

## **INTRO:**

**Mth. 24:24** “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall **deceive the very elect.**”

## **I. Definitions**

- 1. Deception n.** – (1) The action of deceiving or cheating.
- 2. Deceive v.** – (1) trans. To ensnare; to take unawares by craft or guile; to overcome, overreach, or get the better of by trickery; to beguile or betray into mischief or sin; to mislead. Obs. (or arch.) (2) To cause to believe what is false; to mislead as to a matter of fact, lead into error, impose upon, delude, ‘take in’. b. absol. To use deceit, act deceitfully. c. refl. To allow oneself to be misled; to delude oneself.
- 3. Deceit n.** - 1. The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud, cheating, false dealing.
- 4.** The following words are also helpful in a further study of the topic of Deception: deceitful, subtlety, subtle, crafty, craftiness, beguile, guile, insidious, cunning, wile, delude, and sleight.

## **II. Deceitfulness is wicked and is natural to fallen man.**

**1. Deceit is a characteristic of the natural man (the reprobate, the wicked)**

**Ps. 10:7** “His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.”

**Ps.36:1-3** “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.3The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit...”

**Rom. 3:13,14,18** “Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:.....v.18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

> **Deceit n. - 1. The action or practice of deceiving; concealment of the truth in order to mislead; deception, fraud, cheating, false dealing.**

> **This all clearly explains the words of Jesus in:**

**Mark 7:21-23** “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

**2. Subtilty is a characteristic of the devil and children of the devil (Act 13:10; Gen.3:1).**

**Acts 13:10** “And said, O full of all **subtilty** and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”

**Gen. 3:1** “Now the serpent was more **subtil** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

**A. Subtlety** n. - 1. Of persons, the mind, its faculties or operations: Acuteness, penetration: in modern use chiefly with implication of delicate or keen perception of fine distinctions or complex points.  
2. Craftiness, cunning, esp. of a treacherous kind; guile, treachery.  
3. An ingenious contrivance; a crafty or cunning device; an artifice; freq. in unfavourable sense, a wily trick, something craftily invented.

**CHRISTIANITY IS A WAR OF THE MIND. – Satan and his blinded, loyal subjects desire through *subtlety* to *deceive* the very elect.**

**B.** The children of this world are more ‘crafty, cunning, subtle’ than the children of light.

**Luke 16:8** “And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”

### 3. God hates deceitful people

**Ps. 5:4-6** “For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. 5The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: **thou hatest all workers of iniquity**. 6Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing (lying): the LORD will abhor the bloody and **deceitful** man.

**Prov.6:16-19** These six things **doth the LORD hate**: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19A **false witness that speaketh lies**, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

#### A. God takes deceivers in their own craftiness

**Job 5:12-13 cf 1 Cor.3:19** “12 He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. 13He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.”

**1 Cor. 3:19** “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

**Biblical Example = Prov.26:27** “Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.”

#### CHILDREN’s EXAMPLE - Esther & Haman, OR Jacob deceived by Laban

(i) **Craftiness n.** - Artfulness in deceiving or overreaching.

(ii) **Crafty adj.** - Of persons or their faculties, etc.: Skillful in devising and carrying out underhand or evil schemes; cunning, artful, wily.

#### B. God will cut off early deceitful men

**Ps. 55:23** “But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.”

C. As it is with all other sinners, there is still hope for the deceitful man if He is the object of God's grace

**Prov.29:13** “The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.”

**2 chronicles 33:1-20** – Remember how God had mercy on King Manasseh who “did worse than the heathen”.

#### **4. Deceit should not be found in a Christian.**

**A. There is no guile in the spirit of a justified man.**

**Ps. 32:1-2** “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

**Rev. 14:4-5** “...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

(i.) **Guile n.** - 1. Insidious cunning, deceit, treachery.

(ii.) **Insidious adj.** - Full of wiles or plots; lying in wait or seeking to entrap or ensnare; proceeding or operating secretly or subtly so as not to excite suspicion; sly, treacherous, deceitful, underhand, artful, cunning, crafty, wily.

**B. There is no guile in a good man**

John 1:47 “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, **Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!**”

**C. Jesus Christ is our example:**

**1Pet. 2:22** “Who did no sin, **neither was guile found in his mouth:**”

**D. The apostles were also examples for us:**

**1 Thess.1-4** “For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: 2But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, **we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.** 3**For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:**4But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

**E. When a man becomes a Christian he should lay aside all guile and deceit.**

**1 Pet.2:1-3** “**Wherefore laying aside** all malice, **and all guile**, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3**If so be ye have tasted** that the Lord is gracious.”

**F. If we want to live a good life we must keep our tongues from speaking guile.**

**1 Pet.3:9-12** “Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10For he that will love life, **and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:** 11Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: **but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.**”

**5. In a society full of deceit and guile, even church members can fall prey to it.**

**Psa. 55:11-14** Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city. 10Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it. 11Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets. 12For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: 13But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. 14We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

**A. Deceit is a sin for which a Christian will be excluded from church membership. Rom. 1:29-32** “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

**B. We should not tolerate deceitful people in our house or in God's house. Psa.101:7** “He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.”  
**Psa. 24:3-5** “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”