What the Bible Says About Being Deceived

Introduction: **Matthew 24.4,5** this lesson is about being deceived. Webster defines it as “the Act of being deceived.” He adds it has to do with fraud, subterfuge, trickery, chicanery, dishonesty and the intend to mislead. There is a lot of deception in the world. Newspapers carry reports of “con-men” duping people out of large amounts of money. The Bible has a lot of say about deception. Though the word “deception” is not in the KYJ, some form of it is found 126 times. Much of what is says is as a warning. Jesus warns against being deceived by others in Matthew 24.4,5. Paul warms about self deception in **1 Corninthians 3.18**. In this lesson we will notice how deception can occur.

**A) A man is deceived it he is a hearer of the word and not a doer, James 1.22-25**

1. A lot of people equate knowing with doing. Knowing is essential but some times people stop short of actually doing.

2. People who know the plan of salvation, know to abstain from evil, know to help those who are less fortunate.

3. See the tragedy of this situation in **Matthew 7.26-27.**

**B) A man is deceived if he says he has no sin**

1. **1 John 1.8-10** points out the need of forgiveness.

2. But some people don’t really think they have done anything worthy of eternal death. Small sins don’t really count.

2. God says everyone has sinned against Him, **Romans 3.23.**

**C) A man is deceived if he thinks he is something when he is nothing, Galatians 6.1-3**

1. Some people think they are invincible and cannot e overtaken in the fault of his brother.

2. Warnings are for a reason, it can happen, **1 Corinthians 10.12.**

**D) A man is deceived if he thinks he is as wise as God**

1. Some people have too big an ego, think they are smarter than God. **1 Corinthians 3.18,19.**

2. Man has come up with things not authorized in the Bible because they think they know better than God. Means of raising money, instrumental music, sprinkling, etc.

**E) A man is deceived when he seems to be religious and does not bridle his tongue, James 1.26**

1. Religious people can gossip, tell lies, course jesting, etc.

2. **James 3.1-10** goes into more detail.

**F) A man is deceived if he thinks the will not reap what he sows, Galatians 6.7-8**

1. Look at King David, he committed adultery and murder. He reaped division in his own household, pain and suffering.

2. At times there is a direct correlation between our actions and suffering in this life.

3. At times we may think we have gotten by with it, but we will reap on the Day of Judgment, **2 Corinthians 5.10.**

**G) A man is deceived if he thinks the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God**

1. People often try to excuse sin, redefine it, ignore it, all in the attempt to live in sin and soothe their conscience. Alternative lifestyle is one such label.

2. God is not fooled, **1 Corinthians 6.9,10.**

2. Without holiness, no man shall see God, **Hebrews 12.13.**

Conclusion: Let us be honest with ourselves and God. Admit our sins, repent, confess, be baptized.