

“Deceiving Ourselves”

James 1:22-25

Introduction

- I. At some point in our lives, we have likely been deceived.
- II. It is uncomfortable to believe something to be true and then to find out that it is not.
- III. What about when the deception comes from within?

Discussion

- I. Deceived by worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 3:18-19).
 - A. Man's wisdom has been problematic for centuries (Prov. 3:5-7; 26:12; Isa. 5:21; Rom. 12:16).
 - B. Opinionated people can sometimes seem militant on forcing their ideas on others.
 - C. In religion, man's wisdom leads to foolishness (Rom. 1:22-25; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 16:25).
- II. Deceived by hearing only (James 1:22-25).
 - A. Knowing God's word and obeying God's word are two different things (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 8:12; Heb. 5:7).
 - B. Too many Christians are like the Israelites of old, in that they know what God wants done, but refuse to do it because they do not like it (Mal. 1:13; Neh. 13:21).
- III. Deceived by self righteousness (1 John 1:8).
 - A. No accountable person, save Jesus, has been sinless (Rom. 3:10-11, 23).
 - B. Sin is deceitful itself (Heb. 3:13).
 - C. Too many people think that they can sin without consequences (Gal. 6:7-8; Num. 32:23; cf. Jer. 7:8-10).
- IV. Deceived by our own pride (Gal. 6:3).
 - A. Christians should be humble (Col. 3:12; Rom. 12:16).
 - B. Pride is destructive to the soul (Prov. 16:18; 18:10-11; 1 Cor. 10:12).
- V. Deceived by unbridled tongues (James 1:26).
 - A. Misuse of the tongue is widespread (James 3:2-6).
 - B. Christians must do what they can to control the speech that comes from their mouths (Eph. 4:29; Prov. 12:18).

Conclusion

- I. It is apparent that we can deceive ourselves if we are not careful.
- II. Let us be honest, brave, and faithful so that we do not deceive ourselves from Heaven!