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

   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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