

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

October 27, 2015

Issue No. 220 Mark Aites, Editor

Deception

"The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions." – Leonardo da Vinci

"You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." – Abraham Lincoln, Bloomington, Illinois, May 29, 1856

"We are easily duped by those we love." – Moliere

"O what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" – Sir Walter Scott, "Marmion"

"The essence of lying is in deception, not in words." – John Ruskin

No one likes to be deceived. And yet that has been happening to man since the beginning. Do you recall what Eve said in the Garden of Eden? "The serpent deceived me, and I ate" (Gen. 3:13).

There were many incidents in Scripture where deception is found. Jacob was to have been given Rachel for a wife, but Laban deceived him in giving him her sister Leah (Gen. 29:23-25). Later, Laban sought to change Jacob's wages ten times (Gen. 31:7). Jacob noted that as a matter of deception. Achan stole and deceived Israel in taking of the accursed things in Jericho and hiding them beneath his tent (Josh. 7:11). King Saul sought to kill David, but David's wife Michal deceived Saul with an image in the bed and helped David to escape (1 Sam. 19:11-17). King Saul himself sought to deceive the witch or medium at EnDor (1 Sam. 28:8-12). Even in the New Testament Herod was deceived by the wise men (Matt. 2:16).

Scripture also contains warnings of deception. Jesus Himself said, "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them" (Luke 21:8). Paul wrote, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Cor. 15:33). "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Be careful. All of these passages show that it is possible we too can be deceived. One of Paul's greatest warnings had to be to the church at Corinth, when he said that there were "...false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ" (2 Cor. 11:13). And Paul went on to say, "For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

All of this serves as a good reminder to us: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made" (Gen. 3:1). Don't underestimate the devil!