

Let No Man Deceive Himself
(1 Corinthians 3:18)

Introduction:

1. During His ministry Jesus taught His followers not to be deceived -- *"Take heed that ye be not deceived"* (Luke 21:8).
2. There are 2 ways in which we can be deceived.
 - a. It is possible to be deceived by someone else, and the Bible warns us against this type of deception -- *"Let no man deceive you"* (1 John 3:7).
 - b. It is also possible to deceive ourselves, and the Bible warns us against this type of deception.
 - 1) *"Let no man deceive himself"* (1 Corinthians 3:18).
 - 2) An illustration of self-deception is given in Proverbs 20:1.
3. In our lesson we are examining 4 ways in which we must not deceive ourselves.

Discussion:

- I. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES BY THINKING WE ARE SUPERIOR (Galatians 6:3)
 - A. This warning is given in connection with the instructions given in vs.1-2 about restoring someone overtaken in a fault and bearing the burdens of others.
 - B. While fulfilling these responsibilities, we must not think we are superior.
 - C. We must not be like the Pharisee that Jesus talked about in Luke 18:9-12.
 - D. Jesus continued in vs.14 by revealing what will happen to the proud and the humble.
- II. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES BY HEARING GOD'S WORD WITHOUT OBEYING IT (James 1:22)
 - A. According to vs.21, we are to put away evil and receive God's Word with meekness [we must do this because God's Word is able to save our souls].
 - B. In vs.23-24 James illustrated the folly of being a hearer and not a doer.
 - C. The person who is a hearer and a doer will be blessed (vs.25).
- III. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES BY PRETENDING TO BE RELIGIOUS WHILE HAVING AN UNBRIDLED TONGUE (James 1:26)
 - A. Earlier, James showed how God's people are to be *"slow to speak"* (vs.19).
 - B. Later (3:2-12), James presented additional information about controlling the tongue.
 - C. Let us remember the admonitions given in Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6.
- IV. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES BY CLAIMING TO HAVE NO SIN (1 John 1:8)
 - A. Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*
 - B. To claim otherwise is to deceive self and make the Lord a liar.
 - C. We learn from 1 John 2:1-2 that Jesus serves as our advocate, and He is the propitiation for our sins.
 - D. John shows in 1 John 1:7, 9 how we are cleansed from sin.

Conclusion:

1. In our lessons today we have studied warnings against deception.
2. On the basis of the passages we have covered,:
 - a. let us not allow anyone to deceive us into believing something that is not true
 - b. let us avoid deceiving ourselves.