

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

Introduction:

1. This morning our lesson was based on the warning given in Ephesians 5:6 where Paul wrote: *"Let no man deceive you with vain words."*
2. This lesson is based on the warning given in 1 Corinthians 3:18 where Paul wrote: *"Let no man deceive himself."*
3. We are examining 6 ways in which we must not deceive ourselves.

Discussion:

- I. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL (Proverbs 20:1)
 - A. Consider what happened to Noah (Genesis 9:20-21) and Lot (19:30-38).
 - B. The addictive nature of alcohol is discussed in Proverbs 23:29-35.
 - C. See Ephesians 5:18
- II. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES CONCERNING OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD (Malachi 1:14)
 - A. God required the Israelites to offer unblemished animals to Him as sacrifices.
 - B. In Malachi's day the Israelites offered blemished animals (vs.8, 13).
 - C. In the early church Ananias and Sapphira practiced deception when they gave their gift (Acts 5:1-11).
 - D. See 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- III. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES WITH ELEVATED OPINIONS OF OURSELVES (Galatians 6:3)
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar had a very high opinion of himself (Daniel 4:28-33).
 - B. See Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6
- IV. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES ABOUT HEARING WITHOUT DOING GOD'S WORD (James 1:22)
 - A. James gave an illustration in vs.23-24.
 - B. See vs.25
- V. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES ABOUT RELIGION THAT IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNBRIDLED TONGUE (James 1:26)
 - A. Bridling the tongue is a sign of discipline (James 3:2).
 - B. See Colossians 4:6
- VI. WE MUST NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES BY CLAIMING TO HAVE NO SIN (1 John 1:8)
 - A. The effects of this claim are also presented in vs.10.
 - B. See vs.7, 9

Conclusion:

1. We have seen in our lessons today that we must not:
 - a. allow anyone to deceive us
 - b. deceive ourselves.
2. Let us heed the warnings we have studied.
3. Let us always practice the admonition given in Proverbs 23:23 -- *"Buy the truth, and sell it not."*