

Do not be deceived

There are definite dangers when we allow ourselves to be deceived

Salvation will be blurred - 1 Cor 6:9-11 - 9 **Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? DO NOT BE DECEIVED:** Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers **WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

➤ **We tend to give a pass to those with characteristics of those that will not enter Heaven.**

Christian Character is confused - Eph 5:3-7 - 3 But **among you there must not be even A HINT OF** sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 **Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking**, which are out of place, **but rather thanksgiving.** 5 For of this **YOU CAN BE SURE: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.** 6 **LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU** with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

Gal 5:19-21 - 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

➤ **We mistake the fact that HOW WE LIVE will dictate what we are. Are we true Christians or not.**

Our purpose will dictate our outcome and we will choose the wrong purpose - Gal 6:7-9 - 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.** 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest IF we do not give up.

➤ **No matter how it may be perceived, the purpose will reveal the true substance and give the appropriate outcome**

We will be corrupted by bad companionship - 1 Cor 15:33-34 - 33 **DO NOT BE MISLED:** "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame. (**Company - homilia (hom-il-ee'-ah) companionship, partnership**)

➤ **When we choose to partner with bad, we WILL be corrupted**

We'll miss that the only true goodness in our life is from God - James 1:16-18 - 16 **DON'T BE DECEIVED,** my dear brothers. 17 **Every good and perfect gift IS FROM ABOVE**, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

➤ **Something is only good when it's from God even when it "seems" bad.**

How to avoid being deceived

Stop being led by your own wisdom - Prov 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

Do not partner with unbelievers - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.** For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 **What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?** What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 **What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?** For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Stop being led by non-biblical teaching –

Heb 13:9 **Do not be carried away by** all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

Col 2:8 **See to it** that no one takes you captive through HOLLOW and DECEPTIVE philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world **RATHER THAN ON CHRIST.**

DO what the Bible says - James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS.

Be alert, standing firm in the Word of God - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 **Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **RESIST HIM, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.