

# THE CHRISTIAN DELUSION

## FINDING HOPE IN BEING HONEST WITH OURSELVES

*"[we] have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully"*

*~ 2 Corinthians 4:2*

### 1. The Christian Delusion

- a. Believing in God is no delusion, but there is a Christian delusion.
- b. Why are we shocked when a church/pastor/Christian does something heinous?
- c. Delusion: There are 2.5 billion Christians, historical victors, all people of book/truth
- d. Truth: the largest segment of unsaved people in America claims to be Christian.
- e. We should renounce dishonesty, even if it is hard to swallow - 2 Cor 4:2, Eph 4:15

### 2. Under Deceit

- a. Deceit ~*def.* Misleading the mind; caught in a false belief; fraud, misrepresentation.
- b. 'deceive the hearts of the simple' - Rom 16:17-18 (lies we are told)
- c. 'Let no man deceive himself' - 1 Cor 3:18 (lies we tell ourselves)
- d. 'Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt...' - 1 Cor 15:33 (lies affect believers)
- e. To be deceived is to be tricked, gullible, humiliating, but ... Titus 3:3
- f. We are warned to 'Beware ... vain deceit' - Col 2:8
- g. Our old man is corrupt and deceitful - Eph 4:22, 5:6
- h. Sin deceives - Rom 7:11, Heb 3:13; miracles will deceive - Rev 13:14, 2 Th 2:9
- i. Satan deceives - 2 Cor 11:13-15; we deceive ourselves - Gal 6:3, 6:7, Rom 1:21-25

### 3. A Look at Reality

- a. 7 of 10 Christian in U.S. - 2 believe Bible, 1 reads Bible, 1/2 Biblical worldview
- b. 30% not, 25% Catholic, 15% Baptist, 7% non-denom, 5% cult, Methodist, Pentecostal, 4% Lutheran, 2% Reformed, 2% Church of Christ
- c. Half of Barna's born again's believe Jesus sinned; and reject salvation by works
- d. 73% of Americans think humans are basically good, not everyone a sinner
- e. Women pastors, marriage, gender issues not the slippery slope it is already slid
- f. People believe error, live worldly, act despicably, think unbiblically, because most are lost, do not read the Bible, do not care - 2 Cor 4:3
- g. Our Christian armies, prayer warriors, coalitions are not armored, trained, strong
- h. Tradition does not save, even good tradition does not save the next generation.
- i. We are lulled into thinking all is well, except a few doctrinal perspectives.
- j. A false hope - "if we turn back time to the 00s, 1990s, 70s, 50s it would be better"
- k. We are comforted by numbers, tradition, experts, freedoms, but not Rom 15:4

#### **4. Where is Hope**

- a. When confronted with a sad reality, we can deceive ourselves or press on in hope
- b. What is the harm in assuming the best? A: Their salvation, service to Christ, truth.
- c. There is no harm in assuring salvation, repeating the gospel, fortifying foundation
- d. We renounce dishonesty (false hope) so that we can give true hope in Christ.
  - i. If in this life only we have hope = misery - 1 Cor 15:19, Rom 5:2
  - ii. We are looking at a 'Christian' world without Christ - Eph 2:12, but now...
  - iii. The truth is known, our hope in Christ, God's power to save, glory to come.
  - iv. A few more truly saved is better than much more with false hope.