

#22 *FORUM POST ON BEING DECEIVED

Dear S____,

Truth is very rare in this carnal world. Scripture says that Satan deceives the whole world and that he masquerades as an angel of light (Christ). The "called out ones" (the church) are Satan's favorite targets. Even the very Elect would be deceived by him if it were possible.

So how is a believer to know what is truth and what is deception???

All the studying in the world will not help if the reader is spiritually blind. The only solution is for Christ to give us "eyes that can see" and "ears that can hear". This healing comes when Christ gives the Latter Rain of the Spirit to the believer. This is the same event the apostles experienced in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost. Only after Christ heals their spiritual blindness can a believer come out from Satan's deceptions and start consuming the true bread from Heaven (truth).

Once a believer has been given "eyes that can see", verses like the ones below will open up to them. They will then understand why they were deceived in the first place.

Isa 28: 10-12 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Truth is taught in bits and pieces - a little here and a little there and those pieces can be inserted into scripture in ways that have nothing to do with context. Because of this, the pieces must be assembled much in the same way a building is built – brick by brick from the foundation up.

This is one of the ways the truth of Christ is written so that its meaning is concealed from all but Christ's Elect who have been given "eyes that can see".

Ecc 3:11 He (God) has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put obscurity in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.

Furthermore, to make it even more difficult to understand, the Word of God is written in "another tongue" (spiritual language). Scripture is written in Christ's spiritual language.

Christ said His words were for those with "ears that can hear" or "eyes that can see". These are "spiritual" eyes and ears that Christ gives His Elect. Once a person receives these "eyes and

ears", their world paradigm changes and scripture opens up to them. After this healing happens, the believer will realize that context is not that important.

Even Paul taught in this manner.

1Cor 2:6-7 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect (**the Elect**): yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a MYSTERY, even the HIDDEN wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Cor 2:13-14 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Here is an example:

The context of the verse below is when Judas came and kissed Christ in order for Christ to be taken. When Peter saw what was happening, Peter drew his sword and struck one of the servants of the high priest.

Then Christ said this to Peter:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Did Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, you will likewise be killed with a sword? Literally, that is what He is saying. So if we are to understand it literally, then that statement can easily be proven to be FALSE. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying. So is Christ mistaken or is His message something else?

Since His "words are spirit", His message must be spiritually understood. Christ's spiritual message is quite different from what He is literally saying.

In **Mat 26:52**, Christ is using a "symbol" or "type" to give us His spiritual message. Here Christ uses the symbol of a Sword. To understand what that symbol means, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged

sword...

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...

From these examples, it is easy to understand that a Sword represents the Word of God. So Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in **Mat 26:52** is that all who take up the Word of God (those who are "called out"), must perish (death of the carnal nature) by the Word of God.

Here the symbol of the Sword represents the Word of God and the Word of God is Christ. Christ is teaching on salvation - when Christ comes to us, He destroys our Old Man (carnal nature) and then gives life to a New Man in Christ.

Water baptism is another symbol which sends the same spiritual message as **Matt 26:52**. When an individual is baptized in water, the immersion represents the death of our carnal nature (Old Man). The ascension out of the water represents our new birth in Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven. This great work of salvation is accomplished by the Word of God (Christ, Sword).

To correctly understand scripture, it must be understood spiritually. For this type of understanding to occur, we must first understand that the words used in scripture do not carry the same meaning as taught by man's wisdom (1Cor 2:13). Christ's words are spirit and we are told to understand their spiritual meaning by comparing them with the same spiritual words used elsewhere in scripture. We must compare spiritual with spiritual. We are to also keep in mind that "the sum of God's Word is truth". Trying to literally understand a single verse of scripture within its own context will only produce confusion. Have you ever wondered why there are so many different denominational churches in the world? This is one of the reasons why.

So when does a believer receive these spiritual "eyes" so that they can understand truth? We don't have to wonder because Christ gives us the answer. The only problem is that His answer is in spiritual language and only those who have spiritual eyes can understand the answer. It is a kind of "catch 22".

Here is the answer to when:

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?

In these verses, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on spiritual language - His language. At this point in time (before Pentecost), the disciples had not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and were spiritually blind. They simply could not understand what Christ was teaching them. After Christ's short lesson, He ends it by asking them this question: "How is it that ye do not understand"? No response is recorded in scripture, however, Christ answers His own question in the very next 4 verses.

Mark 8:22-25 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Christ speaks to us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things that He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, He goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer through the type and shadow of His healing of a blind man.

In these verses, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes that the blind man remains carnally minded. The "spit" (water) symbolizes the blind man receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit with its accompanying vision (eyes, understanding). After Christ asks him what he could see, the blind man looks up and says that he could see men walking as trees. "Walking as trees" is a symbol for Called Out believers of which the blind man is now one. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted. This "first healing" of the blind man reflects our spiritual condition when we first enter the Church. At that time, we are left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted. Peter says this condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 4:19 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

In the final verse of the story, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again but this time, Christ has the man "look up". This second healing represents the Latter Rain of the Spirit (second coming of Christ) when true spiritual vision is given to the believer. The man's upward gaze represents this heavenly aspect of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind man was looking down. From that moment onward, we know that the blind man is a Called and Chosen believer. We can now know that the blind man is one of Christ's Elect, a First Fruit of the harvest of mankind.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for your heart felt reply. The question you asked is one we should all consider, and one I have personally dealt with for over 25 years now.

How can we know if we are following the Path God foreordained that we should walk in, or are walking in the religious philosophies of man?

I agree that we do need "TRUTH" or as Jesus also calls it "eyes that can see" and "ears that can hear". But where does the Spirit of Truth come from, according to Scriptures?

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

So, How do we know the Commandments of Christ? Who is HE?

Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And Again;

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

So according to these and other Scriptures, before the Spirit of TRUTH is given, there is a directive given by the Christ to "keep His Commandments". Where are these found? In the Holy scriptures HE CREATED for our admonition.

It is so simple. Here is an example; If i am a thief, and I am studying the Bible, and I get to the Christ's Commandment "thou shall not Steal", will HE ask HIS Father to give me the Spirit of Truth if I continue to Steal? Of course not. As it is written "today if you hear His Voice, harden

not your hearts".

When the Christ sees the repentance (me stop stealing) HE will know i have Faith. He will see me "denying myself" and Following Him. He will see my old man, the thief, become a new man, one who does not steal. This process continues on to Lying, rebelling against parents, adultery, God's Holy Sabbaths, etc.. As I repent and turn to Him in the things I CAN Change, and the things I CAN understand, He has promised to give me understanding of the "Hidden" things that only HE can reveal.

The reason why there are so many differing religions, is because men are not willing to Trust Him in the instructions they "CAN" obey. Paul explains it pretty good in Rom. 1.

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

If a person is not willing to "deny themselves" and Follow the Christ, as they read about Him, then you are right. "All the scripture study in the world will not help if the reader is spiritually blind".

As Jesus says; "If I have told you earthly things, (Don't Steal, Don't cheat, don't kill, Remember My Sabbath, etc.) and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

There has always been a choice for men to make between the "other voice" in the garden, and the Word of God.

As the Christ inspired it is written;

Duet. 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I (Christ, the Rock of Israel) command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death,

blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

The KEY to the Mystery of Godliness is obedience to God. As Peter teaches.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. Just as Jesus Promised.

S_____

Dear S_____,

To really understand why mankind is deceived, we must go back to how God created mankind. Man's spiritual condition we have from birth is "flawed". It was NOT a mistake by God. We were made that way on purpose so that our "flesh" controls us. That is why we are carnally minded and why Christ in a physical body was not. Christ was spiritually perfect. In other words, Christ overcame this carnal world and never sinned, whereas mankind cannot. Mankind cannot possibly follow the commandments of God. If we could, then Christ would not need to give us a new spiritual birth.

It is not man's fault that we are made spiritually flawed and sin reigns in our mortal bodies. God is responsible for our spiritual condition that causes us to sin.

So why did God make us spiritually flawed?

Since this Creation is for God's purpose of producing His offspring (sons of God), He wants us to be "like" Him. And to be like Him, we must have a knowledge of good and evil. God even created Satan to be our tempter and deceiver so that we would have a fuller experience of evil.

Isa 45:5-7 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Ecc 1:13 An experience of evil God has given to the sons of humanity to humble them by it.

Lam 3:38 Out of the mouth of the Most High doth not there proceed evil and good?

Isa 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster (Satan) to destroy.

In our spiritually flawed, carnally minded condition we ALL become sinful, evil creatures. That is why scripture says:

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Mankind's carnal nature is hatred towards God. And because of such, we can't understand Him (Truth) or want to seek His ways.

On the other hand, Satan was created to feed upon the dust of the ground (**Gen 3:14**). The "dust of the ground" represents our carnal nature and that is why Satan works to destroy and deceive mankind.

When Adam and Eve were created spiritually flawed, they quickly became carnally minded. God put Satan in the Garden to do his work of tempting Eve so that she would sin. Eve could not have possibly done anything else but fall to his temptations. Eve even displayed the three causes of sin BEFORE she sinned.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

God, of course knew this and it was His plan all along for Adam and Eve to sin. And just as Adam and Eve sinned, so do all of their offspring. Mankind's sin was planned and caused by God so that we would experience evil. With God, evil is a tool that He uses for His good and righteous purposes. In this case, His purpose is to create His offspring who know good and evil.

But since mankind's sin spiritually separates us from God and God wants children, He created a pathway for mankind to be restored to Himself. To accomplish that purpose, God the Father sent Christ:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Acts 3:20-21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

In our spiritually flawed, carnally minded condition, no person can be saved. We have all sinned and the penalty of sin is death (not eternal hell). The only solution is for mankind to be born again from the death we must pay. Our spiritually flawed vessel must be destroyed and made into a new spiritually perfect vessel.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he

made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

In our created spiritually flawed condition, we all reject God and cannot choose Him. There is nothing good within mankind. The only way we can choose Christ is for Christ to individually come to us and change us from within. He does this by giving us the Early Rain of the Spirit. When Christ does this work within us, we ALL fall to the ground and call Him "Lord" (just as Paul typed for us on the Damascus Road). There are no exceptions.

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Herein lies the GREAT mystery of the church (the called out ones): The Early Rain that a new Called Out believer receives is only a measure of the Holy Spirit. Because of such, we remain spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) and are still controlled by our carnal natures. Satan then comes to us and deceives us. Satan masquerades as an angel of light (Christ) and causes us to accept his false truth (**Mat 13:33**, Wheat and Tares parable). Since we are deceived, we believe that we are receiving the truth of God. Christ explained this process below:

Mat 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents Satan's false truth. Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more (**spirit of anti-Christ**) since their house remains void of Christ's truth. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within them, they now have EIGHT. The number EIGHT is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first. This worsened spiritual condition is called the Man of Sin by Paul.

After the Early Rain, our deadly head wound that came from the sword (Word of God) of Christ is healed. We then remain a part of the Seven-Headed Beast of Revelation. This Beast represents mankind in our worsened spiritual condition. At this point, we have truly fallen away and have turned to our own "works" for our salvation. This is the one and only sin that leads to our spiritual death. From this death, we cannot be renewed by repentance:

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word

of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The Doctrine of Free Will is the most common belief that causes us to fall away. We use this false belief to differentiate us from why unbelievers are worthy of hell and why we are not. We falsely believe that we made the right choice from our supposed free will. But in truth, we did not. It was Christ's work within us that caused us to accept Him as Lord.

What I have stated above is part of the Pathway that leads to destruction. We all must and will travel it.

Since a fallen away believer cannot be renewed by repentance, they will remain in this lost, spiritually worsened condition until either they physically die or Christ comes to them a second time. This is typed for us by Joshua and Caleb and Israel wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

If a person has been "chosen from the foundation of the world", then Christ will not let them die in their sins. He will come again to them and give them the Latter Rain. It is ONLY then that they will come out from Satan's deceptions. The Latter Rain is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the same event the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost in the upper room and it is the same event Paul typed for us when he received the Holy Spirit after being in Damascus for three days. **THIS IS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST THAT IS COMMONLY TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE.** Immediately after the Latter Rain event, the Day of the Lord will come and the Man of Sin will be judged and destroyed. After this judgment, the path that leads to destruction is complete and the New Man in Christ will begin traveling the Narrow Path that leads to Life.

What I have stated above is a very abbreviated summary of how Christ saves one of His chosen Elect. They are the First Fruits of His harvest of mankind. But Christ will NOT leave the rest of mankind to rot in the field. In the final age, at the end of the harvest season (Feast of Tabernacles), Christ will finish His work and bring in the full harvest of mankind. Then it will be testified to be true that ALL who died in Adam is the same ALL who will be made alive in Christ.

1 Cor 15:20-28 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all

things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

God does not fail and He never makes mistakes. What mankind is experiencing is how God reproduces Himself in His children. This is the meaning of life that seems to elude most people. Why? Because we are made spiritually blind and cannot know what God is doing until we receive the Latter Rain.

Ecc 3:11 He (God) has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put obscurity in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.

Mankind is not restored to the Father because of our "will". We are restored to the Father because it is His "will" for it to happen. God is not a respecter of persons. We will all be saved and we will all travel the same pathway for that salvation. The only difference is "when" we complete the path and God decided that from the foundation of the world to satisfy His own purposes.

I could have included many scriptures/parables that further support and explain what I have stated above but then this post would have turned into a book.

Joe