffering have no purpose. A slain Christ has no meaning. The journey to the cross is the last useless journey. God is in everything. We all live in heaven with God. Our lives on earth are just a bad dream. Each of us is exactly and entirely the way God created us to be: sinless and wholly innocent. Sin, guilt, death, judgment, propitiatory atonement and other biblical doctrines are 'attack' philosophies. They stand in the way of spiritual progress and the realization of our true divine nature.

The Course in Miracles is designed to train a person to think differently over the course of one year of daily practice lessons. By lesson 96 students are taught that 'Salvation comes from my own self.'

The author of this course spent the last years of her life in one of the blackest psychotic depressions an acquaintance (Father Groeschel) had ever seen. He said that it was almost frightening to be with her and observed the results of one who denied the reality of suffering.

Robert H. Schuller promoted the book at his Crystal Cathedral church and it was highly touted by New Ager Oprah Winfrey. (Note: the New Age is merely the revival of eastern mysticism and the occult and pagan beliefs from the distant past.

God used Schuller to lead many to Christ, especially in his earlier years on TV.

After practicing a type of meditation, he had an out of body experience in 1977. (Meditation where one empties their mind can open one up to exposure to deceiving spirits.) After he built the Crystal Cathedral he came out with his book, Self-esteem, the New Reformation where he said that the greatest need of man is self-esteem. As with many in the emergent church movement, his doctrine omitted talk of man's sinfulness and the importance of the blood of Jesus.

Schuller's sermons were encouraging, but more man centered than God centered and filled with mostly positive thinking, psychology and a drift to mind science beliefs.

A few years ago he confessed to his grandson Bobby, that he wished that he had preached the Bible more. Schuller was the grandfather of the seeker sensitive movement which was adopted by people like Rick Warren and Bill Hybels.

Their intentions may have been good, to present Christ and the gospel in a less judgmental way. However, when a pastor only gives the people what they want and ignores what they need, **the gospel of self and this present life supersedes total commitment to Jesus Christ and his eternal kingdom purposes.**

We all know of families who gave their child all they wanted and ended up with a selfish spoiled brat. Church leaders must raise up disciplined followers of Jesus who can resist false beliefs and not live for themselves but for the glory of Jesus.

(Note: I was at Hope College at the same time with two of Robert H. Schuller's oldest children, Sheila and Robert A. Schuller and I have studied their family story over the years. Bobby Schuller is much more Biblical in his preaching than his grandfather and more humble) I love to watch his preaching and the worship which can be seen on **You Tube: Shepherds Grove Presbyterian Church**. It is a Spirit filled church which has monthly healing meetings.

What about the Apocrypha? It does give historical and cultural insights during the period between the Old and New Testaments but has things therein that contradict the truth and consistency of the accepted canon of the 66 books.

They **subtract** from who **Jesus** is - He is fully God and fully man- John 1:1, 1 John 4:2

Paul the apostle warns about those who preach '**another Jesus**'- 2 Corinth. 11:4

- * **Christian Science**.....Jesus is a divine idea
- * **Freemasonry**.....Jesus is a man like us
- * **Islam**.....Jesus is just a prophet and did not die on the cross
- * **Mormons**.....Jesus is a brother to Lucifer
- * **Jehovah Witness**.....Jesus is a god and Michael the archangel
- * **Eastern mysticism/ New Age**.....Jesus was just one of many Christs who have reached stages of enlightenment by tapping into secret wisdom from sages and ascended masters (some teach that Jesus went to Tibet during his hidden years where he gained special knowledge and power).

Liberal theologians deny that Jesus did miracles in the past or was born of a virgin.

Some others believe in the Jesus of the past but place limits on him now.

They say that the days of miracles are over and have ceased because we now have the

Bible. They are known as cessationists. They misinterpret the 'perfect which has come' in 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 as God's written Word. It actually refers to the time when Jesus returns and we will see Him face to face.

Jesus addressed such unbelief in his day

'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.'

- Matthew 22:29 NIV

I respect John MacArthur's serious study of God's Word and highly recommend his views on discipleship as written in 'The Gospel According to Jesus'. However, his book 'Strange Fire' does not accurately describe the Bible's views on the miraculous and the gifts of the Spirit and promotes the cessation of the Holy Spirit miracle gifts. He ignores the thousands of documented miracles around the world and just speaks of a few extreme examples and leaders in the charismatic church. MacArthur has been positively influenced in his great expository preaching through the D. Martyn Lloyd Jones but ignores Dr. Jones' belief in the supernatural gifts.

'The Bible is not given to replace miracles but to correct abuses.' - D. Martyn Lloyd Jones

* Jesus said that signs and wonders would follow his believers, but we should not run after signs. Let us be **God chasers** instead. - Psalm 27:4, 8 / 42:1-2

X

False religions multiply what one must do to be saved from their sins.

All of them require man to do **good works** in order to get back into God's good favor. The good news of Jesus coming to earth and dying as a perfect sacrifice for our sins is what God did for us. He reached down to us!

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man man appeared, **not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of **regeneration** and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs, according to the hope of eternal life. - Titus 3:4-7 NKJV

The work that man must do is to **repent and believe the good news**, to believe in the one that has been sent (Jesus). - Luke 24:46-47, John 6:29

Ephesians 2:1-10 summarizes God's plan for us.

GUILT.....GRACE.....GRATITUDE.....GOOD WORKS - John Calvin

Faulty religion says.....DO

God's plan says.....DONE!



They divide themselves from Christ and his true followers. They see their group as the only true representative of God on earth. Muslim terrorists shout Allahu Akbar (God is Great) before they commit murderous acts because they believe theirs is the way to paradise. **Cults develop an 'Us versus the whole world mentality'** and often keep their groups in **isolation**. Defectors are treated as though they were dead and told that they are headed to hell. I have noticed that even in the various Protestant groups there are certain streams of groups that do not associate much with others of different opinions.

Extreme fundamentalists -

Their greatest fear is compromise so they amplify the teaching about 'separation'. They take pride in looking for reasons to accuse and expose any persons or groups they disagree with. They proclaim to believe every word in the Bible and yet discount supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Liberals and some evangelicals - **Their fear is to be seen as narrow minded and intolerant** so they have fellowship in interfaith meetings with other religions but not to convert them. Some have gone to the **heretical doctrine of inclusion**, where everybody goes to heaven. They place their doctrine of ultimate reconciliation of all persons on just one verse such as Colossians 1:20. However, they ignore the clear teachings of Jesus that not all will be saved from the wrath to come. They side with the LGBTQ agenda but ignore the Bible's clear teaching on the subject. **jesusreigns.net** - John Beckerink

