

Making Evil Appear as Truth.

2 Corinthians 11:14 - 15 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15.) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

I. The Lord says, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

The word "transformed" means – to disguise oneself – **Albert Barnes** said it this way; "Satan put on false and delusive appearances for the purpose of deceiving, or where he assumed the appearance of great holiness and reverence for the authority of God."

A. We need to look at two words here.

1) Angel - is defined as a messenger, which is one who delivers a message of another. This could be Angels of the Lord and it could mean ministers or even a pastor or entire assemblies called churches.

- a. Satan does this because it works, it is called "the power of satanic temptations"
- b. Christians being weak are prime targets of Satan, although all Christians and churches are.
- c. **2 Corinthians 11:2 - 4** "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (4) For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."
- d. Christians must be on constant alert!

2) Light - light is righteousness, it is everything right and nothing wrong. Light is God, Jesus Christ is light . We walk in light because we can trust there is no darkness (or evil) in the light. Light means - to shine or make manifest – with God it is truth.

- a. **John 12:46** "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." also in **John 8:12** "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
- b. This is how Satan the deceiver also appears in the world.
- c. **1 John 4:1** "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."
- d. **1 Thessalonians 5:21** "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

B. Therefore, it is concluded in the scriptures we are told if we believe the angel (of messenger) and walk in the light (or the message) we will always be right. But the messengers must be from God.

- 1) However, the Lord also has this message to us, **Matthew 7:15 – 16** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves... Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" - Being soberly minded to try the spirits, all Christianity is not "of God" Satan is an imitator of God, his demons are imitators of Christ, and his churches are imitators of churches.
- 2) It is like a counterfeit dollar; hard for the unknowledgeable person to tell the difference. The more Christians miss church the more un-sober they are.

3) **Matthew 24:4 - 5** "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."

II. Things are not always, as they seem.

- A. Just because it sounds like truth does not mean it is truth. **Romans 1:24 - 25** "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: (25) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."
- B. Things that are desirable to the lost or weak in faith are lies dressed up as truth and believed by many Christians.
- C. We who are stronger in faith, who the Lord has educated, are responsible to examine these teachings and know truth from lies. **2 Corinthians 2:11** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: **for we are not ignorant of his devices.**"
- D. People will believe much as truth that is not truth, they will believe in images more than the real God. **Jeremiah 10:14 - 15** "Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. (15) They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish."

III. People are deceived by Satan's messengers every Sunday and every other day.

- A. If something is not truth, then it is a lie, and if it is a lie then it is of Satan. **John 8:44** "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
- B. They will refuse to hear the truth, even demonizing the truth to affect you. **John 8:45 - 47** "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. (46) Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? (47) He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear

them not, because ye are not of God."

- C. We who are saved ought to be careful, not get caught up in heresy, and search the scriptures. **Acts 17:11** "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

IV. Conclusion

- A. If poison looks good, smells good, and taste good does not mean it will not kill you.
- B. So called-Christians and even some Christians worship a false god and a false christ every Sunday.
- C. Satan has many devices, and we must always be aware of them.
- D. Truth is truth and a lie is a lie, truth is Gods word. Let us believe it all.