

"DO NOT BE DECEIVED"

Deuteronomy 11:16
1 Corinthians 6:9-10
1 Corinthians 15:33
Galatians 6:7-8
James 1:16-17

(All scripture quotations are from the NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED

THE FIRST RULE OF LAW

After being placed in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it, Adam and Eve were allowed to eat freely from every tree in the garden except one, from which they were commanded not to eat, and they were told of the consequence of disobedience.

"The LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'" (Genesis 2:16-17)

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THE FIRST LIE

*"The woman said to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will **not** die!'" (Genesis 3:2-4)*

*"Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate.'" (Genesis 3:9-13)*

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THE DEVIL DECEIVES EVERYONE

"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." (Revelation 12:9)

THE DEVIL IS THE FATHER OF LIES

"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44)

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GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED

ABOUT IDOLATRY:

*"**Beware that your hearts are not deceived**, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. Or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you." (Deuteronomy 11:16-17)*

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GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED

ABOUT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SIN:

*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SIN:**

*"But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly ("foolish" NKJV) talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." (Ephesians 5:3-6)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT EVIL INFLUENCES:**

*"**Do not be deceived:** Bad company corrupts good morals. Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame."
(1 Corinthians 15:33-34)*

*"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm."
(Proverbs 13:20)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT SERVING SELF BY SATISFYING FLESHLY DESIRES:**

*"**Do not be deceived,** God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."
(Galatians 6:7-8)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS:**

*"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. **Do not be deceived,** my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures." (James 1:12-18)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT PHILOSOPHIES OF THE WORLD:**

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and **empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8)*

*"O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding **worldly and empty chatter** and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called 'knowledge' - which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith." (1 Timothy 6:20-21)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT PHILOSOPHIES OF THE WORLD:**

*"If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 'Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!' (which all refer to things destined to perish with use) - in accordance with the **commandments and teachings of men?** These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of **no value** against fleshly indulgence." (Colossians 2:20-23)*

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT PRIDE AND SELF DECEPTION:**

"For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he **deceives** himself." (**Galatians 6:3**)

"If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but **deceives his own heart**, this man's religion is worthless." (**James 1:26**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT FALSE CHRISTS:**

"And Jesus answered and said to them, "**See to it that no one misleads you**. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many." (**Matthew 24:4-5**)

"And Jesus began to say to them, "**See to it that no one misleads you**. Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He!' and will mislead many." (**Mark 13:5-6**)

"And He said, "**See to it that you are not misled**; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them." (**Luke 21:8**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT FALSE APOSTLES AND FALSE PROPHETS:**

"For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds." (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**)

"Beware of the **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (**Matthew 7:15**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS AND FALSE TEACHERS:**

"But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves." (**2 Peter 2:1**)

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort the gospel of Christ**. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!" (**Galatians 1:6-8**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WARNED NOT BE DECEIVED****BY THE HYPOCRISY OF LIARS:**

"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of **the hypocrisy of liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth." (**1 Timothy 4:1-3**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****SEEK TRUTH.**

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "**If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free." (**John 8:31-32**)

"Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (**John 14:6**)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****LOVE AND BELIEVE THE TRUTH.**

"... and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the **love of the truth** so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not **believe the truth**, but took pleasure in wickedness."

(2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****LONG FOR THE WORD OF TRUTH.**

"Therefore, putting aside all malice and **all deceit** and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." **(1 Peter 2:1-3)**

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****ACCURATELY HANDLE THE WORD OF TRUTH.**

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**"

(2 Timothy 2:15)

"For Ezra had set his heart to **study** the law of the Lord and to **practice** it, and to **teach** His statutes and ordinances in Israel." **(Ezra 7:10)**

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****OBEY THE TRUTH.**

"Since you have **in obedience to the truth** purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God." **(1 Peter 1:21-22)**

"And having been made perfect, He became to **all those who obey Him** the source of eternal salvation ..." **(Hebrews 5:9)**

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****PRAY.**

"Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar. Two things I asked of You, do not refuse me before I die: **Keep deception and lies far from me**, give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God."

(Proverbs 30:5-9)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****BE AWARE OF DECEIVERS (FALSE TEACHERS) AND TRUST IN THE WORD OF GOD.**

"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived**. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

(2 Timothy 3:12-17)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****BE AWARE OF DECEIVERS (FALSE TEACHERS) AND TRUST IN THE WORD OF GOD.**

*"Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, **deception**, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed."* (Hosea 4:1-2)

*"Then the Lord said to me, 'The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and **the deception of their own minds.**'"* (Jeremiah 14:14)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****BE AWARE OF DECEIVERS (FALSE TEACHERS) AND TRUST IN THE WORD OF GOD.**

*"But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, **reveling in their deceptions**, as they carouse with you, having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children ..."* (2 Peter 2:12-14)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****SUBMIT TO GOD AND RESIST THE DEVIL.**

"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:7-8)

*"Be of sober spirit, **be on the alert**. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But **resist him**, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."* (1 Peter 5:8-9)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****STAND FIRM AGAINST THE DEVIL.**

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." (Ephesians 6:11-13)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****STAND FIRM AGAINST THE DEVIL.**

*"Stand firm therefore, having **girded your loins** ("**waist**" NKJV) **with truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**; in addition to all, taking up **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God."* (Ephesians 6:14-17)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****DO NOT PRACTICE DECEPTION, SPEAK TRUTH.**

*"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:14-16)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****DO NOT PRACTICE DECEPTION, SPEAK TRUTH.**

"... if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, **laying aside falsehood, speak truth** each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another." (Ephesians 4:21-25)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****BE THANKFUL FOR THE KINDNESS, LOVE, MERCY, GRACE, HOPE, AND SALVATION OF GOD.**

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, **deceived**, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. GROW YOUR FAITH!**

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." (2 Peter 1:2-4)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. GROW YOUR FAITH!**

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, **in your faith supply moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **perseverance**, and in your perseverance, **godliness**, and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED**HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING DECEIVED:****GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. GROW YOUR FAITH!**

"For **if** these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble**; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you." (2 Peter 1:8-11)

**GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION
REQUIRES US TO OBEY THE GOSPEL**

HEAR THE TRUTH	Romans 10:14-17
BELIEVE IN JESUS	Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-10
REPENT OF SINS	Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31
CONFESS HIS NAME	Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33
BE BAPTIZED	Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
REMAIN OBEDIENT	Hebrews 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2