

Deception

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The Excelsior Springs Church

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I. Definitions

1. Deception *n.* - 1. The action of deceiving or cheating.
2. Deceive *v.* - 1. *trans.* To ensnare; to take unawares by craft or guile; to overcome, overreach, or get the better of by trickery; to beguile or betray into mischief or sin; to mislead. *Obs.* (or *arch.*) 2. To cause to believe what is false; to mislead as to a matter of fact, lead into error, impose upon, delude, 'take in'. b. *absol.* To use deceit, act deceitfully. c. *refl.* To allow oneself to be misled; to delude oneself.
3. Deceit *n.* - 1. The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud, cheating, false dealing.
4. The following words will also be examined and defined during this study: deceitful, subtlety, subtle, crafty, craftiness, beguile, guile, insidious, cunning, wile, delude, and sleight.

II. Deceitfulness is wicked and is natural to mankind.

1. Deceit is a characteristic of the natural man (the reprobate, the wicked) (**Psa 10:7 c/w Rom 3:13-14; Psa 36:1-3 c/w Rom 3:18**).
2. Deceit *n.* - 1. The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud, cheating, false dealing.
3. Subilty is a characteristic of children of the devil (**Act 13:10**).
 - A. Subtlety *n.* - 1. Of persons, the mind, its faculties or operations: Acuteness, sagacity, penetration: in modern use chiefly with implication of delicate or keen perception of fine distinctions or nice points. 3. Craftiness, cunning, esp. of a treacherous kind; guile, treachery. 4. An ingenious contrivance; a crafty or cunning device; an artifice; freq. in unfavourable sense, a wily stratagem or trick, something craftily invented.
 - B. The children of this world are wiser than the children of light (**Luk 16:8**).
4. God hates deceitful people (**Psa 5:6**).
 - A. God takes deceivers in their own craftiness (**Job 5:12-13**).
 - i. Craftiness *n.* - The quality of being crafty. 1. Skilfulness, cleverness; aptitude in a handicraft. *Obs.* (last used in 1440) 2. Artfulness in deceiving or overreaching.
 - ii. Crafty *adj.* - 1. Strong, powerful, mighty. *Obs. rare.* (last used in 1340) 3. In bad sense (the current use): a. Of persons or their faculties, etc.: Skilful in devising and carrying out underhand or evil schemes; cunning, artful, wily.
 - B. God will cut off early deceitful men (**Psa 55:23**).
 - C. As it is with all other sinners, there is still hope for the deceitful man if He is the object of God's grace (**Pro 29:13**).
5. Deceit is found in our hearts by nature (**Mar 7:21-23**).
6. But deceit should not be found in a Christian.
 - A. There is no guile in the spirit of a justified man (**Psa 32:1-2; Rev 14:4-5**).
 - i. Guile *n.* - 1. Insidious cunning, deceit, treachery.
 - ii. Insidious *adj.* - Full of wiles or plots; lying in wait or seeking to entrap or ensnare; proceeding or operating secretly or subtly so as not to excite

suspicion; sly, treacherous, deceitful, underhand, artful, cunning, crafty, wily.

- B. There is no guile in a good man (**Joh 1:47**).
 - C. Jesus Christ is our example: no guile was found in His mouth (**1Pe 2:22**).
 - D. The apostles were also examples of men who used not deceit and guile (**1Th 2:3**).
 - E. When a man becomes a Christian he should lay aside all guile (**1Pe 2:1**).
 - F. If we want to live a good life we must keep our tongues from speaking guile (**1Pe 3:10**).
7. In a society full of deceit and guile, even church members can fall prey to it (**Psa 55:11-14**).
- A. Deceit is a sin for which a Christian will be excluded from church membership (**Rom 1:29**).
 - B. We should not tolerate deceitful people in our house or in God's house (**Psa 101:7; Psa 24:3-5**).

III. The warning to be not deceived

1. *Many* people will be deceived (**Mat 24:5, 11**).
 - A. Deceive *v.* - 1. *trans.* To ensnare; to take unawares by craft or guile; to overcome, overreach, or get the better of by trickery; to beguile or betray into mischief or sin; to mislead. *Obs.* (or *arch.*) 2. To cause to believe what is false; to mislead as to a matter of fact, lead into error, impose upon, delude, 'take in'. b. *absol.* To use deceit, act deceitfully. c. *refl.* To allow oneself to be misled; to delude oneself.
 - B. Delude *v.* - 1. *trans.* To play with (any one) to his injury or frustration, under pretence of acting seriously; to mock, esp. in hopes, expectations, or purposes; to cheat or disappoint the hopes of. *Obs.* 3. To befool the mind or judgement of, so as to cause what is false to be accepted as true; to bring by deceit into a false opinion or belief; to cheat, deceive, beguile; to impose upon with false impressions or notions.
 - C. Many *adj.* - A. *adj.* The adjectival designation of great indefinite number.
 - D. This means that the likelihood of being deceived is great.
2. God allows people to be deceived when He chooses to (**Job 12:16**).
3. Even the elect can be deceived (**Mat 24:24**).
4. Beware of those that would try to deceive you (**Mat 24:4**).
 - A. Heed *n.* - 1. Careful attention, care, observation, regard.
 - B. We must pay close attention to what we accept and believe because deception is accomplished by trickery.
 - C. If we are not careful, we will not recognize the deception and be taken by it.
5. We are warned repeatedly to "be not deceived" (**1Co 6:9; 1Co 15:33; Gal 6:7**).
 - A. Deceived *ppl. adj.* - Deluded, imposed upon, misled, mistaken, etc.: see the verb.
 - B. All of these verses make it clear that we have a tendency to be deceived into thinking that sinful living does not have severe consequences.
 - C. This type of deception is largely *self deception* (more on that later).
 - D. We trick ourselves into thinking that we can sin and not be judged by the church for it because they won't find out (**1Co 6:9**).
 - i. Be not deceived.
 - ii. Your sin will find you out (**Num 32:23**).

- iii. Some men's sins get exposed and judged right away, and the rest will be judged in due time (**1Ti 5:24-25**).
 - E. We trick ourselves into thinking that we can hang out with ungodly people and their ways will not rub off on us (**1Co 15:33**).
 - i. Be not deceived.
 - ii. A companion of fools shall be destroyed (**Pro 13:20**).
 - iii. If we are friends of ungodly people we will learn their ways (**Pro 22:24-25**).
 - F. We trick ourselves into thinking that our foolish decisions will not have negative consequences (**Gal 6:7**).
 - i. Be not deceived.
 - ii. If you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind (**Hos 8:7**).
 - iii. If you sow sin and wickedness, you will reap the same (**Job 4:8**).
- 6. We are commanded to let no man deceive us (**Deut 11:16; Eph 5:6; 1Jo 3:7**).
 - A. This means that it's possible to successfully resist deception.
 - B. God will not command us to do something that is not possible for us to do (**1Jo 5:3; Mat 11:30**).
- 7. We are warned to let no man *beguile* us of our reward through false doctrine (**Col 2:18**).
 - A. *Beguile* v. - 1. *trans.* To entangle or over-reach with guile; to delude, deceive, cheat.
 - B. Deceivers will try to trick us into being burdened by extra-biblical commandments of men (**Col 2:20-22**).
 - C. We must not let them do it (more on how to resist deception later).
- 8. We are commanded to let no man deceive us by *any means* (**2Th 2:3**).
 - A. This means that there are numerous methods of deception.
 - B. We must therefore be able to recognize the many ways men use to deceive in order to resist them.
 - C. This outline is designed to help us do that.
- 9. Don't look down on people who are deceived because we all were deceived at one time (and probably still are in one way or another) before God saved us by His grace (**Tit 3:3-7**).

IV. The nature of deception

- 1. A person who is deceived doesn't recognize that he is deceived.
 - A. The Pharisees who were under the deception of Satan (**Joh 8:44-47**) thought that those that believed in Christ were deceived (**Joh 7:47**).
 - i. It is common for deceived people to think that all but themselves are deceived.
 - ii. This is why it's crucial to be careful to not become deceived, because once a person does, he thinks all others that disagree with him are deceived.
 - iii. It is very hard to reason with a person in such a state.
 - B. This is especially true of an idolater (**Isa 44:17**).
 - i. God has shut his eyes and heart so that he can't see or understand (**Isa 44:18**).
 - ii. Because he doesn't know he is deceived, he doesn't even think to consider his ways (**Isa 44:19**).
 - iii. A deceived man therefore cannot deliver himself from the deception (**Isa 44:20**).

- a. Deceived *adj.* - Deluded, imposed upon, misled, mistaken, etc.
 - b. He needs a preacher to instruct him and show him the error of his ways (**2Ti 2:24-25**).
 - c. He needs God to give him repentance to the acknowledging of the truth (**2Ti 2:25**).
 - d. And lastly, once he is aware of his error, he needs to be willing to repent of it and change his mind and deliver himself from the captivity of Satan (**2Ti 2:26**).
- C. We may not carve idols out of wood today, but if we have them in our hearts we will be under the same judgment of God (**Eze 14:4-5; Col 3:5**).

V. The victims of deception

1. Deceivers often *prey* on peaceful and vulnerable people that are minding their own business (**Psa 35:20**).
 - A. We should *pray* to be delivered from deceitful men (**Psa 43:1; Psa 120:2**).
 - B. It is especially important to pray to be saved from deceivers because by their very nature they are hard to recognize and detect.
 - C. When God's poor saints cry to Him to be delivered from deception, the Lord will save them from it (**Psa 72:12-14; Rom 10:13**).
2. Deceivers often beguile *unstable* people (**2Pe 2:14**).
 - A. Unstable *adj.* - 1. a. Not remaining steadily in the same place; apt to move or be moved about.
 - i. Unstable people are not grounded in the knowledge of the scriptures and are therefore easily swayed (**Eph 4:14**).
 - ii. This is why it's so important to be steadfast and *unmovable* in the faith (**1Co 15:58**).
 - iii. We must be grounded and settled and not *moved* from the hope of the gospel (**Col 1:23**).
 - B. They look for stupid people who are easy targets (**2Ti 3:6**).
 - C. Silly *adj.* - 5. a. Lacking in judgement or common sense; foolish, senseless, empty-headed. 1611 Bible 2 Tim. iii. 6 Of this sort are they which creep into houses, and leade captiue silly women.
 - D. This is why it's imperative to get wisdom from the word of God to avoid being deceived (**Pro 4:5-7; Pro 1:4; Pro 2:10-12**).

VI. Characteristics of deceivers

1. The deceiver is under God's control and can only deceive if God allows him to (**Job 12:16**).
2. Deceivers love telling lies to mislead people (**Psa 52:2-4**).
3. Deceivers don't stay true to their word and make promises that they don't keep when it's not convenient for them to do so (**Gen 31:7-9; Exo 8:29**).
 - A. If you are the kind of person who says he is going to do something and then doesn't do it, you are not in good company.
 - B. Through years of dealing with people, I have learned to manage my expectations.
 - i. I quickly learn who keeps his word (even in little things) and who doesn't.
 - ii. When I'm dealing with a person who doesn't follow through on what he says he is going to do, I don't expect him do what he says he is going to.

- iii. Therefore, I tend to not get disappointed with most people.
 - iv. Only when a faithful and reliable person fails to follow through with his promises do I normally get disappointed.
- 4. When a deceiver is caught, he will usually not admit his guilt, but will rather try to excuse it as a joke (**Pro 26:18-19**).
 - A. I have had people, when confronted, try to say that they were only kidding when they said what they did.
 - B. Such as person will often try to blame the person whom they offended for taking their "joke" seriously.
- 5. Deceivers will often accuse those who tell the truth of deception (**Joh 7:12**).
 - A. No deceit ever came out of Jesus Christ's mouth (**Isa 53:9**).
 - B. So just because someone is accused of being a deceiver doesn't mean that he is.
 - C. We must therefore use sound judgment and discernment to identify deceivers.
- 6. When you find a man who is deceitful, you have found a man that has evil imaginations (**Pro 12:20**).
- 7. A deceitful man is a foolish man (**Pro 14:8**).
- 8. Deceitful people are hypocrites (**Job 15:34-35**).
 - A. Hypocrite *n.* - 1. One who falsely professes to be virtuously or religiously inclined; one who pretends to have feelings or beliefs of a higher order than his real ones; hence generally, a dissembler, pretender.
 - B. False churches are full of hypocrites and deceivers.
 - C. There are plenty of wicked people who put on a show quoting scripture, but they don't keep it, and inwardly they are full of deceit (**Psa 50:16-19**).
 - D. God will tread them down (**Psa 119:118**).
- 9. A man that deceives you hates you (**Pro 26:24; Pro 10:18**).
 - A. Dissemble *v.* - 1. *trans.* To alter or disguise the semblance of (one's character, a feeling, design, or action) so as to conceal, or deceive as to, its real nature; to give a false or feigned semblance to; to cloak or disguise by a feigned appearance.
 - B. He deceives by speaking fair (**Pro 26:25**).
 - i. Fair *adj.* - 1. Beautiful to the eye; of pleasing form or appearance; good-looking. 4. Of language, diction: Elegant. Hence *fair speaker*. 5. a. Of external manifestations, words, promises: Attractive or pleasing at the first sight or hearing; specious, plausible, flattering.
 - ii. When you hear speech that is flattering, or sounds too pleasing, don't believe it (**Pro 26:25**).
 - C. His hatred is covered by deceit (**Pro 26:26**).
 - D. He will only be able to hide it for so long before it is exposed to the whole church (**Pro 26:26**).
- 10. Deceivers will even try to deceive God (**Mal 1:14**).
 - A. God curses such wicked men.
 - B. They may be able to fool other men, but not God.

VII. Satan the Great Deceiver

- 1. Satan is the ultimate deceiver (**Rev 12:9; Rev 20:10; Rev 20:3, 8**).
 - A. If we understand how Satan deceives, we have the blueprint to use to identify other deceivers.

- B. Deception is a chief tactic used by Satan and his followers to cause us to sin (**1Ti 2:14**).
- i. Satan is subtle (**Gen 3:1**).
 - a. Subtle *adj.* - 1. Of thin consistency, tenuous; not dense, rarefied; hence, penetrating, pervasive or elusive by reason of tenuity (now chiefly of odours). 5. Of immaterial things: Not easily grasped, understood, or perceived; intricate, abstruse. 10. Of persons or animals: Crafty, cunning; treacherously or wickedly cunning, insidiously sly, wily. 1535 Coverdale Gen. iii. 1 The serpent was sotyller then all the beastes of the felde.
 - b. Subtle men devise wicked schemes that are hard to detect by the unsuspecting (**2Sa 13:3-5**).
 - ii. Satan has many *wiles* which he employs to deceive (**Eph 6:11**).
 - a. Wile *n.* - 1. A crafty, cunning, or deceitful trick; a sly, insidious, or underhand artifice; a stratagem, ruse. Formerly sometimes in somewhat wider sense: A piece of deception, a deceit, a delusion.
 - b. We must not be ignorant of his *devices* (**2Co 2:11**).
 - c. Device *n.* - 1. The action of devising, contriving, or planning; the faculty of devising, inventive faculty; invention, ingenuity.
 - d. Notice that the words *wiles* and *devices* are both in the plural, which means that Satan has many different tactics that he uses to deceive us.
 - e. We will look at the many methods of deception later in this study.
- C. Satan's most infamous and disastrous deception happened in the garden of Eden.
- i. Satan *beguiled* Eve with his *subtlety* (**Gen 3:13; 2Co 11:3**).
 - a. Beguile *v.* - 1. *trans.* To entangle or over-reach with guile; to delude, deceive, cheat.
 - b. Subtlety *n.* - 1. Of persons, the mind, its faculties or operations: Acuteness, sagacity, penetration: in modern use chiefly with implication of delicate or keen perception of fine distinctions or nice points. 3. Craftiness, cunning, esp. of a treacherous kind; guile, treachery. 4. An ingenious contrivance; a crafty or cunning device; an artifice; freq. in unfavourable sense, a wily stratagem or trick, something craftily invented.
 - c. In other words, Satan deceived and cheated Eve through an ingenious and carefully crafted trick.
 - d. Eve was deceived (**1Ti 2:14**).
 - e. Let's see how Satan accomplished the deception.
 - ii. Satan beguiled Eve using the following tactics:
 - a. He took the form of a serpent, the most subtle of all beasts, to entice her (**Gen 3:1**).
 - b. He began the deception by questioning God's commandment, asking in other words, "did God say that you couldn't eat of every tree in the garden?" (**Gen 3:1**).
 - (i) Satan was the first Bible skeptic and critic.
 - (ii) This type of questioning has the effect of making the other person begin to question what God said.

- (iii) Rather than rebuking the skeptic, Eve plays into his hand by answering him.
 - (iv) Either because of ignorance, confusion, forgetfulness, or being flustered by a talking snake, Eve attempts to paraphrase God's commandment, but ends up adding to it and watering it down.
 - (v) She said that God said that they were not allowed to touch the fruit (**Gen 3:3**), which was an addition to the commandment that was incorrect since they were commanded to dress and keep the trees of the garden which would have required touching them (**Gen 2:15**).
 - (vi) Eve also quotes God as saying "lest ye die" (**Gen 3:3**).
 - (vii) Lest - 1. Used as a negative particle of intention or purpose, introducing a clause expressive of something to be prevented or guarded against;
 - (viii) It is true that not eating the fruit of the tree would prevent and guard against them dying, but Eve's paraphrase did not express the full truth of "in the day that eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (**Gen 2:17**).
 - (ix) Eve was the first Bible reviser.
 - (x) Eve is now in a very vulnerable position.
 - (xi) She doesn't have a clear understanding of the word of God and therefore will not be able to discern truth from error regarding God's commandment.
- c. Satan then moves from questioning the word of God to outright contradicting it, saying "Ye shall not surely die" (**Gen 3:4**).
- d. Next, without giving Eve any time to respond, Satan accuses God of having ulterior motives for giving the commandment, telling her that God was trying to prevent them from becoming as gods, knowing good and evil (**Gen 3:5**).
- (i) This would be tempting to a sinless woman who had limited knowledge and who didn't know evil.
 - (ii) This piques her curiosity.
- e. Satan's work is nearly complete. He has planted the seeds of deception and now Eve runs with it (**Gen 3:6**).
- (i) She stops thinking about God's straight-forward commandment and starts reasoning within herself .
 1. The tree was good for food (lust of the flesh) (**Gen 3:6 c/w 1Jo 2:16**).
 2. It was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes) (**Gen 3:6 c/w 1Jo 2:16**).
 3. It was desired to make one wise (pride of life) (**Gen 3:6 c/w 1Jo 2:16**).
 - (ii) She has been deceived (**1Ti 2:14**).
 1. Deceived *ppl.* - Deluded, imposed upon, misled, mistaken, etc.: see the verb.

2. Deceive *v.* - 1. *trans.* To ensnare; to take unawares by craft or guile; to overcome, overreach, or get the better of by trickery; to beguile or betray into mischief or sin; to mislead.
 3. She went from knowing that God said not to eat of the tree to now being tricked into thinking that it was advantageous for her to do so.
 - (iii) She took the fruit and ate it (**Gen 3:6**).
 - (iv) Though Eve was deceived, she was still guilty of sin (**1Ti 2:14 c/w 1Jo 3:4**).
 - f. Eve is now spiritually dead while she liveth.
 - (i) She was drawn away of her own lust and enticed (**Jam 1:14**).
 - (ii) Her lust conceived and brought forth sin which brought forth death (**Jam 1:15 c/w Gen 2:17**).
- D. When Satan isn't permitted to destroy God's people directly, he will beguile them into sinning so that God will judge them for it.
- i. Satan did this in the garden of Eden as we just learned about.
 - ii. Satan also did this to Israel through the false prophet Balaam.
 - a. Balak the king of Moab hired Balaam to curse Israel, but God would not permit it (**Num 22:1-6, 12**).
 - b. Balaam instead *beguiled* Israel with his *wiles* into committing fornication and idolatry for which God judged them (**Num 25:18 c/w Num 25:1-9 c/w Num 31:16 c/w Rev 2:14**).
 - c. Wile *n.* - 1. A crafty, cunning, or deceitful trick; a sly, insidious, or underhand artifice; a stratagem, ruse. Formerly sometimes in somewhat wider sense: A piece of deception, a deceit, a delusion.
 - d. What Satan cannot accomplish through persecution he will attempt to cause through deception into sin which invites God's judgment on His people.
2. Satan will sometimes use those closest to us to entice us into false religion (**Deut 13:6-7**).
- A. If that happens in the church, we must exclude them and have no pity even if they are immediate family members (**Deut 13:8-11**).
 - i. Showing favoritism or partiality is an open door to deception.
 - ii. Blood cannot run thicker than water in the church.
 - B. Beware of being secretly *enticed* into idolatry (**Job 31:26-28**).
 - i. Job was declaring to God that he was not an idolater, neither in public nor in private.
 - ii. He had not worshipped the sun or the moon (**Job 31:26-27**).
 - a. It was a common practice to worship idols by kissing them (**1Ki 19:18; Hos 13:2**).
 - (i) Idolaters still do this today.
 - (ii) Catholics have kissed the toes off of the statue of "Saint Peter" in the Vatican.
 - b. When the idol was out of reach, such as the sun and moon, the idolater would kiss his hand in homage to it.

- c. "...such deities especially that were out of the reach of their worshippers, as the sun, moon, and stars were, they used to put their hands to their mouths, and kiss them, in token of their worship; just as persons now, at a distance from each other, pay their civil respects to one another..." (John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible, Job 31:27).
- d. "*let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves*: let those that bring their sacrifices, or those that offer them, pay religious worship and adoration to the calves; which they signified by kissing the idols they sacrificed to, either their mouths, or their hands; or, if out of their reach, they kissed their own hands in token of honour to them; which rites were commonly used among the Heathens. Cicero (s) says at Agrigentum, where was a temple of Hercules, where the people not only used to show a veneration to his image by prayers and thanksgivings, but they used to kiss it. So Apuleius (t) speaks of a beautiful virgin, the report of whose beauty brought together a vast number of citizens and strangers; who, amazed at the sight of her, put their right hand to their (sic) mouths, the first finger resting upon the thumb erect, and gave her reverence with religious adoration, as if she had been the goddess Venus herself; and Minutius Felix (u) says of Caecilius, that, observing the image of Serapis (probably much like one of these calves), putting his hand to his mouth, according to the superstitious custom of the common people, with his lips smacked a kiss..." (John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible, Hos 13:2)
- iii. It is in the nature of man to worship *something*.
 - a. Man can easily be *driven* to worship the sun, moon, and stars (**Deut 4:19**).
 - b. Driven ppl. - 1. Urged onward, impelled, etc.: see the verb.
 - c. Given our nature, it is easy for Satan to *entice* us into idolatry using our own natural lusts (**Jam 1:14**).
 - d. We must worship the LORD our God alone and only serve Him (**Mat 4:10**).
- 3. Satan deceives his children into thinking they are children of God.
 - A. Satan is the god of this world (**2Co 4:4**).
 - i. Satan desires more than anything be like God (**Isa 14:14**).
 - ii. Satan desires to be worshipped (**Mat 4:9**).
 - iii. If he can deceive his children into thinking they are God's children, then he can receive worship from them as if he were God.
 - B. The Pharisees were children of the devil (**Joh 8:44**).
 - i. But they thought they were children of God (**Joh 8:41**).
 - ii. By having them think they were children of God, Satan used them to creep into churches and to deceive others to lead them away from the truth (**Act 15:1, 5; Gal 2:4; Jud 1:4**).
 - C. The heathen have always worshipped Satan and his devils (**1Co 10:20**).
 - i. Having most of the world worship him is an accomplishment.

- ii. But a greater accomplishment than that is for the devil to have people who claim to be Christians thinking they are worshipping God in churches that claim to be God's churches who are in fact worshipping Satan in his churches.
- iii. There are *many* children of the devil who do just that (**Mat 7:21-23**).
- iv. Sometimes the wheat and the tares are hard to tell apart (**Mat 13:24-30, 37-43**).

VIII. False prophets and preachers deceive the sheep.

1. Some of them do so by preaching when they have not been sent by God (**Jer 29:8-9**).
2. False ministers walk in *craftiness* and handle the word of God *deceitfully* (**2Co 4:2**).
 - A. Craftiness *n.* - 1. Skilfulness, cleverness; aptitude in a handicraft. *Obs.* 2. Artfulness in deceiving or overreaching.
 - B. Deceitfully *adv.* - In a deceitful manner; with intent to deceive.
 - C. They lie to the flock by not telling them what's in the scriptures.
 - D. They use craftiness to make the Bible appear to be saying something it's not.
 - i. They sometimes do this by using the Hebrew and Greek to lie about what the scripture teaches.
 - ii. They do this because they can't prove their doctrine from the English; if they could, they wouldn't need to go to the Greek.
 - iii. If you hear someone say "In the Greek, that word means...", listen very carefully to what comes next because there's a good chance you're going to get lied to.
 - iv. If they tell you that the Greek word means something different than the word the KJV translators used, they are lying.
 - E. They wrest the scriptures (**2Pe 3:16**).
 - i. Wrest *v.* - I. 1. *trans.* To subject (something) to a twisting movement; to turn or twist. 2. To pull, pluck, drag away, or detach (a person or thing) with a wrench or twist; to twist, tear, or wrench out, etc. 5. To strain or overstrain the meaning or bearing of (a writing, passage, word, etc.); to deflect or turn from the true or proper signification; to twist, pervert c. To put a wrong construction on the words or purport of (a writer); to misinterpret.
 - ii. False teachers twist the sense of words and verses to change meanings.
 - iii. They pluck verses out of context in an attempt to make them teach something contrary to scripture.
 - F. That was how Saul had handled the word of God as a Pharisee, but he renounced that wickedness when he became a Christian and a minister of Jesus Christ.
3. False apostles and ministers are *deceitful* workers (**2Co 11:13**).
 - A. Deceitful *adj.* - Full of deceit; given to deceiving or cheating; misleading, false, fallacious. (As said of things often = *deceptive*.)
 - B. They feign themselves to be ministers of righteousness (**2Co 11:14-15**).
 - C. True ministers on the other hand have an *unfeigned* faith (**2Ti 1:5**).
 - D. Unfeigned *adj.* - 1. Not feigned, pretended, or simulated; sincere, genuine, true, real.
4. Preachers that do the work of the Lord *deceitfully* are cursed (**Jer 48:10**).
5. There are preachers that have ulterior motives for being in the ministry.
 - A. Some are in it for the money (**Tit 1:11**).

- B. Some are in it for the power (**1Pe 5:3 c/w 3Jo 1:9-10**).
 - C. Some are in it for the prestige (**Mat 23:5-7**).
6. There are men out there that lie in wait to deceive (**Eph 4:14**).
- A. This means they know what they are doing, and they are doing it intentionally.
 - B. Don't be naive and think that all false teachers are sincerely wrong.
 - C. Some of them are, but some of them definitely are not.
 - D. These men use *sleight* and *cunning craftiness*.
 - i. Sleight *n.* - 1. Craft or cunning employed so as to deceive; deceitful, subtle, or wily dealing or policy; artifice, strategy, trickery.
 - ii. Magicians trick their audience using *sleight of hand* to make things appear different than they actually are.
 - iii. Cunning *adj.* - 1. a. Possessing knowledge or learning, learned; versed in (*of*) a subject. *Obs.* 5. a. In bad sense: Skilful in compassing one's ends by covert means; clever in circumventing; crafty, artful, guileful, sly. (The prevailing modern sense.)
 - iv. Cunning *n.* - 1. Knowledge; learning, erudition. *Obs.* 5. Now usually in bad sense: Skill employed in a secret or underhand manner, or for purposes of deceit; skilful deceit, craft, artifice. (Cf. craft 4.) b. As a personal quality: Disposition to use one's skill in an underhand way; skilfulness in deceiving, craftiness, artfulness.
 - v. Craftiness *n.* - 1. Skilfulness, cleverness; aptitude in a handicraft. *Obs.* 2. Artfulness in deceiving or overreaching.
 - vi. These false teachers are knowledgeable and clever at hiding their true intentions.
7. Some men who deceive others are themselves deceived (**2Ti 3:13**).
- A. Widespread deception is characteristic of the last days.
 - B. The closer we get to the end, the worse it will get.
8. Those who do not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, but yet claim to be Christians are deceivers (**2Jo 1:7**).
9. There are many deceivers, especially among the Jews (**Tit 1:10**).
- A. Who do you suppose is behind the heresy of Christian Zionism?
 - B. Who do you suppose is behind the heresy of premillennial dispensationalism?

IX. Examples of deceivers

1. Jacob was a deceiver (**Gen 27:12**).
 - A. Jacob's mother connived a plan to deceive Isaac, and Jacob went along with it (**Gen 27:6-14**).
 - i. In such a case a man should not obey the voice of his mother (**Pro 1:8 c/w Act 5:29**).
 - ii. If sinners entice thee, consent thou not (**Pro 1:10**).
 - B. Jacob feigned a false appearance (**Gen 27:15-17**).
 - i. This is how deceivers operate by disguising their true appearance.
 - ii. They are wolves in sheep's clothing (**Mat 7:15**).
 - C. Jacob lied to trick his father (**Gen 27:18-19**).
 - i. This is another classic tactic of deceivers.

- ii. Deceivers speak lies in hypocrisy, pretending to be something they are not **(1Ti 4:2)**.
 - iii. Hypocrisy *n.* - The assuming of a false appearance of virtue or goodness, with dissimulation of real character or inclinations, esp. in respect of religious life or beliefs; hence in general sense, dissimulation, pretence, sham.
- D. Jacob even invoked the Lord's name in his lie to deceive his father **(Gen 27:20)**.
- i. This is using the Lord's name in vain.
 - ii. Beware of people who are quick to say "I swear to God..."
 - iii. One of the easiest ways to deceive people is to do so under a pretence of religion and piety.
 - iv. Why do you think nearly all politicians, no matter how ungodly and corrupt, always say "God bless America"?
 - v. Satan's ministers transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, invoking the name of God to deceive **(2Co 11:13-15)**.
- E. He was able to delude his father because of his age **(Gen 27:21-23)**.
- i. Deceivers often prey on the elderly whose discernment has diminished with age.
 - ii. Be aware that as you age you will be more easily deceived.
 - iii. As you begin to advance in age, if you are wise you will seek the counsel, and accept the help, of those younger than you to aid you with decision making, especially when you are considering buying something.
 - iv. This of course assumes that the younger ones who are willing to help are wise and trustworthy themselves.
- F. Jacob lied again to keep the deception going **(Gen 27:24)**.
- i. One lie always leads to more in order to keep the deception going.
 - ii. Note: if one statement someone makes doesn't sound right, start paying attention.
 - iii. If another statement sounds fishy, you are most likely the victim of deception.
- G. Isaac tried a second time to verify that Jacob was not lying, but failed to do so because of his infirmity **(Gen 27:25-27)**.
- i. Isaac was being wise and not believing every word that was spoken to him **(Pro 14:15; 1Th 5:21)**.
 - ii. Isaac was a good example to us of trying to resist deception, though ultimately he failed because of his failing senses.
 - iii. He should have sought the help of someone else to verify that Jacob was not lying to him **(Pro 15:22)**.
- H. The deception was successful **(Gen 27:28-29)**.
- i. There is a sobering lesson for us here.
 - ii. Isaac was a child of God **(Rom 9:7-8)** and was born of the Spirit **(Gal 4:28-29)**.
 - iii. Isaac also tried hard to discern if he was being deceived.
 - iv. Nevertheless, Isaac was deceived due to his age and infirmity.
 - v. Let this be a warning to us that we too can be deceived, especially as we age.
- I. Jacob accomplished the deception through subtility **(Gen 27:35)**.

- b. Jacob deceived his father Isaac and stole Esau's blessing (**Gen 27:12**) (see above).
- c. Jacob was made to eat of the fruit of his own way and was filled with his own devices (**Pro 1:31**).

X. Methods of deception

1. Deceiving people is accomplished by lying to them (**Lev 6:2-4; Jer 9:3-6; Psa 109:2**).
 - A. Deceitful people cannot be trusted (**Pro 14:25**).
 - B. They pretend to be your friend with their words, but they are planning to harm you in their hearts (**Jer 9:8; Psa 28:3; Psa 62:4**).
 - C. Liars show themselves to be deceitful (**Pro 12:17**).
 - D. Deceit *n.* - 1. The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud, cheating, false dealing.
 - E. The lies are usually wrapped in good words and fair speeches in order to deceive (**Rom 16:18**).
 - i. The *good words* are often the words of scripture.
 - a. The Lord's words are *good words* (**Zec 1:13**).
 - b. The word of God is *good* (**Heb 6:5; Psa 119:39**).
 - c. God's law is *good* (**Rom 7:12**) if it is used lawfully (**1Ti 1:8**).
 - d. Good words make people happy (**Pro 12:25**).
 - e. They can be used by the righteous for good and by the wicked for evil.
 - ii. The *fair speeches* are often sermons.
 - a. Fair *adj.* - 1. Beautiful to the eye; of pleasing form or appearance; good-looking. 5. a. Of external manifestations, words, promises: Attractive or pleasing at the first sight or hearing; specious, plausible, flattering.
 - b. Strange women are known for their fair speech (**Pro 7:21**).
 - c. Strange women represent false religion in the Bible (**Rev 17:5**).
 - d. Beware of those that speak fair because there's a good chance they are trying to deceive you (**Pro 26:24-26**).
 - (i) Fair *adv.* - 1. In a beautiful or comely manner; agreeably, beautifully, brightly, handsomely, nobly. 2. a. Civilly, courteously, kindly. Now only in phr. *to speak (a person) fair*.
 - (ii) Believe them not (**Jer 12:6**).
 - e. Beware of the slick-talking preacher!
 - (i) If the sermon is appealing because of the delivery and not because of the content, watch out.
 - (ii) Never allow eloquence to be a substitute for truth.
 - iii. The apostle Paul, our example, was not an eloquent, slick-tongued preacher.
 - a. Paul's presence was base (**2Co 10:1**).
 - (i) Base *adj.* - II. Figurative senses. 6. Low in the social scale, of lowly condition, plebeian; belonging to the 'lower orders.' arch.

- (ii) Plebeian *n.* - A. n. a. A member of the Plebs of ancient Rome; a Roman commoner, as opposed to the patricians, senators, and knights. b. In general, A person not of noble or privileged rank, one of the common people, a commoner.
 - b. He was rude in speech (**2Co 11:6**),
 - (i) Rude *adj.* - I. 1. a. Uneducated, unlearned; ignorant; lacking in knowledge or book-learning. 4. Unmannerly, uncivil, impolite; offensively or deliberately discourteous: a. Of speech or actions.
 - (ii) Paul was not a politically correct preacher.
 - (iii) His preaching was offensive, not sly.
 - c. His speech was contemptible (**2Co 10:10**).
 - (i) Contemptible - 1. To be despised or held in contempt; worthy only of contempt; despicable.
 - (ii) Paul's sermons were despised by those who didn't love the unvarnished truth.
 - d. He did not speak and preach with enticing words (**1Co 2:4**).
 - (i) Enticing *adj.* - That entices or instigates; insidiously attractive; alluring, beguiling, seductive.
 - (ii) Paul spoke the truth plainly without theatric allure.
 - iv. The man of God Moses was likewise not eloquent in speech (**Exo 4:10**).
 - v. Moses was slow of speech and of a slow tongue.
 - vi. Eloquence doesn't necessarily equate to false teaching or deception.
 - a. Apollos was an eloquent preacher and mighty in the scriptures (**Act 18:24**).
 - b. Eloquent *adj.* - 1. a. Of persons: Possessing or exercising the power of fluent, forcible, and appropriate expression.
 - c. Despite Apollos' eloquence, he still needed to learn more (**Act 18:25**).
 - d. Aquila and Priscilla didn't let Apollos' impressive oratory keep them from perceiving that his understanding was lacking (**Act 18:26**).
 - e. After being helped by them, Apollos was an even better preacher (**Act 18:27-28**).
 - vii. Deceivers *wrest* the words of God (**2Pe 3:16**) (see Section VIII,2).
 - viii. False prophets deceitfully claim to be speaking the word of God (**Jer 14:14; Jer 23:25-32**).
 - ix. They lie to people by telling them "good" things that they want to hear (**2Ch 18:12**).
 - x. True men of God do not use deceit or guile to lie to people using the word of God (**1Th 2:3-5; 2Co 4:1-2**).
- F. To avoid being deceived by false teachers, we must:
- i. Mark and avoid those who have been shown to be teaching things that cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine that we have been taught from the scripture (**Rom 16:17**).
 - ii. Always scrutinize what we hear by comparing it with scripture to determine if it is true, or not (**Act 17:11**).

- iii. Never let eloquence be a measure of truth.
 - iv. Cease to hear the instruction that causes us to error (**Pro 19:27; Pro 14:7**).
 - G. It is especially important for women to not allow false teachers to come into their house (**2Jo 1:1, 7-10**) because women are more easily deceived than men (**2Ti 3:6 c/w 1Ti 2:14**).
- 2. Deception is accomplished by using *vain* words (**Eph 5:6**).
 - A. Vain *adj.* - I. 1. Devoid of real value, worth, or significance; idle, unprofitable, useless, worthless; of no effect, force, or power; fruitless, futile, unavailing.
 - i. God's words are exceedingly valuable (**Psa 19:10**), and are therefore not vain words.
 - ii. Words that are not in accord with God's word are *vain words* (**Isa 8:20**).
 - iii. One way that we can identify deceivers speaking vain words is that they refer to God's words and promises as *vain words* (**Exo 5:1-2, 9; 2Ki 18:20, 22**).
 - iv. Never listen to anyone who contradicts God's word which warns that sinners will lose their inheritance in kingdom of God (**Eph 5:3-5**).
 - a. I have heard backslidden sinners scoff at these and other similar verses.
 - b. Such words spoken against God's warnings are *vain words* (**Eph 5:6**).
 - B. A man who is deceived is led to trust in vanity (**Job 15:31**).
 - i. Vanity *n.* - 1. a. That which is vain, futile, or worthless; that which is of no value or profit.
 - ii. Deceivers use great swelling words of vanity (**2Pe 2:18**).
 - a. The orator Tertullus is an example of a man who used great swelling words of vanity to try to deceive the governor Felix.
 - b. He used words of flattery to persuade Felix to condemn Paul (**Act 24:1-4**).
 - c. Notice the difference between Paul's respectful address of Felix (**Act 24:10**) and Tertullus' flattering address of him.
 - iii. Deceivers promise liberty and thereby bring men into bondage (**2Pe 2:19**).
 - a. How many politicians promise people liberty to get elected, only to later bring them into bondage by taxes, regulation, surveillance, and wars?
 - b. How many hucksters and con artists promise people financial liberty only to defraud them of their savings?
 - c. How many banksters and advertisers promise people liberty by convincing them to buy whatever they want on credit, only to bring them into bondage with debt?
 - d. How many young women have been promised liberty by a feminist culture which deceived them into choosing a career over their family, only to bring them into bondage by that career?
 - e. How many young women have been promised sexual liberty through use of birth control by a feminist culture, only to bring them into spiritual, emotional, and psychological bondage?

- f. How many young women have been promised liberty to pursue their dreams by getting an abortion, only to bring them into spiritual, emotional, and psychological bondage?
 - iv. We should pray that God will remove vanity and lies far from us (**Pro 30:8**).
 - a. *Lies* are the cause and means of deception.
 - b. *Vanity* is the result of it.
- 3. Deception is accomplished with seduction (**Isa 19:13**).
 - A. This seduction is sometimes accomplished by evil, *seducing* spirits (**Isa 19:14 c/w 1Ti 4:1**).
 - B. Seduce *v.* - 1. *trans.* To persuade (a vassal, servant, soldier, etc.) to desert his allegiance or service. 2. In wider sense: To lead (a person) astray in conduct or belief; to draw away *from* the right or intended course of action *to* or *into* a wrong one; to tempt, entice, or beguile to do something wrong, foolish, or unintended. a. of persons or their action.
 - C. God sometimes allows wicked spirits to seduce people into believing a lie as a judgment against them (**2Ch 18:19-22**).
 - D. This is accomplished by *persuasion* through *enticement* (**2Ch 18:19 c/w 1Ki 22:20**).
 - i. Persuade *v.* - 1. a. *trans.* To induce (a person) to believe something; to lead to accept a statement, doctrine, fact, etc.; to win to a belief or assurance.
 - ii. Entice *v.* - 1. *trans.* To stir up, incite, instigate (*to* a course of action); also to provoke (to anger). *Obs.* 2. To allure, attract by the offer of pleasure or advantage; *esp.* to allure insidiously or adroitly. Often const. *from, to* (a course of conduct, a place). Also with *away, in*.
 - E. Deceivers beguile through enticing words (**Col 2:4**).
 - i. Enticing *adj.* - That entices or instigates; insidiously attractive; alluring, beguiling, seductive.
 - ii. Enticing words persuade us to act on our lusts (**Jam 1:14**).
 - iii. True preachers do not use enticing words of man's wisdom (**1Co 2:4**).
 - iv. They only preach the true gospel of Jesus Christ (**1Co 2:1-2**).
 - F. Both men and women can be enticed and deceived into committing fornication or adultery (**Exo 22:16 c/w Gen 34:2-3; Pro 7:12-21**).
 - i. Entice *v.* - 1. *trans.* To stir up, incite, instigate (to a course of action); also to provoke (to anger). *Obs.* 2. To allure, attract by the offer of pleasure or advantage; *esp.* to allure insidiously or adroitly. Often const. *from, to* (a course of conduct, a place). Also with *away, in*. b. *transf.* To attract physically.
 - ii. Insidiously *adv.* - In an insidious manner; by secret plotting or artifice; in a subtle or underhand way; slyly, craftily, treacherously, deceitfully.
 - iii. Adroitly *adv.* - In an adroit manner; with ready skill; dexterously, cleverly.
 - iv. Beware of seducing men and women.
- 4. Deception is accomplished by delusion (**2Th 2:10-11**).
 - A. Delusion *n.* - The action of deluding; the condition of being deluded. 1. The action of befooling, mocking, or cheating a person in his expectations; the fact of being so cheated or mocked. *Obs.* 2. The action of befooling with false impressions or beliefs; the fact or condition of being cheated and led to believe what is false.

- B. Delude v. - 1. *trans.* To play with (any one) to his injury or frustration, under pretence of acting seriously; to mock, esp. in hopes, expectations, or purposes; to cheat or disappoint the hopes of. *Obs.* 3. To befool the mind or judgement of, so as to cause what is false to be accepted as true; to bring by deceit into a false opinion or belief; to cheat, deceive, beguile; to impose upon with false impressions or notions.
- C. God will send strong delusion to deceive people into believing a lie because they don't love the truth (2Th 2:10-11).
- D. God will deceive false prophets (**Eze 14:9**).
- 5. Deception is accomplished by making things appear differently than they actually are.
 - A. This was done in the old days by using deceitful weights and balances (**Mic 6:11-12**).
 - i. The Bible refers to this practice as using divers weights and measures (**Deut 25:13-16**).
 - a. A deceptive merchant would have a false set of weights when weighing the money to make the buyer give more money than was owed and a false set of measuring containers when measuring out the wheat so the buyer got less than he was supposed to (**Amo 8:5-6**).
 - (i) Shekel n. - 1. a. An ancient unit of weight of the Babylonians, and hence of the Phœnicians, Hebrews, and others, equal to one-sixtieth of a mina (see *mina* 1). b. A coin of this weight; esp. the chief silver coin of the Hebrews.
 - (ii) Ephah n. - A Hebrew dry measure, identical in capacity with the bath; see bath n.3; it is variously said to have contained from 4 1 / 2 to 9 gallons.
 - b. Or he would have one set of weights and measures for buying goods and another set for selling goods.
 - ii. God hates this practice of cheating and fraud (**Pro 20:10, 23**).
 - iii. The Lord's weight and balance are just (**Pro 16:11; Lev 19:35-36**).
 - B. This is done by merchants nowadays, but in a different way.
 - i. Today this is accomplished by changing packaging sizes without making it explicit to the buyer.
 - ii. It is also done by changing the quality of the inputs to produce a lower quality product without being forthcoming about it.
 - C. Governments also engage in this deceitful practice.
 - i. They debase the currency by inflation (printing money), and thereby rob people of their purchasing power.
 - ii. The US government decoupled the dollar from gold and silver and continued to call the currency "dollars."
 - a. A dollar used to be a unit of weight of silver.
 - b. "A dollar was first defined in the Mint Act of 1792 as 371.25 grains of fine silver..." (Peter Schiff, *Crash Proof 2.0*)
 - c. In 1934 the US government made it illegal for US citizens to own gold, and they proceeded to confiscate it.
 - d. After they confiscated the gold, they revalued the dollar from approximately \$20/ounce of gold to \$35/ounce.

- e. In 1965, they removed the silver from dimes and quarters and passed off new ones to the public made of cheap metals.
 - f. In 1971 the dollar was completely un-pegged from gold and was no longer redeemable in gold by foreign governments.
 - iii. Since the Federal Reserve was created in 1913 the dollar has lost about 95% of its value, but it's still called a "dollar."
 - iv. This wicked act is pure deceit.
 - D. Another example is the Coronavirus reporting.
 - i. The death rate of the Coronavirus is likely being inflated by governments who count anyone who dies *with* the Coronavirus as having died *from* the Coronavirus.
 - ii. This is a deceitful tactic.
- 6. Deception is accomplished by giving gifts or special treatment.
 - A. Be very cautious of a stranger or someone you just met who treats you out to an expensive meal (**Pro 23:1-3**).
 - i. This happens in business all the time.
 - ii. Lobbyists do this for politicians regularly.
 - iii. Always remember that that free meal or gift isn't free.
 - B. Be wary of the man or woman who shows you too much affection (**Pro 27:6**).
 - i. Judas betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ with a kiss (**Luk 22:47-48**).
 - ii. Joab used a deceitful kiss to kill Amasa (**2Sa 20:9-10**).
- 7. Deception is accomplished using beauty (**Pro 31:30**).
 - A. Women that are *well favored* (**Gen 29:17 c/w Son 8:10**) can have a powerful influence over men.
 - B. The beauty of a woman is like blinders on the eyes of men.
 - C. Women have a powerful ability to deceive men (**Job 31:9**).
 - i. Strange women are *subtle* of heart (**Pro 7:10**).
 - a. Subtle *adj.* - 1. Of thin consistency, tenuous; not dense, rarefied; hence, penetrating, pervasive or elusive by reason of tenuity (now chiefly of odours). 5. Of immaterial things: Not easily grasped, understood, or perceived; intricate, abstruse. 10. Of persons or animals: Crafty, cunning; treacherously or wickedly cunning, insidiously sly, wily. 1535 Coverdale Gen. iii. 1 The serpent was sotyller then all the beastes of the felde.
 - b. They pretend to be something they are not to trick simple men (**Pro 7:14**).
 - c. They deceive men by flattering them with fair speech (**Pro 7:21**).
 - ii. Women have the power to *entice* their husbands to do things they shouldn't do (**Jdg 14:15; Jdg 16:5**).
 - a. They do so by crying to get what they want (**Jdg 14:16-17**).
 - b. Husbands, don't give in to your wife's crying when she wants to do something wrong or when she is trying to convince you to.
 - c. Wives also entice their husbands to do wrong things by questioning their love for them (**Jdg 16:15-17**).
 - iii. Men, the next time you are tempted to go along with your wife's unbiblical ideas, remember Adam and Eve (**Gen 3:6 c/w Rom 5:12**).
 - iv. But if your wife is right, listen to her and don't be a fool (**Gen 21:9-12**).

8. Deception is accomplished by disguising one's true appearance.
- A. False prophets deceive people by wearing clothing that make them look like true prophets (**Zec 13:4**).
 - i. Popes where royal apparel and funny-looking hats.
 - ii. Priests where the clergy collar.
 - iii. Preachers where robes and suits.
 - B. Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothing so the witch at Endor would not recognize him (**1Sa 28:8**).
 - C. Saul was able to deceive the woman (**1Sa 28:12**).
 - D. False prophets deceive the saints by dressing up like sheep, but under the disguise they are wolves (**Mat 7:15**).
 - i. In order to identify a false prophet, we must look beyond the appearance and examine his fruit (**Mat 7:16-20; Joh 7:24**).
 - ii. We must examine his doctrine as well (**1Jo 4:1-3; 1Co 14:37**).
 - iii. If he speaks not according to the word of God, there is no light in him (**Isa 8:20**).
 - E. The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelites by disguising themselves and pretending to be someone they were not (**Jos 9:3-6**).
 - i. Wilyly *adv.* - In a wily manner; craftily, cunningly, by stratagem.
 - ii. Wily *adj.* - 1. Full of or characterized by wiles; crafty, cunning, sly, artful.
 - iii. The Gibeonites made up a good sounding story that matched their disguise (**Jos 9:7-13**).
 - iv. Joshua and Israel were *beguiled* by their disguise and cover story (**Jos 9:22**).
 - v. Beguile *v.* - 1. *trans.* To entangle or over-reach with guile; to delude, deceive, cheat.
 - vi. To avoid being beguiled, always seek counsel from God through prayer, reading the scriptures, and asking advice from wise men (**Psa 119:24 c/w Pro 11:14 c/w Pro 15:22**).
 - vii. Had Joshua and Israel done that they would not have been deceived (**Jos 9:14**).
 - viii. In the case of the Gibeonites Israel was not harmed, but often people who deceive us do intend to harm us; so beware!
9. Deception is sometimes accomplished by using false philosophy (**Col 2:8**).
- A. Philosophy *n.* - 1. a. (In the original and widest sense.) The love, study, or pursuit of wisdom, or of knowledge of things and their causes, whether theoretical or practical. 6. a. Sometimes used especially of knowledge obtained by natural reason, in contrast with revealed knowledge. 1388 Wyclif Col. ii. 8 That no man disseyue Šou bi filosofie [1382 filosofye] and veyn fallace, aftir the tradicioun of men, aftir the elementis of the world and not aftir Crist.
 - B. The philosophy that is condemned in Col 2:8 is the wisdom of this world (**1Co 1:19-21**).
 - i. This philosophy is *after* the *tradition* of men (**Col 2:8**).
 - a. After *prep.* - IV. Of manner. 12. Following as one follows a leader or guide; in obedience to, in compliance or harmony with, according to a *law, will, word, advice*.
 - b. Tradition *n.* - 1. The action of handing over (something material) to another; delivery, transfer. (Chiefly in *Law*.)

- c. In other words, this philosophy is in accordance and harmony with ideas of men which have been handed down over time.
 - d. Jesus warned us about the traditions of men that make the word of God of none effect (**Mar 7:9, 13**).
 - ii. It is after the *rudiments* of the world (**Col 2:8**).
 - a. Rudiment *n.* - 1. a. *pl.* The first principles or elements of a subject; those points which are first taught to, or acquired by, one commencing the study or practice of a branch of knowledge, art, etc.
 - b. World *n.* - I. Human existence; a period of this. 1. a. Chiefly this world, the world: the earthly state of human existence; this present life. 4. a. Secular (or lay) life and interests, as distinguished from religious (or clerical); also (by association with III, as in b and d below), secular (or lay) people. d. In biblical and religious use: Those who are concerned only with the interests and pleasures of this life or with temporal or mundane things; the worldly and irreligious.
 - c. In other words, this philosophy is in accordance and harmony with the knowledge of ungodly men.
 - iii. It is not after Christ (**Col 2:8**).
 - a. This philosophy in Col 2:8 is not in accordance and harmony with Christ and His doctrine.
 - b. Jesus Christ is the truth (**Joh 14:6**).
 - c. God's word of truth (**Joh 17:17**).
 - d. In other words, this philosophy is not in accordance and harmony with the truth.
 - iv. True philosophy is in agreement with the truth revealed in the word of God.
 - a. True philosophy arrives at the truth of how things actually are through reasoning from observation.
 - b. True philosophy is never in contradiction with Christ and His word.
 - v. Any philosophy which arrives at a conclusion that is contrary to the word of God is deceitful philosophy and must be rejected.
 - C. Beware of men with advanced degrees will often use their credentials as a cover for the lies they tell (**Psa 62:9**).
 - D. Beware of the enticing words of man's wisdom (**1Co 2:4**).
10. Deception is sometimes accomplished by sorcery (**Rev 18:23**).
 - A. Sorcery *n.* - 1. The use of magic or enchantment; the practice of magic arts; witchcraft.
 - i. Magic *n.* - 1. a. The pretended art of influencing the course of events, and of producing marvellous physical phenomena, by processes supposed to owe their efficacy to their power of compelling the intervention of spiritual beings, or of bringing into operation some occult controlling principle of nature; sorcery, witchcraft. Also, the practice of this art.
 - ii. Witchcraft *n.* - 1. The practices of a witch or witches; the exercise of supernatural power supposed to be possessed by persons in league with the devil or evil spirits.
 - iii. Magic and witchcraft are real things.
 - iv. Don't be deceived into thinking they are harmless.

- v. (More on this later in the section on resisting deception.)
- B. The Galatians were bewitched into believing a lie (**Gal 3:1**).
 - i. Bewitched *adj.* - 1. Influenced by witchcraft; under, or having, magical influence.
 - ii. Bewitch *v.* - 1. *trans.* To affect (generally injuriously) by witchcraft or magic. Sometimes with complemental phrase defining the result. 2. *fig.* To influence in a way similar to witchcraft; to fascinate, charm, enchant. Formerly often in a bad sense; but now generally said of pleasing influences.
 - iii. This bewitching was done by Jews who feigned themselves believers and deceived the Galatians into believing that they needed to be circumcised and keep the law to be saved (**Act 15:1-2, 5 c/w Gal 2:1-5; Gal 4:21; Gal 5:1-4**).
 - a. These Jews had made a deal with the devil (**Isa 28:14-18**).
 - b. Many of the Jews in that generation were possessed with devils (**Mat 12:43-45**).
 - c. It is likely that the Galatians were literally bewitched by evil spirits working in the wicked Jews who persuaded them to turn from the truth.
 - iv. Beware of those who mix grace with works in an attempt to deceive you into believing the lie of works salvation.
- C. Simon used sorcery to bewitch the people of Samaria into believing that he was the great power of God (**Act 8:9-11**).
 - i. After he was supposedly converted, he offered to pay the apostles to have the power to give the Holy Ghost to those he would lay hands on (**Act 8:13, 18-19**).
 - ii. It appears that Simon was a false convert who was simply enamored with the miracles the apostles performed (**Act 8:20-24**).
 - iii. Beware of men who have dabbled in the occult in the past and take an interest in the faith for any reason other than for the truth's sake.
 - iv. Such men may not be truly converted and may try to deceive you into believing a lie through sorcery.
 - v. People like this can creep into the church.
 - a. I know an ex-church member who claimed to have had an out of body experience during a car accident when he was a teenager.
 - b. He claimed to have exerted superhuman strength when practicing martial arts in a cult around the same time.
 - c. He studied and practiced the occult prior to his conversion.
 - d. He claimed that he and his wife saw a ghost/devil in their bedroom after their conversion.
 - e. He hypnotized a member of another church which was confirmed by another church member.
 - f. He told a member of another church that he could get into heightened meditative state in which he could read whole pages of the Bible in seconds and understand everything he read.
 - g. If a man tells you that he has experienced such things, be very wary of him. He just might be a devil masquerading as a Christian.

11. Deception is sometimes accomplished by *lying* signs, wonders, and miracles (**2Th 2:9; Rev 13:13-15; Rev 19:20**).

- A. Lying *adj.* - 1. Of a person, his lips, etc.: That tells lies. 2. Of impersonal things: Untruthful, mendacious; hence, deceitful, false.
 - i. The signs and wonders done by Satan and his devils are deceitful and false.
 - ii. Therefore, they are not truly miracles, but they appear to be.
- B. These lying miracles will become more prevalent as we get closer to the end of time (**Rev 16:14**).
- C. Satan can do lying miracles that mimic God's miracles (Pharaoh's magicians) (**Exo 7:10-12**).
- D. These false miracles keep people in bondage to the lies of Satan.
- E. The numerous Catholic so-called miracles are examples of this.
 - i. The miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal.
 - a. "The Miracle of the Sun is an alleged miraculous event witnessed by as many as 100,000 people on 13 October 1917 in the Cova da Iria fields near Fátima, Portugal. Those in attendance had assembled to observe what the Portuguese secular newspapers had been ridiculing for months as the absurd claim of three shepherd children that a miracle was going to occur at high-noon in the Cova da Iria on October 13, 1917. According to many witness statements, after a downfall of rain, the dark clouds broke and the sun appeared as an opaque, spinning disk in the sky. It was said to be significantly less bright than normal, and cast multicolored lights across the landscape, the shadows on the landscape, the people, and the surrounding clouds. The sun was then reported to have careened towards the earth in a zigzag pattern, frightening some of those present who thought it meant the end of the world. Some witnesses reported that their previously wet clothes became "suddenly and completely dry.'" (*Top 10 Astonishing Miracles of the Catholic Church*, www.catholicsay.com)
 - b. "The miracle was attributed by believers to Our Lady of Fátima, an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three young shepherd children in 1917, as having been predicted by the three children on 13 July, 19 August, and 13 September 1917. The children reported that the Lady had promised them that she would on 13 October reveal her identity to them and provide a miracle "so that all may believe.'" (Ibid)
 - ii. Therese Neumann (1896-1962)
 - a. "Therese Neumann was a German Catholic mystic and stigmatic. On March 10, 1918, Therese Neumann was partially paralyzed after falling off a stool while attending to a fire in her uncle's barn. She sustained more falls and injuries during this period. After one particular fall in 1919, she lost much of her eyesight. Therese reported that her eyesight was fully restored on April 29, 1923 — the day Therese of Lisieux was beatified (the first step to sainthood) in Rome. She said that on March 5, 1926, the first Friday of Lent, a

wound had appeared slightly above her heart, but that she had kept this secret. However, she did report a vision of Jesus at Mount Olivet with three Apostles. On Easter Sunday, she claimed a vision of the resurrection of Christ. For several consecutive Fridays after that, she stated she was experiencing the Passion of Christ, supposedly suffering in her own body along with all his historic agonies. She especially suffered the Passion on Good Fridays each year. By November 5, 1926, she displayed nine wounds on her head as well as wounds on her back and shoulders (most of which are visible in the image above). According to several sources these wounds never healed or became infected and were found on her body at death. From the years of 1922 until her death in 1962, Therese Neumann said she had consumed no food other than The Holy Eucharist, and to have drunk no water from 1926 until her death. In July 1927 a medical doctor and four Franciscan nurses kept a watch on her 24 hours a day for a two-week period. They confirmed that she had consumed nothing except for one consecrated sacred Host a day, and had suffered no ill effects, loss of weight, or dehydration." (Ibid)

iii. Incorruptible Bodies

- a. "Incorruptibility is the name given to the situation in which a dead person does not decay after death. The orthodox church considers it essential in considering a person for canonization as a saint, and the Roman Catholic Church considers it as a sign of sainthood but not a necessity. Additionally, the Catholic Church believes that a body is not deemed incorruptible if it has undergone an embalming process or other means of preserving the dead, or if it has become stiff, as do all normal corpses, even when the best preservation techniques are used. Incorruptible saints remain completely flexible as if they were only sleeping. Incorruptible bodies are often said to have the Odour of Sanctity, exuding a sweet aroma. Over the years there have been hundreds of Saints whose bodies have been found to be incorrupt – some many hundreds of years after their death. In the image above we see St Bernadette as she appears today – 129 years after her death." (Ibid)

iv. The Miracle of Lanciano 700AD

- a. "In the city of Lanciano, Italy, around A.D. 700, a Basilian monk-priest was assigned to celebrate the Eucharistic sacrifice in the Latin Rite in the small Church of St. Legontian. Usually celebrating in the Greek Rite and using leavened bread and having been taught that unleavened bread was invalid matter for the Holy Sacrifice he was disturbed to be constrained to use unleavened bread and had trouble believing that the miracle of transubstantiation would take place with unleavened bread. During the Mass, when he said the words of consecration, he saw the bread change into live flesh and the wine change into live blood, which coagulated into five globules, irregular and differing in shape and size. Various ecclesiastical investigations

have been conducted upon the miracle, and the evidence of the miracle remains in Lanciano to this day. In 1970-71, Professors from the University of Siena conducted a scientific investigation into the miracle. They concluded that the flesh and blood are human flesh and blood. The Flesh is a heart complete in its essential structure. The Flesh and the Blood have the same blood type, AB, which is also the same blood type found on the Shroud of Turin and all other Eucharistic Miracles. The Host-Flesh, which is the same size as the large Host used today in the Latin Church, is fibrous and light brown in color, and becomes rose-colored when lighted from the back. The Blood consists of five coagulated globules and has an earthy color resembling the yellow of ochre." (Ibid)

v. Padre Pio (St Pio of Pietrelcina) 1887-1968

- a. "Francesco Forgione, later known as Padre Pio, canonized as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, was an Italian Roman Catholic Capuchin priest who is now venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. He was given the name Pio when he joined the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, and was popularly known as Padre Pio after his ordination to the priesthood. He became famous for his stigmata. Based on Padre Pio's correspondence, even early in his priesthood he experienced less obvious indications of the visible stigmata for which he would later become famous. Though Padre Pio would have preferred to suffer in secret, by early 1919, news about the stigmatic friar began to spread in the secular world. Padre Pio's wounds were examined by many people, including physicians. People who had started rebuilding their lives after World War I began to see in Padre Pio a symbol of hope. Those close to him attest that he began to manifest several spiritual gifts including the gifts of healing, bilocation, levitation, prophecy, miracles, extraordinary abstinence from both sleep and nourishment (One account states that Padre Agostino recorded one instance in which Padre Pio was able to subsist for at least 20 days at Verafeno on only the Eucharist without any other nourishment), the ability to read hearts, the gift of tongues, the gift of conversions, and the fragrance from his wounds." (Ibid)

vi. Apparitions (appearances) of Mary

- a. There have been numerous alleged apparitions of the Catholic Virgin Mary over the centuries.
- b. "Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin was an indigenous Mexican who reported an apparition of the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531." (Ibid)
- c. "The famous case of Our Lady of Zeitoun took place in Zeitoun, Cairo, and contrary to the norm, the apparition was witnessed by millions of people over a period of 2 to 3 years [1968-1970]. The apparition was even caught on film (as seen in the photograph above)." (Ibid)

vii. Joseph of Cupertino (1603-1663) (the flying saint)

- a. "Joseph of Cupertino is an Italian saint. He was said to have been remarkably unclever, but prone to miraculous levitation, and intense ecstatic visions that left him gaping. In turn, he is recognized as the patron saint of air travellers, aviators, people with a mental handicap, and weak students. He was canonized in 1767. On October 4, 1630, the town of Cupertino held a procession on the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. Joseph was assisting in the procession when he suddenly soared into the sky, where he remained hovering over the crowd. When he descended and realized what had happened, he became so embarrassed that he fled to his mother's house and hid. This was the first of many flights, which soon earned him the nickname "The Flying Saint." Joseph's most famous flight allegedly occurred during a papal audience before Pope Urban VIII. When he bent down to kiss the Pope's feet, he was suddenly filled with reverence for the Pope and was lifted up into the air. He experienced ecstasies and flights (witnessed by thousands) during his last mass which was on the Feast of the Assumption 1663." (Ibid)
- viii. Lourdes (1858)
 - a. "The apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes began on 11 February 1858, when Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year old peasant girl from Lourdes admitted, when questioned by her mother, that she had seen a "lady" in the cave of Massabielle, about a mile from the town, while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a friend. Similar appearances of the "lady" took place on seventeen further occasions that year. During one of the apparitions, she was directed by the "lady" to dig near a rock and drink from the spring there. There was a small puddle of mud in the place but as Bernadette dug into it, a large spring appeared – this is the source of the water in the grotto to which millions of people flock for miraculous cures every year. The Lourdes Medical Bureau has declared 68 cases of inexplicable cures (out of thousands tested)."
- ix. Statue in Akita (1973-1975)
 - a. In 1973, Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa in Akita, Japan had visions of the Virgin Mary. On June 28, 1973, a cross-shaped wound appeared on the inside left hand of Sr. Agnes. It bled profusely and caused her much pain. On July 6, Sr. Agnes heard a voice coming from the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel where she was praying. The statue was carved from a single block of wood from a Katsura tree and is three feet tall. On the same day, a few of the sisters noticed drops of blood flowing from the statue's right hand. The wound in the statue's hand remained until September 29, when it disappeared. On September 29, the day the wound on the statue disappeared, the sisters noticed the statue had now begun to "sweat", especially on the forehead and neck. Two years later on January 4, 1975, the statue of the Blessed Virgin began to weep. It continued to weep at intervals for the next 6 years and eight months.

It wept on 101 occasions. Scientific analysis of blood and tears from the statute provided by Professor Sagisaka of the faculty of Legal Medicine of the University of Akita confirmed that the blood, tears, and perspiration are real human tears, sweat, and blood. They come from three blood groups: O, B, and AB. Sr. Agnes was also completely cured of total deafness. In June 1988, Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) – head of the Office of Inquisition – judged the Akita events and messages as reliable and worthy of belief." (Ibid)

- x. Some of these alleged miracles might be made up stories.
 - xi. Some of them might be lying signs and wonders done by Satan to deceive and enslave the minds of millions.
- F. The alleged sign gifts of the Charismatic churches are examples of lying signs and wonders, such as their speaking in tongues, prophecies, casting out devils, and healings.
- G. At the end of time, the man of sin will be revealed (**2Th 2:3 c/w 2Th 2:8**).
- i. He will claim to be God and will be worshipped as God (**2Th 2:4**).
 - ii. He will work false miracles by the power of Satan (**2Th 2:9**).
 - iii. At that time God Himself will send strong delusion to those who love not the truth which will cause them to believe his lies (**2Th 2:10-12**) and his lying wonders.
 - a. Millions of Catholics and Charismatics already believe in Satan's lying signs and wonders.
 - b. It is not hard to image how the man of sin could deceive most of the world.
- H. It is critical to understand the nature of deception and the truth of scripture so that we will not be deceived by false miracles.
- i. True signs, wonders, miracles, tongues, and prophecy all ceased by the close of the 1st century.
 - a. They were only given for a period of 40 years beginning with the first miracle of Christ and extending to approximately 70 AD (**Mic 7:15 c/w Joh 2:11**).
 - b. They were given for the purpose of convincing the unbelieving Jews (**Joh 4:48; 1Co 1:22**) and confirming the word of God spoken by the apostles (**Mar 16:20; Heb 2:3-4**).
 - (i) After 70 AD there were no more Jews to convince because Jerusalem had been destroyed and most of the Jews had been killed and the rest were carried captive into all nations (**Luk 21:24**).
 - (ii) After 70 AD all of the New Testament was written with the possible exception of the book of Revelation.
 - (iii) Therefore, there was no reason for the signs and wonders to continue.
 - c. The gifts of tongues and prophecy ceased when the New Testament was completed (perfect) (**1Co 13:8-10**).

- ii. Therefore, any signs, wonders, tongues, prophecy, healings, etc. performed today are done so by the power of Satan, not God. Be not deceived by them.
 - iii. See sermon series called "[The Sign Gifts](#)."
12. Deception can be accomplished using alcoholic drinks (**Pro 20:1**).
- A. When they are consumed for too long, they will bite like a snake hiding in the grass (**Pro 23:30-32**).
 - i. It will trick you into getting into arguments that you wouldn't normally get into (**Pro 23:29**).
 - ii. It will deceive you into thinking you are tougher than you are and consequently getting beaten up in fights (**Pro 23:29**).
 - iii. It will trick you into looking at women that you wouldn't normally look at and saying things that you wouldn't normally say (**Pro 23:33**).
 - iv. It will deceive you into thinking that the same thing won't happen all over again when drink again the next time (**Pro 23:35**).
 - B. Alcohol dulls the senses and one's reason, and therefore makes deception much easier.
 - i. Why do you think casinos offer free drinks?
 - ii. Why do you think sleazy sales people often take clients out for free drinks?
 - iii. Why do you think worldly men buy women drinks at the bar?
 - iv. These questions all have the same answer: because they can more easily coerce their victims into doing what they want them to do with the help of alcohol.
 - C. Beware of the man who takes you out and says "eat and drink...to thee; but his heart is not with thee" (**Pro 23:7**).
13. Deception is accomplished by the allure of quick success.
- A. Riches are deceitful (**Mat 13:22**).
 - B. Using deceit is sweet at first because it affords some temporary benefits, but in the long run it will be bitter when you are found out (**Pro 20:17**).
 - C. The deceitful worker will sometimes achieve fleeting success, but the honest man will win in the long run (**Pro 11:18**).
 - D. Beware of men who try to entice you into doing something criminal with the promise of gain (**Pro 1:10-13; Pro 16:29-30**).
14. The wicked (who are deceitful) will try to deceive the righteous by telling them that their leader is trying to deceive them (**2Ki 18:28-30**).
- A. The way to avoid being deceived is to not even engage in a conversation with such a man (**2Ki 18:36**).
 - B. Cease to hear the instruction that leads you away from the truth (**Pro 14:7; Pro 19:27; Pro 17:4**).
15. The wicked will try to trick us into thinking that God has deceived us into believing that He will save us (**2Ki 19:10**).
- A. God might allow this to happen to us to test our faith.
 - B. We will always be safe by putting our trust in the Lord (**Pro 29:25**).
 - C. If we trust in the Lord we will never be ashamed (**Rom 10:11**).
16. Wicked people will bear false witness against an innocent man to deceive others into believing he is guilty (**Pro 24:28**).
- A. They did this to our Lord Jesus Christ (**Mat 26:59-61**).

- B. They did this to Stephen (**Act 6:11**).
 - C. You are in good company if men do this to you because of your religion or your righteousness (**Mat 5:10-12**).
17. Righteous and innocent men will sometimes be slandered and called deceivers (**Mat 27:63; 2Co 6:8**).
- A. Remember this when you hear someone being called a deceiver.
 - B. Not everyone accused of being one is one.

XI. Motivations for deception

1. People will deceive us to get information out of us that they can use against us (**2Sa 3:25**) (this was not the case with Abner, but it is often the case).
2. Men will use deceit to hide their true intentions in order to manipulate others into putting themselves into a position of vulnerability so that they can do them harm.
 - A. This is what the sons of Jacob did to Hamor, Shechem, and their family.
 - B. They were upset that Shechem had fornicated with their sister, Dinah (**Gen 34:7**).
 - C. Shechem wanted to marry Dinah, so he and Hamor his father went to Jacob and proposed that he let Shechem marry her, and then they would give each others' daughters to each others' sons (**Gen 34:8-12**).
 - D. Jacob's sons answered Hamor deceitfully and said they would consent to the proposal if Hamor, Shechem, and the men in their family would get circumcised and become like themselves (**Gen 34:13-17**).
 - E. Hamor was deceived by them, and he and his family were circumcised according to their agreement (**Gen 34:18-24**).
 - i. Notice that part of the reason that Hamor was deceived is that he thought that he was going to gain from the deal in more ways than were agreed to (**Gen 34:23**).
 - ii. Greed will cloud our judgment and make it far easier for us to be deceived by a deceiver.
 - F. On the third day after they were circumcised when they were sore and unable to defend themselves well, Simeon and Levi murdered Hamor, Shechem, and all of the males of their family and took their women and spoiled their goods (**Gen 34:25-29**).
 - G. Let this be a warning to us.
 - i. If you have offended someone and they offer to forgive you only if you put yourself in a weak position, beware.
 - ii. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.
 - iii. Don't make a decision based on greed or a perceived benefit that you will get at the expense of the person who is offering you a sweetheart deal.
3. Wicked men use deceit in order to become rich and powerful (**Jer 5:27; Hos 12:7; Amo 8:5**).
 - A. A lot a marketing tactics are deceitful such as:
 - i. Putting a countdown timer on a product page that restarts every time someone lands on it.
 - ii. Using false scarcity to make customers act urgently.
 - iii. Posting the normal price as a sale price.
 - B. A Christian businessman should never use such tactics even if it would increase his sales.

XII. Self-deception

1. Deceive v. - 1. *trans.* To ensnare; to take unawares by craft or guile; to overcome, overreach, or get the better of by trickery; to beguile or betray into mischief or sin; to mislead. *Obs.* (or *arch.*) 2. To cause to believe what is false; to mislead as to a matter of fact, lead into error, impose upon, delude, 'take in'. b. *absol.* To use deceit, act deceitfully. c. refl. To allow oneself to be misled; to delude oneself.
2. We are prone to self-deception because we love lies (**Isa 30:10; Jer 5:31; Jer 38:3-4; Mic 2:11**).
 - A. Men deceive themselves by telling themselves things that are false because they don't want to believe the truth (**Jer 37:9**).
 - B. We love lies because:
 - i. The truth requires effort to obtain (**Pro 23:23**).
 - ii. The truth hurts (**Joh 8:40; Act 7:54**).
 - iii. The truth is depressing (**Ecc 1:18**).
 - iv. The truth will cause us to lose friends and be rejected by others (**Gal 4:16**).
 - v. The truth about ourselves is hard to accept (**Mat 26:34-35**).
 - vi. The truth is not flattering.
 - vii. The truth is inconvenient; it makes life difficult.
 - viii. The truth gets in the way of our plans, desires, and lusts.
 - ix. The truth requires us to change.
 - C. "Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened." – Winston Churchill
 - D. "Truth is treason in an empire of lies." - Ron Paul
3. We are prone to self-deception because our hearts are *deceitful* above all things (**Jer 17:9**).
 - A. God asked rhetorically concerning our deceitful heart, "who can know it?"
 - B. If we can't know our own heart, how easy then is it to be self-deceived!
 - C. To resist being deceived we must guide our hearts by the word of God (**Pro 4:23; Pro 23:19**).
 - D. We must never trust in it (in our emotions) (**Pro 28:26; Mar 7:21-23**).
4. Sin will deceive us (**Rom 7:11**).
 - A. Our lusts are deceitful (**Eph 4:22**).
 - i. Our deceitful lusts are desires for such things as money, possessions, sex, power, prestige, attention, recognition, leisure, or pleasure.
 - ii. They trick us into thinking that we will be better off if we satisfy them.
 - iii. Our flesh tries to deceive our spirit into doing what we should not (**Gal 5:16-17**).
 - B. Sin uses our own lust to entice us and to draw us away from the keeping God's commandments (**Jam 1:15-16**).
 - C. Sin is deceitful (**Heb 3:13**).
 - D. Our sinful lusts will deceive us into thinking that we will not lose our place in the church if we sin (**1Co 6:9-10**).
5. We are commanded to not deceive ourselves (**1Co 3:18**).
 - A. If we think that we are wise before we have realized that we know nothing, we have deceived ourselves.
 - B. If we say that we have no sin, we have deceived ourselves (**1Jo 1:8**).
 - i. There is not a person on this earth that does not sin (**Rom 3:23; Ecc 7:20**).

- ii. Therefore, if we think that we don't ever sin, we have deceived ourselves.
- 6. Many religious people are self-deceived.
 - A. People that claim to be religious but don't control their tongue have deceived themselves (**Jam 1:26**).
 - i. Their religion is worthless.
 - ii. They will only fool others for a while until they get to know them and hear them speak.
 - B. Men dream up dreams that they never had to deceive themselves (**Jer 29:8**).
- 7. Know thyself
 - A. A wise man understands his own way, but fools deceive themselves (**Pro 14:8**).
 - B. I know people who don't know themselves.
 - i. They make statements about what they are going to do, and in many cases they probably believe themselves.
 - ii. But I can discern very easily that they will never do what they say they are planning to do.
 - C. We must examine ourselves (**2Co 13:5; 1Co 11:28; Lam 3:40**).
 - i. We must pray that God would search our hearts and reveal to us what we really are (**Psa 26:2; Psa 139:23-24; Job 6:24; Job 13:23; Job 34:32; Psa 19:12**).
 - ii. We must think about where we're going in life and make sure we are on the straight and narrow (**Pro 4:26-27**).
 - iii. We will never grow as Christians until we take an honest look at ourselves and admit the truth about ourselves.
 - D. Our own strength and success can deceive us into thinking we are greater than we are (**Jer 49:16; Oba 1:3-4**).
 - E. We often deceive ourselves into thinking we are something when we are nothing (**Gal 6:3**).
 - i. This is called *delusions of grandeur*.
 - ii. Delusion *n.* - 3. a. Anything that deceives the mind with a false impression; a deception; a fixed false opinion or belief with regard to objective things, esp. as a form of mental derangement. b. *delusions of grandeur*: a false belief concerning one's personality or status, which is thought to be more important than it is.
 - iii. We've all met people who think they are great singers, writers, intellectuals, sports players, musicians, etc. that objectively are *not*.
 - iv. They view themselves highly because of their pride.
 - a. Pride *n.* - B. Signification. The quality of being proud. I. 1. a. A high or overweening opinion of one's own qualities, attainments, or estate, which gives rise to a feeling and attitude of superiority over and contempt for others; inordinate self-esteem.
 - b. To admit the truth about themselves would wound their lofty self-image.
 - v. Such people have only deceived themselves, but not others.
 - vi. Such a man needs to honestly evaluate and prove his own work before he rejoices in it (**Gal 6:4**).

8. People often deceive themselves when they want to do something, even though they know that it's not godly or wise to do so.
 - A. The reason for this is because children of God have a conscience which accuses them when they do something they know is sinful, wrong, or foolish (**Rom 2:15; Heb 10:2**).
 - i. This creates a feeling of guilt and uneasiness which makes them feel stressed and uncomfortable.
 - ii. They don't like having that feeling, but at the same time, they want to do what they want to do.
 - iii. What then are they to do?
 - iv. They must deceive themselves and convince themselves that what they want to do is actually okay.
 - B. They talk themselves into it by rationalizing away the reasons that they should not do it.
 - i. Instead of saying 'no' to themselves quickly, they keep mulling it over in their mind.
 - ii. The more they think about it, the more acceptable it becomes to them.
 - iii. Watch out for this!
 - C. They talk to other people about it whom they know will validate what they want to do (**2Ch 18:3-5**).
 - i. This feeds into the self-deception.
 - ii. They now have validation from other (likely foolish) people for what they want to do.
 - iii. Now they can tell themselves and others that they sought advice before making the decision.
 - D. They avoid talking to anyone about it whom they perceive will disapprove of it and would try to talk them out of it (**2Ch 18:6-7, 17**).
 - i. This feeds into the self-deception.
 - ii. They can now tell themselves that nobody thinks this is a bad idea.
 - E. They avoid getting the pastor's advice on the matter.
 - i. They instead *inform* the pastor of their plans or decision as a courtesy to him, but never actually seek his counsel.
 - a. This feeds into the self-deception.
 - b. They can now tell themselves that the pastor is okay with it, even though the pastor didn't *say* he is okay with it.
 - ii. If they do ask for the pastor's advice, it is merely with the hope that he will rubberstamp what they have already decided to do.
 - a. If the pastor advises them against it, they will then rationalize away his advice by telling themselves that he doesn't really understand the situation.
 - b. They can then tell themselves that they didn't disregard or go against the pastor's advice because his advice was based on his lack of understanding and experience.
 - F. Their ideas are right in their own eyes (**Pro 12:15**).
 - i. They are not wise enough to seek counsel (**Pro 12:15**).

- ii. Their ways are clean to them, but God (or wise men around them) is not fooled (**Pro 16:2; Pro 21:2**).
 - iii. Their way *seems* right to them, but in the end it leads to destruction (**Pro 16:25**).
 - iv. If they reject offers for advice from friends, their friends will stop offering it (**Job 32:1**).
 - v. This is why it's crucial to get good counsel early to avoid self-deception (**Pro 11:14; Pro 15:22; Pro 20:18; Pro 24:6**).
- G. It has been my observation during my nearly 38 years of life, 15 years of being a Christian in true churches, and seven years of pastoring that very few people sincerely seek counsel before deciding to do something they want to do.
- i. And this is true even of people who have heard me repeatedly exhort the brethren from the scriptures of the importance of seeking counsel before making major life decisions.
 - ii. Other men of God have told me that they have had similar experiences, so I don't think that my experience is a result of my age.
 - iii. I have just had to accept the fact that I am contending with human nature which is very hard to overcome.
9. People often deceive themselves concerning why they did something.
- A. Remember, there are usually two reasons why someone did something.
 - i. There is the *presented reason* that they tell others and often tell themselves.
 - ii. And then there is the *real reason* which rarely gets admitted to, but is often not hard for others to perceive.
 - B. The *presented reason*
 - i. Another name for the presented reason is the *BS excuse*.
 - ii. We tell the *presented reason* to ourselves because we don't want to admit the truth to ourselves.
 - iii. An example of this was the servant that was given one talent and hid it in the earth instead of investing it (**Mat 25:24-25**).
 - a. His *presented reason* for hiding the talent in the earth was fear of his hard master.
 - b. The *real reason* was that he was lazy (**Mat 25:26**).
 - (i) Lazy people use fear as an excuse for their laziness (**Pro 22:13**).
 - (ii) Many people today are using fear of the Coronavirus as an excuse for not going back to work and staying on unemployment because they are lazy!
 - c. His lord did not accept his *BS excuse* and neither will our Lord (**Mat 25:27-30**).
 - iv. We tell others the *presented reason* because we don't want to be embarrassed about what we did or why we did it.
 - v. In order for us to not be convicted in our hearts about lying, we must first convince ourselves that the *presented reason* is the *real reason* before we try to convince others.
 - vi. Many times we give the *presented reason* because we are afraid of what people might think if they knew the *real reason* (even though they usually

know the real reason despite of the smokescreen we have tried to erect to cover it).

C. The *real reason*

- i. The real reason is usually not virtuous.
- ii. It is usually embarrassing to admit, or at the least casts us in a negative light.
- iii. The real reason often comes down to simply wanting to fulfill our lusts and desires.

D. Examples of *presented* vs. *real* reasons.

- i. You bought the latest iPhone
 - a. The presented reason: My old one didn't have enough memory, or it was getting slow, or it was going to die any day, or...
 - b. The real reason: I wanted it.
- ii. You buy your children smartphones.
 - a. The presented reason: They might need them to contact me in an emergency.
 - b. The real reason: The children wanted them, and I capitulated because I was tired of hearing their whining, I didn't want to look like a mean parent in everyone's eyes, and I didn't want my kids to be picked on by their peers for not having one.
- iii. You close down a business that you were trying to get going.
 - a. The presented reason: I didn't really like products I was selling, or I don't feel like working for myself anymore.
 - b. The real reason: I was losing money and was not profitable.
- iv. You post a picture of your family on Facebook.
 - a. The presented reason: I want our relatives to be able to see them.
 - b. The real reason: I want to show off to all of my "friends" and show them what an awesome life it appears that I have.
- v. You stay at home and don't go out and work.
 - a. The presented reason: It's dangerous out there (**Pro 26:13**).
 - b. The real reason: I'm lazy.
- vi. You run for political office.
 - a. The presented reason: I want to serve the public.
 - b. The real reason: I want a cushy job with power, prestige, and fringe benefits.

10. How to recognize if you are self-deceived.

- A. If you have avoided *truly* asking advice from wise people who you think will not agree with your plans or decisions, then there is a high likelihood that you are self-deceived.
- B. If you automatically dismiss the idea that you have deceived yourself, then you have probably deceived yourself.
- C. If you rationalize away the fact that you did not truly seek wise counsel before making a decision, you are most likely self-deceived.

11. How to avoid self-deception

- A. Truly seek wise counsel before making an important decision (**Pro 11:14; Pro 15:22**).

- B. If you know that what you are contemplating to do is sinful or unwise, tell yourself 'no' immediately, and keep telling yourself 'no' every time the thought arises.
- C. If you have doubts in your conscience about a decision, stop and seek counsel before you sear your conscience (**1Ti 4:2; Eph 4:19**).
- D. Sincerely ask God to give you wisdom to make good decisions and to save you from yourself (**Jam 1:5-8**).
- E. Be honest with yourself.
 - i. Quit telling yourself BS excuses for doing things you do.
 - ii. Quit believing yourself when deep-down you know better.
 - iii. Ask yourself, "what is the *real reason* I did that?"
 - iv. Ask yourself, "am I *really* going to do what I just said I was going to do, or am I just telling it to myself or others so that I look good?"

XIII. Resisting deception

1. Know the truth
 - A. The purpose of deception is to lead one's mind away from the truth.
 - B. Therefore, knowing the truth will prevent deception.
 - C. Without the knowledge of the truth, it is easy to be duped into believing something false.
 - D. The scriptures are the truth (**Joh 17:17; Psa 119:142, 151**).
 - E. Therefore, reading and memorizing scripture will prevent us from having our hearts deceived (**Deut 11:16-18**).
 - F. Teaching the scriptures to our children will keep them from being deceived (**Deut 11:19**).
2. Get understanding which is the antidote to deception.
 - A. Those without understanding will be easily deceived.
 - B. Therefore, devote your soul to getting understanding (**Pro 4:5-7**).
 - i. Understanding *n.* - 1. a. (Without article.) Power or ability to understand; intellect, intelligence.
 - ii. Understanding comes from the word of God (**Pro 2:6**).
 - iii. Be not unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is (**Eph 5:17**).
3. Learn how to think correctly.
 - A. Learn grammar (**2Ti 1:13**)
 - i. Learning grammar is key to understanding Bible doctrine, which is truth.
 - ii. Learning grammar is also the key to clear thinking.
 - iii. "Conversely, clear thinking depends upon the careful use of language; we cannot think clearly unless we formulate our ideas precisely in words. Essential to logical reasoning is the ability to say accurately what we mean." (Charles H. Vivian, *English Composition*, 1961, p. 11)
 - B. Learn basic logic and reasoning
 - i. Inductive Reasoning
 - a. "*Induction* is that kind of reasoning which proceeds from the particular to the general. That is, in induction we begin with a number of *particular* facts and formulate a *general* statement or principle which "covers" them or indicates what they all have in common." (Ibid, p. 18)

- b. This is generally how the hard sciences like physics and chemistry discover scientific laws.
 - c. Reasoning by Analogy
 - (i) "In *reasoning by analogy* we follow the inductive method in a special way. We observe particular similarities between two things, and then we generalize: we infer that the two things are similar in other ways, too." (Ibid)
 - (ii) "Finally, we should remember that reasoning by analogy never constitutes genuine proof, but only indicates that the conclusion is *likely* to be true." (Ibid)
 - d. Reasoning by Cause and Effect
 - (i) "Closely related to reasoning by analogy is *reasoning by cause and effect*. For the latter is based on the assumption that like causes produce like effects, or that if we have often previously seen cause *A* followed by effect *B*, the next time we see *A* we may expect to see *B* again. Here, too, we observe particular connections between things and infer a more general relationship." (Ibid, p. 18-19)
- ii. Deductive Reasoning
- a. "*Deduction* is that kind of reasoning which proceeds from the *general* to the *particular*. That is, in deduction we begin with a general statement or principle and apply it to a particular case." (Ibid, p. 19)
 - b. "A single specimen of deductive reasoning can be expressed in the form of a SYLLOGISM, which is a conventional device for showing clearly the relationships among the ideas included. The syllogism consists of three parts: (1) the *major premise*, stating the general principle on which the reasoning is based; (2) the *minor premise*, indicating the particular case to which the general principle is applied; and (3) the conclusion, which completes the logic of the application. In syllogistic form the preceding example would appear as follows:
- "Major premise: All water exposed to a temperature below 32°F. will freeze.
- Minor premise: The water in my automobile radiator is water exposed to a temperature below 32°F.
- Conclusion: Therefore the water in my automobile radiator will freeze." (Ibid, pp. 19-20)
- iii. Common fallacies in Inductive Reasoning
- a. "In inductive reasoning, we begin with particulars and proceed to a generalization which goes beyond them; we must be careful, therefore, not to proceed too fast or too far, not to generalize more broadly than the evidence reasonably warrants. Failure to observe this precaution may result in three sorts of fallacy: inadequate

sampling, faulty analogy, and faulty causal relationships." (Ibid, p. 21)

b. Inadequate Sampling

- (i) "The fallacy of *inadequate sampling* (or *hasty generalization*) may occur when we generalize on the basis of too few particulars or when we ignore other particulars which actually show our generalization to be unsound." (Ibid)
- (ii) "Under any circumstances it is well for us to observe and consider as many particulars as we readily can and to be on the alert for any which might either clearly show our generalization to be invalid or at least render it suspect." (Ibid)

c. Faulty Analogy

- (i) "The fallacy of *faulty analogy* may occur when from particular similarities between two things we infer a further or more general similarity which does not really exist." (Ibid)
- (ii) "How can we guard against this fallacy? What clues should make us especially careful about accepting certain analogies that we encounter? Once again there are no formulas; but we should remember that reasoning by analogy never constitutes proof; it only indicates a *probable* conclusion. Fault analogy is especially likely to appear when the observed similarities are superficial or when the analogy is based on just a few similarities between things which have many aspects." (Ibid, p. 21-22)

d. Faulty Causal Relationships

- (i) "The fallacy of *faulty causal relationships* may occur when the cause-and-effect relationship that is inferred does not actually exist or, more frequently, when more complex relationships are involved." (Ibid, p. 22)
- (ii) "The danger of fallacy in reasoning from effect to cause is illustrated by the fact that even the best physicians sometimes make wrong diagnoses. A particular effect may be produced by one of several different causes—a particular set of symptoms by one of a number of diseases—and it is possible to go astray, as the doctor may do in this case, by ascribing the effect to the wrong cause." (Ibid, p. 22)
- (iii) "What are the chief precautions for guarding against fallacies in cause-and-effect reasoning? What are the tests we should apply to such reasoning when we meet it? We should make sure that when causes are assigned, they are really adequate to produce the effects; we should determine if possible whether, in each of the causal sequences which are compared, *all* the same causes and *only* the same ones are operating; we should ask whether an observed effect might have been produced by causes other than those assigned and whether

something might keep an expected effect from occurring."
(Ibid, p. 23)

iv. Common fallacies in Deductive Reasoning

a. Faulty Premises

- (i) "If there is something wrong with either or both of the premises in a syllogism—or with the implied premises in an informal deduction—then the conclusion may be false even if the logic itself is airtight." (Ibid)
- (ii) "One test that we should apply to deductive reasoning, then, whether our own or another's, is to examine the premises on which the conclusion is based. Any implied premises should be made explicit for the purpose of this examination." (Ibid, p. 24)

b. Non Sequiturs

- (i) "Unlike the use of false premises, the *non sequitur* (Latin for "it does not follow") fallacy is an error in the logic itself, in the relationships among the ideas, such that the conclusion does not follow from the premises. This fallacy may occur, for example, when the major premise is not a universal generalization, and therefore it does not necessarily include the particular instance cited in the minor premise:" (Ibid)
- (ii) "If the logic in a sample of deductive reasoning is to be foolproof, then, the subject of the major premise must be modified, explicitly or implicitly, by an adjective which makes the generalization universal: by a word such as *all*, *every*, *any*; or if the premise is negative, a word or words such as *no*, *none of*, *not any*." (Ibid)
- (iii) "Another principle that is useful for recognizing and avoiding *non sequiturs* is that the *subject* of the major premise must appear in the *predicate* of the minor premise:" (Ibid)

c. False and Irrelevant Issues

(i) Ignoring the Question

- 1. "Proving something else besides the point at issue is called *ignoring the question*: the reasoner ignores the real question and talks about something else, hoping to produce the same effect as if he were discussing the real one. A common example of this tactic is the argument *ad hominem* (or *argumentum ad hominem*); this phrase means an argument aimed or directed "at the man." Instead of trying to demonstrate a weakness in my opponent's reasoning, I assail his character. Even if the issue is completely impersonal (say, whether a new school building should be erected) I say in effect, "We cannot believe what he says, because he is a drunkard," or "because his brother-in-law is in prison." In the strict sense the

argument *ad hominem* is a negative or unfavorable argument; but of course a similar fallacy may occur when I reason in favor of something. Instead of trying to show the soundness of a point of view, I simply say that it is held by a person or persons whom I characterize as admirable. If this person is really an authority on the subject, then his holding the view may be cogent. If he is only someone of whom I imply a generally or vaguely favorable impression, however, his opinion may well be irrelevant." (Ibid, p. 25)

(ii) Begging the Question (Arguing in a Circle)

1. "Giving a false appearance of proof may be the effect of begging the question or arguing in a circle. *In begging the question*, the reasoner actually assumes in his argument the truth of what he is trying to prove. I may say, "These guilty men committed the crime for which they are on trial." If they are *guilty* of the crime, then certainly they committed it; but merely calling them guilty does not prove that they are. *Arguing in a circle* is a closely similar fallacy: the reasoner makes a statement and then justifies it by saying what amounts to the same thing in different words. For example, "Miss X ought to win the beauty contest. Why? Because she is the most beautiful girl among the contestants." Again, I should ask myself whether the reasoning is more than just word-juggling and, if so, whether it proves the real point at issue." (Ibid, pp. 25-26)
2. Jesus' accusers were *begging the question* (**Joh 18:29-30**).

4. Learn how to make decisions logically and not emotionally.

- A. The heart is the seat of the emotions (**Neh 2:2; Pro 14:10; Ecc 2:10; Ecc 9:7; Isa 65:14; Isa 35:4**).
- B. Heart *n.* - 1. a. The hollow muscular or otherwise contractile organ which, by its dilatation and contraction, keeps up the circulation of the blood in the vascular system of an animal. 9. a. The seat of the emotions generally; the emotional nature, as distinguished from the intellectual nature placed in the *head*.
- C. The fallen human heart is *deceitful* above all things and desperately wicked (**Jer 17:9**).
 - i. We must learn to guide our heart, not follow it (**Pro 23:19**).
 - a. Guide *v.* - 1. a. *trans.* To act as guide to; to go with or before for the purpose of leading the way: said of persons, of God, Providence, and of impersonal agents, such as stars, light, etc. 2. *fig.* and in immaterial senses: To lead or direct in a course of action, in the

formation of opinions, etc.; to determine the course or direction of (events, etc.). a. of persons or agents.

(i) In other words, we must lead and direct our hearts when we form opinions and determine the course of our lives.

(ii) The old saying, "Let your heart be your guide" is foolish and unbiblical.

b. Those that are wise guide their hearts (their emotions) (**Pro 23:19**); those that are fools allow their heart (their emotions) to guide them (**Pro 28:26**).

ii. We must keep our heart with all diligence (**Pro 4:23**).

a. Keep v. - 1. To seize, lay hold of; to snatch, take. *Obs.* II. Transitive uses (in early use also intr.). * To have regard, pay attention to, observe. 9. To have regard, to care, to reckon 14. To guard, defend, protect, preserve, save.

b. Diligence n. - 1. Constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent application and endeavour; industry, assiduity.

c. We need to ever be on our guard to protect and defend our hearts so we are not led away by emotion.

iii. Emotions unchecked can inhibit faith and understanding (**Luk 24:41; Gen 45:26**).

iv. Never make a serious decision when you are in a state of heightened emotion such as sadness, grief, exuberance, depression, anger, etc.

a. Wait until you are in your right mind and then decide what to do.

b. People often do foolish things when they are experiencing the euphoria of the "in love" feeling.

c. People often make foolish decisions regarding remarrying when they are grieving and feeling lonely.

d. People often make foolish financial decisions when they are excited about the prospect of a new purchase.

e. People often make foolish decisions when they are scared.

D. Never equate emotion with the Holy Spirit.

i. Charismatic churches rely on emotion to deceive scripturally ignorant people.

a. It is true that joy is a fruit of the Spirit (**Gal 5:22**).

b. But the feeling of joy is not always from the Holy Spirit (**Pro 2:14; Pro 15:21; 2Th 2:12**).

ii. Deceived professing Christians assume that because they feel so good when they go to their church that it must be of God.

a. It is true that we should experience joy in church (**Psa 42:4; Psa 122:1; Rom 14:17**).

b. But we should first and foremost experience true worship and teaching in church (**Joh 4:23-24**).

c. Often times we should be reproved when we go to church, not given a motivational talk (**2Ti 4:2-4**).

iii. Consider how godly men in the scripture often felt when they were doing the will of God.

- a. Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (**Isa 53:3**).
 - b. Moses was stressed, overwhelmed, and wanted to die (**Num 11:10-15**).
 - c. Elijah felt lonely and wanted to die (**1Ki 19:4, 10**).
 - d. Job was in total misery and wished he was dead (**Job 3:1-4, 11**).
 - e. Paul was troubled (**2Co 4:8**), perplexed (**2Co 4:8**), depressed (**2Co 4:9**), weary (**2Co 11:27**), forsaken by friends (**2Ti 4:16**), and had a thorn in the flesh that God would not take away (**2Co 12:7-9**).
 - f. Does this mean that Jesus, Moses, Elijah, Job, and Paul did not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them?
 - iv. On the other hand, the wicked who have not the Holy Spirit often experience joy and goodness in this life (**Psa 73:3-7; Psa 17:14; Job 20:5**).
 - v. Emotions do not determine who is filled with the Holy Spirit, but having the word of God dwelling in richly in all wisdom does (**Eph 5:18-19 c/w Col 3:16 c/w Pro 1:23**).
- E. Never equate feelings, impressions, or coincidences with God's leading.
- i. The devil leads people into all manner of foolish choices by these things.
 - ii. Always test the feeling, impression, or coincidence with "what saith the scripture" before making a decision based on it (**Act 17:11; Isa 8:20**).
 - iii. Prove all things by the word of God (**1Th 5:21; Pro 14:15**).
- F. Most people make decisions emotionally and then afterwards try to justify them logically.
- i. There are usually two reasons people have for doing something: the reason they give for it, and then the *real* reason.
 - a. I "bought" this new smart phone (on a payment plan, of course) because...
 - (i) The reason I give to other people: my old one was probably going to die soon, or it was too slow, or it didn't have enough space.
 - (ii) The real reason: I wanted the latest phone because it has some new neat features and it makes me look cool.
 - b. I "bought" a new car (on credit, of course) because...
 - (i) The reason I give to other people: interest rates are so low that it makes sense to take out a loan and leave my money in the bank.
 - (ii) The real reason: I wanted a new car to fulfill my lust, and so it will make me look like I'm doing well in other's eyes (and by the way, I don't actually have any money in the bank).
 - c. I "bought" a bigger house (with a 30 year mortgage, of course) because...
 - (i) The reason I give to other people: interest rates are so low and a house is actually a good investment (housing prices never go down, you know), and plus my mortgage payment won't even go up very much.
 - (ii) The real reason: I wanted a bigger house to fulfill my lusts and have status among my friends and peers. And although it

won't make my monthly mortgage payment go up much, it will extend my payments for another 30 years so I will be a debt slave for the rest of my life.

- ii. If you feel like you have to justify your decision to others and persuade them that you made a good decision, you would do well to consider the *real reason* that you made the decision.

G. People who make decisions emotionally are easily deceived.

i. Examples

- a. You see pictures of a mass shooting and then decide we need more gun laws and surveillance.
- b. You see pictures of an alleged chemical weapons attack in a country on the other side of the world, and you decide we need to bomb "them."
- c. You hear the words "for the children" and you agree we need to pass a new government spending bill.
- d. You feel bad that healthcare is so expensive for the poor, so you vote for the "Affordable Care Act" because after all it must provide "affordable care" since the bill's name contains those words.
- e. There is a terrorist attack and you support the PATRIOT ACT because it has the word "patriot" in it.
- f. You listen to a sob story from a stranger or a relative who has made foolish decisions or is lying about his situation and are compelled to give him money.
- g. You meet a guy in NYC that is selling gold necklaces out of a briefcase for bargain prices and immediately buy one because you think you're getting a great deal, only to later realize it's only gold-plated.
- h. The media tells you that the coronavirus pandemic is going to kill millions so you immediately give up your liberties out of fear.

5. Try the spirits to see if they are of God (**1Jo 4:1**).

A. Remember the following:

- i. Satan can perform lying signs and wonders (**2Th 2:9**).
- ii. Satan's ministers are ministers of righteousness (**2Co 11:13-15**).
- iii. Satan's men can do miracles (**Mat 10:1 c/w Mat 10:4 c/w Joh 6:70**), preach the gospel (**Mat 10:7**), be philanthropists (**Joh 12:4-5**), and prophesy (**2Pe 2:15-17**).

B. The gift of prophecy ended by the close of the first century.

- i. When the New Testament was complete (perfect), prophecy ceased (**1Co 13:8-10**).
- ii. Therefore, if someone claims to be a prophet today, he is lying.

C. If any man claims to be a prophet, prove him by the word of God.

- i. Test #1: Has *every* prophecy that a prophet has made come true?
 - a. If even one prophecy he has spoken has not come to pass, he is a false prophet (**Deut 18:20-22**).
 - b. One false prophecy negates 1000 true ones.
- ii. Test #2: Does the prophet's doctrine accord with the teaching of scripture?

- a. If a prophet makes a prophecy that comes true, but his doctrine is false, he is a false prophet (**Deut 13:1-3**).
 - b. If he speaks not according to the scripture, there is no light in him (**Isa 8:20**).
 - c. If he does not acknowledge that Paul's doctrine is the truth, he is a false prophet (**1Co 14:37**).
 - d. If he doesn't hear the teaching of the apostles, he is not of God (**1Jo 4:6**).
6. Avoid the occult entirely.
- A. Wizards, séances, witches, necromancers, psychics, palm readers, tarot card readers, astrologers, etc. are all evil (**Deut 18:9-12**).
 - B. Occultic books owned by Christians should be destroyed (**Act 19:19**).
 - C. Ouija boards should never be played with.
 - D. Shows or movies depicting "good" witches and wizards should not be watched for the purpose of entertainment.
 - i. There is no such thing as a good witch or a good wizard (this includes Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, etc.).
 - ii. To call a witch or a wizard good is to call evil good (**Isa 5:20**).
 - iii. Christians that have pleasure in them that sin are just as guilty as the sinners themselves (**Rom 1:32**).
7. Avoid allowing garbage into your mind.
- A. TV
 - i. The "news" is mostly propaganda designed to deceive you.
 - ii. Look at how the media managed to whip the entire country into a frenzy about the coronavirus which turned out to be far less deadly than they claimed.
 - iii. TV *programming* (think about that word) is designed to corrupt your mind and desensitize it toward wickedness such as fornication, sodomy, blasphemy, etc.
 - iv. If you want to protect yourself from deception, get rid of your TV.
 - B. Movies
 - i. Most movies have an agenda to change the thinking of the culture.
 - ii. The few that don't have sex, nudity, violence, and blasphemy promote the feminist agenda which to most people is imperceptible.
 - iii. Many Hollywood actors are inspired by Satan (see sermon on [Hollywood](#)).
 - C. Music
 - i. Music has a way of becoming quickly engrained in our memories.
 - ii. Once heard a few times, it is nearly impossible to forget.
 - iii. The evil messages will either overtly or subliminally affect our thinking.
 - D. Books
 - i. There are good books and there are evil books.
 - ii. There are nonfiction books that teach lies.
 - iii. There are other nonfiction books that teach a lot of truth, but contain lies.
 - iv. Just make sure that you have good discernment if you are going to read a book that you know contains error.

- v. Fictional books can contain the same filth and propaganda that TV and movies do, so beware.

E. Internet

- i. The internet is a cesspool of filth, lies, and propaganda.
- ii. There is of course much truth to be found on it as well.
- iii. Be very careful of the type of content you view on the internet.
- iv. Do not assume that just because you read something on the alternative media that it is true.
- v. We should subject it to the same scrutiny that we do the mainstream media.