

Deception Proofing

By
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Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...(resurrection)..., that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit of a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ... (the last day resurrection of the saints of all time)... Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...(identified as)... the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, ... (after it has been rebuilt by the religious Jews after the Gog-Magog war)....

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 NASB

Note first of all that Paul has identified the resurrection (rapture) as taking place after the antichrist “man of sin” calls down fire from heaven and declares himself to be “Messiah” as he rules the entire world during the 7th seal identified as “**great tribulation**.”

This warning specifically relates to false Christs, false prophets, and “doctrines of demons” secretly introduced into the body of Christ through satanically inspired men masquerading as ministers of righteousness. It also relates to the authoritative presumptions of men who are disconnected from the *rhema* word of the Spirit of truth in their painstaking intellectual examinations of biblical scripture, and especially prophetic scripture related to the end times.

Our example from the OT are the Pharisees, the intellectual giants of Israel who knew by memory every prophetic reference to the first advent of the Messiah, but completely missed Him as He lived out every single prophetic detail in their very presence.

This is not unlike the intellectual giants of the organized church today, with doctorates in biblical Hebrew and Greek, who are, in large part, missing the revelatory details concerning the second advent of the Messiah.

The proof that we (the body of Christ in general) are already deceived is that each and every one of us believe it is not us, but those “others” who are deceived.

And our division into hundreds of denominations (different understandings of the written Word of God leading to significant differences of opinion concerning all doctrine and practice). Thus, proving that having doctorates in biblical

Hebrew and Greek, while potentially helpful, is no guarantee that we will get it right without help (“guidance”) from the Spirit of truth. (See John 16:13)

Roman Catholics believe Protestants are deceived. Protestants believe the Roman Catholics and the Christian cults are deceived. Charismatics believe the cessationists (those who believe the manifestation gifts of the Spirit have passed away) are deceived. Southern Baptists believe the Church of Christ is deceived. The Church of Christ believes the Baptists are deceived, ad infinitum. And the obvious truth is that we are ALL deceived to some degree.

Thus, the Lord’s warning: ***But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, ...and those with ears to hear, THE teacher, hear the same thing... and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father...absolute spiritual authority...; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.*** Matthew 23:8-11 ESV

Our ineffective response to this obvious flaw in the body of Christ today is ecumenicalism. We generously agree to “let the main thing be the main thing” in our effort to maintain some semblance of peace in the body, but genuine unity can never be achieved through ecumenicalism, and our efforts to maintain ecumenical peace without seeking unity in the Spirit is a totally inadequate response that will ultimately manifest itself in the Harlot church and her daughters, which will be the initial form of Mystery Babylon in the days to come.

Paul, receiving the Word directly from the Lord, said, ***Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgement.***

And the Lord Himself tells us, ***“If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”*** Mark 3:25 NASB

We ARE the house of the Lord, and we ARE divided because of the inroads that our enemy, Satan, has made through deceived believers through the ages.

Though division and deception both grieve my spirit I am aware that the Lord has identified our current status as an entire body as being “asleep.” In the prophetic parable of the ten virgins He explained that all ten virgins, the entire corporate body of Christ, who were all originally wide awake in their expectation of His immediate return and their unity, all fell asleep when He tarried. (Matthew 25:1-11)

An examination of church history reveals that we were beginning to doze off by the fourth century AD with the landmark event being the Council of Nicaea in 317 AD.

The institutional church from that point until the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century was the Roman Catholic Church. The period of deepest sleep and deception is what we now refer to historically as “the dark ages.” It was during this time that the institutional church gained political power, and those who contested the authority of the Roman Catholic Church or the papacy were harshly punished, even killing those believers who were not priests for having a copy of the scriptures in their possession by burning them at the stake (during which Satan and his demons celebrated their obscene victory).

This is the Satanically inspired and empowered Nicolaitan error (power over the people) that the **hates** as the Lord revealed in the Word given to John.

The only Bibles available were written in the Latin Vulgate, which was primarily known only by the priests and the highly educated men of that time. Thus, the general population was forced to receive biblical scripture only through the interpretations and explanations of the priesthood, headed by the Pope and the papal council, which is identified in Revelation as the “Nicolaitan” error. (i.e. “Nicolaitan” means “power and control over the people.”)

Ultimately the Roman Catholic Church gave up their attempt to stop the printing of biblical scripture into other languages, but, to this day, the Catechism (the papacy’s interpretation of the meaning of biblical scripture) is taught as the authoritative truth to Catholic believers who are discouraged from seeking revelatory truth from scripture on their own.

Yet, the deceptions do not stop at the papacy’s doorstep.

Initially the Protestant Reformation was basically united, because they had a common cause – i.e. get the written Word into the hands of individual believers who are then responsible for receiving truth directly from the Spirit of truth.

The Matthew 23:8-11 passage obviously brings all denominational, authoritative doctrine and practice into question. Are we receiving and believing what our denominational authorities, our chosen “experts,” and the divisive opinions of men teach us, or are we in the practice of inductively examining biblical scripture and allowing the Spirit of truth to guide us into all truth?

A simple, undeniable observation follows. Any believer who is guided by the Spirit into the truth concerning any doctrine or practice, including prophetic doctrine, is united in the faith with those who have also received the Spirit-guided, Spirit-confirmed truth, doctrine or practice.

All others are either in presumptive error, or they are deceived, whether by direct or indirect demonic deception, or by the assumption of the false presumptuous and authoritative opinions of men who are themselves deceived.

What I have discovered when directly or indirectly challenging the beliefs of other Christians, such as the Roman Catholic deification of Mary or the dispensational pre-tribulation resurrection-“rapture” of church only saints, is that the majority simply adopt or assume whatever beliefs are popular in the body of believers they are associated with (the herd instinct) or the beliefs that are presented in a persuasive, authoritative proof-texting manner by their chosen “experts” and authorities apart from revelation and confirmation by the Spirit of truth who was sent to “guide” us in ALL truth.

For some reason many believers are more willing to study the opinions of men than they are to study biblical scripture with the guidance of the Spirit of truth.

For that reason, I continually remind those who are receiving my teaching not to receive it on any basis other than their own inductive, Spirit-guided examination of scripture, because I KNOW that I am not beyond false presumption. At best I am a good facilitator of His gift. At worst I may be teaching presumptions or deceptions I have unknowingly received as being the truth.

The **DANGER** of failing to heed the Lord’s warning, particularly as it applies to the end time church, is that deception, and, to a lesser extent, false presumption, will be the cause of the awakened “foolish” virgins ultimately rejecting their faith in a time of extreme chaos, natural disaster, lawlessness, religious persecution, and other “shaking of all that can be shaken” accompanied by false prophets exhibiting false (demonically empowered) signs and wonders.

This rejection of their faith by roughly half the born-again, regenerated believers who will soon be awakened by that prophetic event identified by the Lord metaphorically as the groomsman (the Holy Spirit) announcing, “**Behold! The bridegroom is coming,**” is the most tragic event recorded in scripture. And it will be these, who will be deceived, who eventually betray family members and persecute the church at large after their rejection of the faith causes them to take the covenant mark of the beast kingdom during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of “tribulation.”

Many of these will also be unknowingly recruited to become false prophets empowered by demons to produce false signs and wonders.

It is no accident, then, that the doctrine of the unconditional, eternal security of believers or “once saved, always saved,” popularly accepted and taught by a

wide variety of evangelical Christians, was introduced and promoted in the body of Christ through presumptions that were prompted initially by deception. Because those who believe it will not recognize or receive either the truth or the related danger of deception that we have been warned about by the Lord as it relates to end time believers.

Their assumption of the doctrine of once saved, always saved causes them to basically ignore the warning given by the Lord in the parable of the ten virgins and elsewhere. After all, if it is not possible to reject one's faith in Christ, the worst that can happen is a loss of reward in heaven. So, why worry?

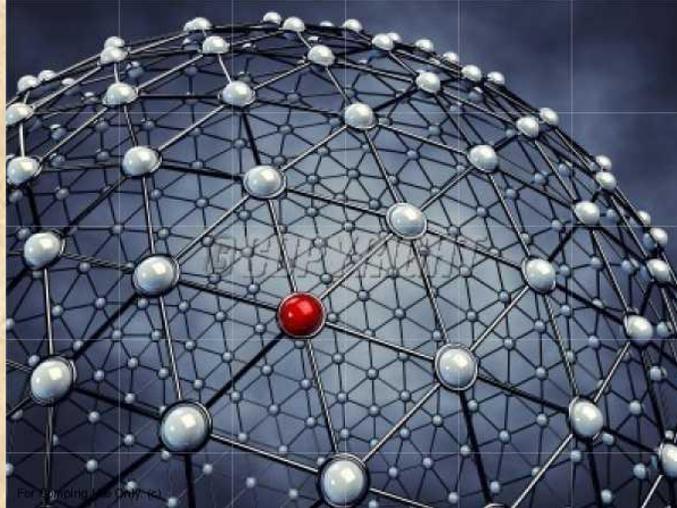
The first thing we need to know in order to successfully become deception-proof is that biblical scripture, both authored and interpreted to us by the Spirit of truth, is a complex, totally unified, inter-related matrix. The core structure of this matrix, impacting every single aspect of biblical truth, doctrine, and practice, is the doctrine of soteriology (salvation). This doctrine includes the trinity, the person of Jesus Christ, and God's purpose and plan for His created being, man, and His purpose and plan, ordained before the foundation of the world (before the creation) to include an elect remnant of mankind in a single, eternal covenant written in the blood of His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, the seed of Abraham, the Son of David, Lamb of God, Son of Man, and the last Adam, our Messiah, who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

If we, therefore, corrupt any part of this matrix through error, whether of presumption or deception, we inhibit our ability to receive revelatory truth from the Spirit of truth regarding any other part of the matrix impacted by the error.

If this corruption impacts the primary core backbone and central nervous system of the matrix, which is our covenant relationship with God in Christ, then the potential for deception is extreme.

Therefore, any doctrine that denies or corrupts this primary, core doctrine is heretical, and potentially leads to the spiritual death of MANY, especially during that time identified as "tribulation."

Thus, the Lord's primary warning, ***Do not be deceived.***



Matrix

In real estate terminology an “abstract of title” is the written record of the metes and bounds, history, ownership, rights, restrictions, liens, and other pertinent legal information related to a specific piece of property.

In metaphoric terms, I see the written Word of God, biblical scripture, as being the legal “abstract” of God’s covenant relationship with His created being, man, in which an elect, remnant of mankind is included in an eternal covenant relationship with Him as co-heirs in Jesus Christ, while those who have failed to be reckoned by God as “righteous,” whether by direct faith in Jesus Christ or by whatever test of faith God has sovereignly required of them, are eternally separated from participation as co-heirs in this eternal covenant.

Like the reading of a complex will, it is necessary for the Counselor who authored it, to explain the truth, requirements, and rewards of this will to the co-heirs. But those who are daydreaming, talking and arguing amongst themselves, or being distracted by the loud, angry, confused voices outside the closed door session with the Counselor, will misunderstand large parts of this abstract concerning their inheritance in Christ, which causes disagreement among the co-heirs and the loss of many of the benefits provided in the will of God for His children.

Recently the Spirit of truth has caused me to grasp a greater metaphor for the entire *logos* (written) and *rhema* (revelatory) Word of God as a perfect, organic, inter-connected globe, an infinite, living spiritual matrix.

For those who have not been regenerated and do not have the Law written on their hearts in the form of the presence of the Holy Spirit, this matrix is dark, incomplete, and dis-jointed, with only the basic external shape visible to the human mind.

The...(spiritual)... eye is the lamp of the...(spiritual)... body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of ... (spiritual) ... darkness. If then the very light in you [your conscience] is darkened, how dense is that darkness!
Matthew 6:22,23 Amplified

Those who are old enough to remember the screw in lightbulbs used in Christmas tree lights will remember that if a single bulb burned out, the entire string of lights went out. Then each bulb had to be tested one at a time until the burned-out bulb was replaced so that the string of lights came on again.

Thus, in the matrix of God's combined *logos* and *rhema* Word, a burned-out bulb (erroneous doctrine) will cause a string of revelatory lights to become dark and disconnected from the whole. If the error relates directly to the core doctrine of this matrix, which is our covenant relationship with God in Christ, then vast amounts of this complex, inter-connected matrix are darkened.

But if the burned out bulb (the false doctrine and, especially, demonically inspired doctrine) is replaced, the core string of lights comes back on, and because of inter-connectedness, many other strings of light begin to burn either dimly or brightly.

In my own case I not only assumed the dispensational doctrine popular in the denomination I was saved into, I memorized all of the proof texts and charts from the "authorities" of that entire doctrine. And it was not until a brother challenged me to examine the origin and distinctives of that doctrine that I finally confirmed Dispensationalism as a false doctrine from our only true authority, the dual witness of revelatory scripture and the Spirit of truth.

Once that doctrine of demons was removed from my mind the connective string of lights came back on, and I found myself "seeing" and "hearing" revelatory truth in greater measure than ever before.

Ancient Jewish scribes, to test the accuracy of their work, counted the letters from the front and from the back. If the exhaustive count did not land on the same letter in the middle of the text, the entire scroll containing numerous sheepskins was destroyed.

If, on the other hand, they made a slight mistake while writing, say leaving out a jot or a tittle, the specific sheepskin they were writing on was destroyed as well as the entire section of the scroll on either side of the mistake.

This OCD attention to absolute accuracy was the specific intention of God so that the complex, intricately woven matrix of biblical scripture would be preserved exactly as He intended.

As a student of biblical scripture I have been intensely interested in the origins of the Bible and of the various translations over the centuries, and I was delighted to discover the work of a Russian mathematician, Dr. Ivan Panin, a former agnostic who became a believer through his discovery of numerous mathematical patterns in both the Hebrew and Greek texts, which he correctly concluded are a confirmation of the divine origin and perfection of the original scriptural texts.

I will not attempt to explain these mathematical proofs but suggest that the reader examine these for themselves.

What I previously presumed, but now have confirmed, is that God was able to preserve the Hebrew and Greek source texts for the Bible as we know it, down to, and including, the selection of the canon of both OT and NT scripture.

The OT and NT “Apocrypha” (“hidden”) books, not currently included as being canonical in any but the Catholic and Orthodox Bibles, are of interest, and were originally included, not as scripture but as the inspired writings of godly men. Thus, they may be helpful and interesting, but not as scripture.

There is much contention concerning which translation of the Hebrew and Greek source texts is the most accurate, resulting in cult-like adherence to some translations like the King James Bible. But even the King James Bible has notable errors.

Thus, the Lord’s instructions are that we are to be supernaturally “guided” into ALL truth, including the truth about things to come, by the Spirit of truth who authored scripture.

Nut when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;...How much of the truth?... for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come...at the time ordained for these things to be disclosed to His people...He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine...the covenant promises... and will disclose it to you...so that you can participate in them by faith... All things that the Father has are Mine: therefore, I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you. John 16:13-15 NASB (inserts and emphasis are the author’s)

This is the very specific manner in which we are instructed by our Lord to receive and respond the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, covenant promises, and commands of our Lord, and without receiving instruction and confirmation directly by the Spirit of truth both error and deception will prevail.