

Choosing NOT to be misled

We get easily misled because we make it easy - 2 Cor 11:2-4 - 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, **YOU PUT UP WITH IT EASILY ENOUGH**.

Unfortunately, misleading messages are a product of serving human desires instead of God - 2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when men WILL NOT put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to SUIT THEIR OWN DESIRES, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

We keep seeing God & the things of God based on our understanding instead of it being based on HIS Word - Prov 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **LEAN NOT on your own** understanding;

God warned us about these false teachers, their purpose, and who it affects - 1 Tim 6:3-5 - 3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the SOUND INSTRUCTION of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5 and constant friction between men of CORRUPT MIND, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

They deceive by hitting those who are walking by "senses" NOT by "Faith" - Col 2:2-4 -2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, **so that** they may have the **FULL RICHES OF COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING, in order that** they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden ALL THE TREASURES of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by FINE-SOUNDING ARGUMENTS.

God made very clear the outcome of these false teachers - Gal 1:6-9 - 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 **which is really no gospel at all**. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even **if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!** 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!

How do we choose not to be misled?

Be skeptical of everyone and everything - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 **TEST EVERYTHING**. Hold on to THE good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

We are responsible for testing EVERY spirit - 1 John 4:1-3 - Dear friends, **do not believe EVERY SPIRIT**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 **This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God:** Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. **This is the spirit of the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

We must make sure all teachings and teachers stay in the Word - 2 John 7-11 - 7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 **Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work**.

We must know who are those that are preaching and teaching us - Matt 7:15-20 - 15 **"Watch out for false prophets**. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 **BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM**. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, **BY THEIR FRUIT YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM**.

Know that there are only two life purpose choices and only one is right - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **DO NOT BE DECEIVED: God cannot be mocked**. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature WILL REAP destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit WILL REAP eternal life.

There is only one reference that is needed for all tests - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am THE way and THE truth and THE life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We MUST be careful who we partner with and trust - 1 Cor 15:33 **DO NOT BE MISLED:** "Bad company corrupts good character."

Make sure it's "COMPLETELY" supported by the Bible - Titus 2:1 - You must teach what is in accord with **SOUND DOCTRINE.**

One of Satan's tactics is to use partial scripture to support his agenda - Matt 4:5-7 - 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:" "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." 7 Jesus answered him, "IT IS ALSO WRITTEN: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Make sure your church is providing what you need (based on God)... not what you want - Eph 4:11-14 - 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 **THEN** we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.