

## Let No Man Deceive You

**Frequently** in the scriptures, **saints are cautioned to not be deceived**. Since deception is not an isolated problem, we will not take a narrow look at only Paul's writings (and because of what **2 Tim 3:16** says).

Turn to **1 John 1:5-8** and hold it .... while we reference it with what Paul also wrote in **Eph 5:3-12** .... about being deceived:

**1 John 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all**.

Paul gave a list of sins that bring God's wrath ....

then he alerted saints **NOT be deceived .... or involved** in them.

**Eph 5:3-10** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, **let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;**  
4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.  
5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.  
6 **Let no man deceive you with vain words:** for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.  
7 **Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**  
8 For ye were sometimes darkness,  
**but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**  
9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)  
10 Proving what is **acceptable** unto the Lord.

That behavior is so dishonorable .... we shouldn't even talk about it -- much less be part of it. We should share **no association** with it at all:

**Eph 5:11-12** And have no **fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. (with 'all scripture' **2 Tim 3:16**)  
12 For it is a **shame** even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

those who don't know God, they will drag you into their sin:

**1 Cor 15:33-34 Be not deceived:**

evil communications (**companions**) corrupt good manners (**habits**).

34 **Awake to righteousness, and sin not;**

for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your **shame**.

**1 Tim 5:22** Lay hands suddenly on no man,  
**neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**

**Prov 1:10** My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

The point is .... **"if we say"** one thing -- then do another -- we are lying:

**1 John 1:6** If we say that we have **fellowship** with him,  
and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

God designed for believers to have fellowship with Christ -- not with sin:

**1 Cor 1:9** God is faithful, by whom **ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son** Jesus Christ our Lord. (**How is your fellowship going with Him?**)

The companions **of God** .... **are not to be** .... the companions **of devils**:

**1 Cor 10:20-21** But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice,  
they sacrifice **to devils**, and not to God:  
and I would not that **ye should have fellowship with devils.**

21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup **of devils**:  
ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table **of devils.**

Paul gave the remedy .... to refrain from living in sinful lusts:

**Gal 5:16-17** This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit,**  
**and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:  
and these are **contrary** the one to the other:  
so that **ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

Those who have the life of God's Spirit .... should live and walk in Him:

**Gal 5:24-25** And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk in the Spirit.**

## We have assurance .... as we practice what we preach:

**Rom 8:1-14** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

(Do you walk after the Spirit, and not after the flesh?)

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

(Do you mind the things of the flesh, or the things of God's Spirit?)

6 For to be carnally (**fleshly**) minded is death; but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

(Do you think on fleshly things .... or on spiritual things?)

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Do you live a life **of faith** that pleases God? also **Heb 11:6**)

9 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.**

Now **if** any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is **none of his.**

10 And **if** Christ be in you, the body **is** dead because of sin; but the Spirit **is** life because of righteousness.

11 But **if** the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell **in** you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth **in** you.

12 Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

13 For **if** ye live after the flesh, **ye shall die:** but **if** ye through the Spirit **do** mortify the deeds of the body, **ye shall live.**

14 For **as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** (Does God's Spirit lead your life? Are you assured that you are God's child because you know His Spirit leads you?)

John's 1st epistle also records God's Spirit indwelling the believer:

**1 John 4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

FYI, in this next verse, when Paul wrote to all the saints in Christ Jesus which were at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons .... notice WHO he said was the circumcision. (Hint: It was not Israel anymore.) But the point here is, we don't rely on the flesh .... but on God's Spirit that lives in us:

**Phil 3:3** For **we are the circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh**.

Back in **John 1**, in the context of contrasting light with darkness, John wrote another "**if we say**" statement, to warn again about being deceived:

**1 John 1:7-8** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship** one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**8** **If we say** that we have no sin, **we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us.

Paul taught the same principal to all the saints at Corinth and Achaia:

**2 Cor 6:14-18** Be ye not unequally yoked together  
with unbelievers:

for **what fellowship** hath righteousness with unrighteousness?  
and **what communion** hath light with darkness?

**15** And **what concord** (like being in 'one accord') hath Christ with Belial?  
or **what part** hath he that believeth with an infidel (**unbeliever**)?

**16** And **what agreement** hath the temple of God with idols?  
for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said,  
I will dwell in them, and walk in them;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**17** Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate**,  
saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

**18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,  
saith the Lord Almighty.

(Keep reading .... into the next chapter:)

**2 Cor 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved,  
let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,  
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

That is an area where 'grace' believers tend to be lazy. We should **purge ourselves (2 Tim 2:21)** and not ignore **the fear of the Lord:**

**Psa 33:8** Let all the earth **fear** the LORD:  
let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe** of him.

Many verses of scripture are **divided out** .... by so-called 'right' dividers  
.... as not being 'for us' .... resulting in **gross neglect** of precious truths:

**Psa 103:11-14** For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that **fear** him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that **fear** him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. (It would do us well to remember that also .... that we would **fear** the Lord.)

Having a big **ego** and being **conceited** .... is deceitful:

**Gal 6:3** For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, **he deceiveth himself.**

**6 times** Paul said not to be **puffed up**. We should not be arrogant or vain:

**Rom 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me,  
to every man that is among you,  
**not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;**  
but to think soberly,  
according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

For years, we have actually **disregarded** much of the Lord's word,  
that we needed to keep our flesh in line. I am personally sorry for that:

**Prov 1:7** The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Prov 16:6** By mercy and truth iniquity is purged:  
and **by the fear** of the LORD men depart from evil.

The fear of God teaches us to depart from evil .... Paul instructed that, too:

**2 Tim 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure,  
having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

Paul showed the law's work - to do right - written in the hearts of Gentiles:

**Rom 2:13** (For not the hearers of the law are just before God,  
but the doers of the law shall be justified.

James also testified to that truth .... that believers would not be deceived:

**James 1:21-25** Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,**  
**deceiving your own selves.**

23 For if any **be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,**  
he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way,  
and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty,**  
**and continueth therein,**  
**he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work,**  
this man shall be blessed in his deed.

It is important for our **walk** .... to match our **talk**:

**James 2:12-18** So speak ye, and so do,  
**as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.**

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy;  
and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith by my works.**

No one was ever saved by keeping the law ... but we can fulfil it ... by love:

**Gal 5:13-14** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For **all the law is fulfilled in one word**, even in this; Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself.

Remember Rom 8:4, that the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us:

**Gal 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so **fulfil the law of Christ**.

Deception and vanity .... go hand-in-hand:

**James 1:26-27** If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but **deceiveth his own heart**, this man's religion is **vain**.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and **to keep himself unspotted from the world**.

We need to evaluate what we believe .... to make sure we aren't deceived:

**1 Cor 3:18-20** **Let no man deceive himself**. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are **vain**.

Here is another warning from Paul .... contrasting the flesh and the Spirit not to be deceived .... concerning how we live, what we do.

We will receive our reward .... when we are resurrected and glorified:

**Gal 6:7-9** **Be not deceived**; God is not mocked:

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;

but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing:

for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**There will be world-wide DECEPTION .... in the Last Days.**

In the context of **Jesus' coming .... and the end of the world**,  
 Jesus **repeatedly warned** His disciples about **deception** in the last days.  
 Matthew chapter 24 details things that will happen during a 7-year period,  
 known as the 70th week of Daniel (from **Dan 9:24-27**):

**Matt 24:3-5** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of **thy coming**, and of **the end of the world**?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them,

**Take heed that no man deceive you.**

5 For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall **deceive many**.

The deception will surely be massive .... and, in the name of God:

**Matt 24:11** And **many false prophets** shall rise, and shall **deceive many**.

In the last days is when this deception will be so prevalent:

**Matt 24:24** For there shall arise **false Christs, and false prophets**, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect**.

In Mark's account of such danger .... deception is equated with seduction:

**Mark 13:21-23** And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:

22 For **false Christs and false prophets** shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, **to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect**.

23 But **take ye heed**: behold, **I have foretold you** all things.

Paul wrote about that same time frame .... the 70th week of Daniel.

The saints at Thessalonica worried and wondered that the time of great tribulation would come upon them. But Paul assured them how to identify

when the time was near. He gave them the **same advice** that Jesus had given His disciples .... **to let no man deceive them**, no way, no how!

Before we begin .... 'grace' preachers make a false division in verse 1 ....

by stating that the coming of Christ .... is the 2nd coming ....

and our gathering together unto Him .... is the rapture.

**2 Thess 2:1-10** Now we beseech you, brethren,  
by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ** is at hand.

As we read through the passage, watch for the pronoun 'he' ....  
because 'grace' preachers really wrest it:

3 **Let no man deceive you by any means:** for **that day** shall not come,  
(What day? the day of Christ - from verse 2 .... the day the Lord Jesus Christ comes **and** saints are gathered together unto Him - from verse 1 .... which is the **same** day.

But 'grace' preachers .... make another false division between  
the day of the Lord (which they define as His 2nd coming) ....  
and the day of Christ (which they say is the rapture).

They twist these verses 2 and 3 .... to say that the day of Christ  
**begins in heaven** .... with the rapture of only the believers under Paul's dispensation of grace .... but the day of Christ does not **come to earth** until after the middle of the 70th week.

But we should notice what has to happen **before** that day comes):  
except there come a falling away first,  
and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he** (the man of sin, the son of perdition) as God sitteth in the temple of God,

shewing himself that **he** (the man of sin, the son of perdition) is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

(2Thess 2):6 And now ye know what **withholdeth (meaning hindereth)** that **he (the man of sin, the son of perdition) might be revealed (same as in verse 3)** in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:

only **he (the man of sin, the son of perdition)** who now **letteth (same Greek word as translated 'withholdeth' in verse 6)** will let, until **he (the man of sin, the son of perdition)** be taken out of the way.

(You should be aware that 'grace' preachers teach that the pronoun 'he' in verses 6 and 7 .... is **the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ .... by their very presence on earth ....** preventing the wrath of God from coming on unbelievers. How they **inserted the church** into that verse is way beyond the context, logical reasoning, or grammar. They have developed a 'wrong' paradine that forces a 'mystery rapture' before the 70th week even begins.)

8 And then shall **that Wicked be revealed, (same as in verses 3 and 6)** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: **(Then the Lord will take him out)**

9 Even him, **(the man of sin, the son of perdition)** whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The Devil is the one who will be behind the **world-wide deception** during the last half of Daniel's 70th week. In the middle of the week, his activity will pick up full force. It will be a rampage of killing saints:

**Rev 12:9-12** And the great dragon was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

There is another point .... where 'grace' preachers are not sensible.

They acknowledge that Satan and the fallen angels are cast out of heaven in the middle of the week (that we just read in **Rev 12:9**) .... but **did they forget** that they also teach that the 'body of Christ' was 'raptured' up to heaven several years earlier (before a 'prophesied GAP' of unknown years described in **Daniel chapter 11**), at which time, they say, they are judged at the judgment seat of Christ .... and **assigned their positions of rule in the heavenly places .... to REPLACE the devil's angels**. I wonder what they think the saints are doing .... for all those years .... waiting for the devil's angels to get off their thrones - so the saints can finally sit there.

Well, let's get back to reality:

There will also come a **false prophet (Rev 16:13, 19:20, 20:10)** who will also deceive the world through signs and wonders. He will cause everyone to worship the image of the beast and take his mark ... or die:

**Rev 13:14** And **deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

The Devil is the one who will **deceive** again .... after the thousand years are over. Then God will judge him, and sentence him to burn for eternity:

**Rev 20:7-10** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,  
 8 And shall go out to **deceive the nations** which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

(Rev 20):9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In what is thought to be Paul's last epistle (**2 Tim 4:6,7**) ....

Paul told Timothy of the trials ahead **during the last days**.

(Also note that 'grace' preachers say that 'the last days' Paul wrote about are **different** 'last days' .... than 'the last days' Peter wrote about.

They make a false division .... and say that Paul's 'last days' are 'the last

days' for the body of Christ to be on earth, just before the rapture ----

and Peter's 'last days' are 'the last days' for Israel, before the 2nd coming of Christ in the day of the Lord. How ridiculous!)

**2 Tim 3:1-5** This know also, that **in the last days**  
**perilous times shall come.**

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof:  
from such **turn away**. (**avoid, shun**)

In the context of the last days .... Paul warned Timothy about the deception that will be world-wide:

**2 Tim 3:12-13** Yea, and all that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus  
**shall suffer persecution.**

13 But **evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse**,  
**deceiving, and being deceived.**

In the middle of the 70th week .... the false prophet will initiate the **mark of the beast** which everyone will be forced to take, or be killed. 'Gracers' don't think any of them will be here when that mark is set up, but I completely disagree and believe many will be unprepared to endure that time of great tribulation (**Matt 24:21**) and temptation (**Rev 3:10**), and as a result, will have their faith overthrown (**2 Tim 2:15-18**) since they didn't rightly divide the word of truth concerning the timing of the resurrection.

In closing, both Peter and Paul instructed saints to live to do **God's** will .... rather than their own. Christ was an example of that (**Luke 22:42**)

**1 Pet 4:1-5** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

**2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**

**3** For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

**4** Wherein they think it strange that **ye run not with them to the same excess of riot**, speaking evil of you:

**5** Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

**Rom 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

**2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that **ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"*