

Take Heed That You Are Not Deceived

4340

I. Many Warnings Against End-time Deception (Matt. 24:4–5, 23–25)

- A. Miraculous signs do not necessarily prove a message true
- B. God will protect those whom He has *chosen*

II. What Is Truth? (John 18:37–38)

Three coordinates:

- A. Jesus (John 14:6)
- B. God's Word (John 17:17)
- C. The Spirit (1 John 5:6)

III. False Versions Of Jesus

- A. Marxist revolutionary — “Liberation”
- B. Guru — “New Age”
- C. Father Christmas — Liberal
(2 Cor. 11:4) “Another Jesus” leads to a “different spirit” and a “different Gospel”

IV. How Deception Enters—Primarily Through Pride

- A. Pattern of Lucifer: pride – rebellion – deception
- B. *Cults* offer a “*super group*” – beware!
- C. Jesus chooses another kind (1 Cor. 1:26–29)
- D. Beware of *flattery*! (Prov. 29:5)

V. Error Through Prophecy

- A. *All prophecy* should be *judged* (1 Cor. 14:29; 1 Thess. 5:19–21)
- B. *All prophets* should be *willing* to be judged (Is. 8:19–20)
The standard: *Scripture*

VI. Examples Of Misleading Prophecy

- A. Going beyond proportion of faith (Rom. 12:6)
- B. A divining Spirit (Acts 16:16–19)
- C. Contemporary examples:
 - 1. Church bazaar fortune-teller
 - 2. Woman whose husband was killed
 - 3. Businessman in Australia—the *camel*
 - 4. Self with spiritist woman
 - 5. Persons with both *true* and *false spirits* [Branham] (Deut. 22:9, 11—Warning against *mixed seed* or *clothing*)

VII. Candidates For Deception—Those Who:

- A. Rely on subjective impressions
- B. Look only to human leaders
- C. Accept supernatural signs as a guarantee of truth
- D. Through personal ambition are susceptible to flattery
- E. Are unwilling to face the possibility of persecution and suffering
- F. Are ignorant of Scripture

VIII. How to Be Free From Deception

- A. Only by God's mercy (1 Cor. 7:25)
- B. Cultivate humility and fear of the Lord (Ps. 25:8–9, 12–14). True wisdom and

- knowledge both proceed out of the fear of the Lord (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7)
- C.** Base everything on the Scriptures—first general, then special revelation
A Christian who ignores his Bible has no right to hear from God.
 - D.** Focus on Jesus (Rev. 19:10; John 16:13–14)
 - E.** Leave the initiative with God (John 5:30; Ps. 131)
 - F.** Beware of fantasy [personal illustration]
 - G.** Keep it simple and plain (2 Cor. 3:12–13; 11:2–4)
 - H.** Exercise your senses (Heb. 5:12–14; Phil. 1:9–10)
 - I.** Cultivate love of the truth (2 Thess. 2:9–12)
Active, not passive
Positive, not negative

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