

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.”

Isaiah 8:20

- We need to go back to ‘the law and the testimony’ as a source for truth
- How do you ‘speak according to the law and to the testimony’?
- How can we best protect ourselves from false religious ideas?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

Lesson 36

Deceptions

“... Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’”

Matthew 7:22

- Many people will think they are pleasing God by doing great things
- It is not only God who gives the gift of prophecy

“Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Matthew 7:23

- God recognises people who simply do miracles as evildoers.
- God will speak plainly to these people—and they will recognise who is speaking to them
- Could you be deluded into thinking God is leading you—when He isn’t?

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21

- Simply saying we are God’s people is not enough to ensure entry into God’s kingdom.
- Doing God’s will is crucial
- How do you find out God’s will?

“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.”

Matthew 24:24

- Miracles will happen that will be deceptive
- It is possible to be deceived by these miracles
- It is possible not to be deceived by such events
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan is at the heart of such deceptions

“Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth...”

Revelation 13:14

- Signs take place to deceive mankind
- Can you think of deceptions that have misled people?

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ..”

Ephesians 4:14,15

- To avoid being confused by deception we need to speak and know the truth in love
- We need to ‘grow up’ to be like Jesus
- How would reading the Bible fit into this?

“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

John 7:17

- If we will do His will, we shall know which doctrines are from God and which are from man.
- If you followed Bible teaching would it have any affect on your life? Would this help me find out if the teachings are from God?