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2 CORINTHIANS

Chapter 11:1-4, 13-15
DECEPTION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. In our last study we talked about the Christians' "Weapons of War".

1. The Apostle Paul told us in **2Co 10:4 (NKJV)** **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...**
 - a) This verse assumes at least 3 things:
 - (1) #1 – There is a war.
 - (2) #2 – We are not to fight it in the flesh.
 - (3) #3 – The Lord has given us the weapons we need to win!

B. In this teaching, we are going to talk about **DECEPTION!**

We're lied to 10 to 200 times a day, and tell a lie ourselves an average of 1 to 2 times in the same period. https://www.ted.com/playlists/222/5_talks_on_the_truth_about_lyi

1. Webster's = Deceive = "To cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid"
2. For the sake of our - text we will look at two basic ways of being deceived.
 - a) *Willful intention by someone trying to deceive for selfish gain.*
 - (1) EX. Guy writing check to pay for guitar repair and skipping town.
 - b) *"Deception by misconception" = "Fooling ourselves"*
 - (1) In other words, thinking something that is incorrect, therefore expecting the results to be something other than what they turn out to be.
 - (a) Expecting people and life to always be "fair".
 - (b) Expecting only the guilty to be punished.
 - (c) Expecting Christians to be "mature" all the time.
 - (d) OR, something a little more common to Christians: expecting the Lord to be something that He is not!
 - (i) Or not expecting Him to be something that He is!
 - (ii) It is the "*deception by misconception*" we will address first.

II. **HOW CAN GOD BE JEALOUS? - 2Co 11:1-2 NKJV** Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. (2) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

A. Isn't jealousy a human trait? Doesn't that bring God down to a base level?

1. Jealousy definitely has brought much misery to the human race!
 - a) Cain killed Abel, Joseph's brothers sold him, Saul tried to kill David, the disciples were jealous of the man who cast out devils in Jesus' name, the Scribes and Pharisees were jealous of Jesus.
 - b) Throughout the Bible we read of the destruction and murder caused by jealousy.

- (1) And yet the Lord says, **Exod 34:14 (NKJV)** `(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God),
- (a) In fact, He makes the statement of His jealousy in over 10 verses.

B. So, what is the jealousy of God?

1. First of all, the Bible assures us of the impeccable character of the Lord!
 - a) It assures us that **He** (unlike this world and its system), is morally just, totally pure and holy, and therefore His jealousy must conform to the same holy character.
2. The jealousy of God is rooted in a tenderness and passion in the heart of God for the good of His people.
 - a) It is a concern for the holiness, integrity, purity of ethics, and happiness **of His children**.
 - b) The Lord knows that happiness without holiness is impossible. And yet holiness is impossible without Him!
 - (1) Therefore, He jealously guards the costly relationship He has with His children.
 - c) The Lord is jealous because He knows that anyone or anything that takes our eyes off the cross, messes with our relationship with Him.
 - (1) God is not jealous of us, he is jealous for us!
 - (2) Man's jealousy has always been motivated out of SELF love, the Lord's is for the love of mankind **John 3:16-17 (NKJV)** "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**
 - (a) The Lord's Holy jealousy let those that had betrayed Him, kill Him in order to win back their hearts!
 - (b) That brings us to:

C. **The jealousy of Paul:**

1. Paul used to have a different kind of jealousy.
 - a) A type that compelled him to guard his position as a Pharisee and persecute Christians to the point of death!
 - b) His life was warped and twisted and self-centered.
 - c) He was so confused by the "deception of misconception" that Christ shook his whole theological foundation!
 - (1) He was so sure he knew God, but when confronted by the Lord on the road to Damascus - he said, **Acts 9:5 (NKJV)** **And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It [is] hard for you to kick against the goads."**
 - (2) He had believed what the world had told him and it was a lie!
2. But now he burns with a Godly jealousy.
 - a) His whole life's purpose has changed.
 - b) Paul had introduced the Corinthians to a charming, wonderful person and a

marriage had taken place.

- (1) They had entered into a marriage agreement with the Lord of Lords.
- (2) In a marriage each agrees to keep themselves chaste, spotless, and separated from the affections of other admirers. Totally devoted to each other.

c) But Paul knew that there was a seduction taking place in Corinth!

- (1) He knew there was "*willful intention of someone trying to deceive for selfish gain.*"
 - (a) Which brings us to the second deception:

III. DECEPTION BY TRANSFORMATION - 2Co 11:3-4 NKJV But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **(4)** For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! **2Co 11:13-15 NKJV** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. **(14)** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. **(15)** Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

A. REDPATH = "*Before there was rebellion on earth, there was revolt in heaven.*"

1. **Isai 14:13-15 (NKJV)** For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
2. satan stepped into human history as a serpent pretending to be a friend of humanity, all the while with the purpose of teaching mankind how to be self-centered, self-sufficient, and independent of God.
 - a) He was 100% successful!
 - (1) **I John 5:19 (NKJV)** tells us that. . .**the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**
 - (2) The revised version puts it this way, "**he holds the world unconscious in his arms.**"
 - (a) **2Cor 4:4 (NKJV)** **...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.**
 - (b) That is the victory satan won in the Garden of Eden!
 - (c) He can count on the nature of man to be selfish and therefore able to manipulate.
3. But, 2,000 years ago Jesus faced him at the cross and stripped him of his principalities and powers and made an open show of his deceptions.
 - a) satan is still saying what he said at the Garden, "*God is a liar. Believe me and yield to my life principles of self-existence, and self-sufficiency and I will give you life and knowledge!*"
 - b) But, Jesus says, "Believe satan and you will die. Believe on me and you will be saved."
 - (1) Eternity hangs on that decision!
 - (2) satan will do everything within his power to keep someone from

making that decision for Christ!

- (3) He will do everything within his power to destroy the testimony of anyone who has already made that decision.
 - (a) Total destruction would defeat his purposes. He simply wants to mar the image of Christ by causing the child of God to live in defeat.
 - (b) How does he do that to Christians?

B. By **DECEPTIVE TRANSFORMATION!**

1. When it is necessary **the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1Pet 5:8**
 - a) Bunyan describes satan like this, "*a monster, hideous to behold, clothed with scales like a fish, wings like a dragon, feet like a bear, and out of his belly came fire and smoke, his mouth was as the mouth of a lion.*"
 - b) **Rev 12:7 (NKJV) And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, Rev 12:9 (NKJV) So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:13 (NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male [Child].**
2. There are times when he comes undisguised in full force ready to destroy, but that is usually when he knows that fear will be the most effective tool.
 - a) Most often he is more subtle: **2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)** tells us that he takes advantage of us through clever "**devices**".
 - b) **Ephesians 6:11** call them the "**wiles**" of the devil. Which means "trickery".
 - c) And **2 Tim. 2:26** calls them "**snares**" or "traps".
3. What are some of the "traps"?
 - a) He will attack in at least 3 ways:
 - (1) **FALSE TEACHING: 2Co 11:4 (NKJV)** For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
 - (a) He is "religious" and offers "enlightenment" to all who come his way.
 - (b) **Gene 3:1-5 (NKJV)** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3** "but of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" **4** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- (c) **2Co 11:13** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
 - (i) satan became a preacher and chose his text from **Psalm 91** in an effort to deceive Jesus in **Luke 4:9-11 (NKJV)** Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. **10** "For it is written: `He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' **11** "and, `In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'
- (2) OUR **IMAGINATION**: = unholy thinking
 - (a) In time of sickness and depression he will fill our minds with doubt and self-pity.
 - (b) In times of strength and prosperity he will cause us to feel self-confident, self-loved, and self-admired!
 - (i) For every mood he has a weapon!
 - (c) An even more subtle approach in this area of imagination or thought life is numbness!
 - (i) This is simply an "I don't care attitude."
 - (ii) It's a lack of love for the things of the Lord. It just becomes a duty! At this time satan just stands back and watches, he doesn't have to do anything at all.
 - (iii) **ALAN REDPATH** suggest that we go to the Lord and say, "**Lord, please let the devil loose on my life again!**"
 - (a) As difficult as this sounds, it is better that being numb!
- (3) Finally, in our **CONSCIENCE** (self-interest)
 - (a) The Lord has an interesting discipline called "conviction".
 - (b) It is that guide in our conscience that keeps us from stepping over the Godly line.
 - (c) satan uses self-interest to cloud the conscience by convincing us that God always wants what we want.
 - (i) That our happiness is His main concern!
 - (ii) If it "feels" good to us, it's got to be the Lord's will for our lives.

Swindled

A school teacher lost her life savings in a business scheme that had been elaborately explained by a swindler. When her investment disappeared and her dream was shattered, she went to the Better Business Bureau. "Why on earth didn't you come to us first?" the official asked. "Didn't you know about the Better Business Bureau?"

"Oh, yes," said the lady sadly. "I've always known about you. But I didn't come because I was afraid you'd tell me not to do it."

The folly of human nature is that even though we know where the answers lie—God's Word—we don't turn there for fear of what it will say. -Jerry Lambert - Source unknown

IV. CONCLUSION

A. satan is a master deceiver!

1. **John 8:44 (NKJV)** "You are of [your] father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and [does] [not] stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [resources], for he is a liar and the father of it.
2. **Vrs 4** of **chapter 11** gives us three main areas he will target for his lies.
 - a) The person of Jesus, the Deity of Jesus, and the integrity of God's word, the BIBLE!

B. So how do we deal with satan's deceptions and attacks?

1. **Rom 12:21 (NKJV)** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
2. **Rev 12:11 (NKJV)** "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
 - a) We must always make a beeline for the cross!
 - b) **John 16:33 (NKJV)** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
 - c) **1Joh 4:4 (NKJV)** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
3. **Ephe 6:10 (NKJV)** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
 - a) **Ephe 6:13-18 (NKJV)** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
 - b) The sheep are never as safe as when they are near the Shepherd!
 - c) **1Joh 1:6-7 (NKJV)** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

C. SO, keep it simple, trust in the Lord and the work that was done at the cross!