

Searching the Scriptures / 19 / The Deceitfulness Of Sin / Part 4

Let us consider the Biblical notion that all sin is based on deceit, or based on a lie. Deceit is the opposite of truth and is, therefore, the opposite of the Word of Truth, the Bible. In our time together we want to look at the following:

1. Deception in the Garden
2. Deception in Man
3. Only God’s Truth Can Overcome Deception

Deception in the Garden

Sin first reared its ugly head in the least likely of places – a perfect environment where two individuals who had been created perfectly by God and in His image existed in perfect fellowship with their Maker. Unfortunately, this idyllic situation was short-lived as their Creator presented them with a test, which they tragically failed, as we read in Gen 3:11-14: *“And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”* At the very onset we see how rapidly and to what extent sin manifested itself in the form of lies, and blaming others. 1 Tim 2:14 says, *“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”*

2 Cor 11:3 comments further, *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”* I do not mean to suggest that Adam did not sin – he most certainly did – but he was not deceived: he knew full well what he was doing. We understand this because when Eve *“took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”* The awareness of their physical nakedness merely served to underscore their spiritual nakedness, which meant they had died spiritually, and deserved the just punishment of an eternity in Hell for their disobedience. This in turn compelled them to foolishly think they could DO SOMETHING on their own to avoid Hell – this is the reason they sewed fig leaves together in an attempt to hide their spiritual nakedness.

Deception in Man

Next let’s look at how the deceptiveness of sin affected every human being born after Adam and Eve. Rom 5:12 explains, *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* Rom 7:11 states, *“For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.”*

We find in Rev 12:9, *“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.”* Satan acquired control of this present universe by default, owing to the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. That is why the Bible states in John 8:44, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and*

abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” 1 John 1:8 declares, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

2 Cor 2:11 tells why this is: *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* The most fundamental deception of sin denies the very existence of sin itself. 2 Cor 4:3-4 gives us more insight, *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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.”*

Only God’s Truth Can Overcome Deception

In Tit 3:3 we find these words that illustrate the life of someone who had not been regenerated: *“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”* This is an apt portrait of a “natural man”, or a non-believer: *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Heb 3:10 describes deception as a matter of the heart: *“Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.”* This is actually speaking about the congregation in the wilderness – the nation or people of God – who were considered by God to be the apple of His eye. We also know from the Bible that only those Israelites under the age of 20, actually arrived safely in the Promised Land, a beautiful picture of Heaven. In 1 Pet 2:25 God likens a believer to sheep going astray (the condition of every human being) which is the same meaning as to err in heart, *“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”* 2 Cor 4:6 highlights the necessity of salvation, by the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior for sinners: *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

May God have mercy of us to see how easily we are deceived by our sin, and may we flee to the Bible and to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as our only covering for sin, by His righteousness alone.