

BENDED KNEE



A SIMPLE AND PURE DEVOTION TO JESUS CHRIST

PART ONE

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

When we look at the whole council of God, we realize that deception is the greatest danger of the end times [1]. As a missionary, one of the challenges we must continually face is dealing with people who are greatly deceived. In Siberia, the worship of creation, Buddhism, and the Russian Orthodox Church hinder them from seeing their need for Christ, as does the health and wealth gospel coming from America.

Among the Native Americans, deception is rooted in their traditions, creation worship, and the Native American church with its demonic characteristics and practices. That is not to say that there is no deception elsewhere in America. Overall, more and more Americans are deceived by having **no place in their lives for God**.

Although Satan's goal is to deceive the whole world, [2] Paul's concern was for deception in the local church coming from "false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ." [3] Years ago, we were in a church that hired someone on staff who claimed to be a believer but was not, bringing false teaching into the church. This intrusion of the ordained but unsaved may be more common than we think. They do not announce their deception because they are deceived themselves. In the context of the last days, Paul writes, "But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." [4]

How did the serpent deceive Eve? The father of lies convinced her there was

something better than what she had with God. Today, for example, the health and wealth gospel, the church growth movement, Freudian psychology cloaked in biblical terms, contemporary prayer, books such as "Jesus Calling" and theological elitism, to mention a few, would all claim there is something better for you than just a simple and pure devotion to Christ. In my nearly 60 years of Christianity, I have been personally challenged by those representing what is mentioned above.

The church in America is in decline today, and deception plays a part in that, extending from biblical ignorance to biblical elitism. By the grace of our Lord, passages like Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, 2 Timothy 3, 2 Peter 2, 3, and Revelation 12, 20 should be understood as God's warnings to believers in the church age. God, in His great love and care for us, warns us of what we face in "this present evil age."^[5] In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul expresses his fear, what the danger is, and the source of the danger but does not go into detail on how to avoid the deception that will rob you of a simple and pure devotion to Christ. In this series, the Lord willing, we will cover from the Scriptures how to avoid deception.

All articles in this publication are written by Pastor Tom Watson unless stated otherwise.

[1] Matthew 24:1-5

[2] Revelation 12:9

[3] 2 Corinthians 11:3

[4] 2 Timothy 3:13

[5] Galatians 1:4

Bended Knee International
P. O. Box 1325
Roanoke, Texas 76262

www.bendedknee.org
© 2024 Bended Knee International
All rights reserved
