

A Sincere & Pure Devotion to Christ

July 24, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
--JESUS (John 14:6)

Memory Verse for July: Psalm 31:13-14

Text: 2 Corinthians 11

Introduction:

Big Idea: A sincere & pure devotion to Christ secures your _____. [Being lead astray and deceived are your threats].

1. Paul uses a _____ to teach a truth (1-2)

The metaphor is a _____ (A pure virgin or bride to Christ)

- Ephesians 5:25-33, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:1-2

Jewish Wedding Process

- Began with an agreement between two fathers (that began the one year betrothal period)
- The groom returned to his father's house and began preparing a room for his new bride
- The bride prepared herself for the wedding ceremony which was typically a 7-day event.
- The wedding feast and ceremony started with one of the groomsmen leading the bridegroom through the streets, yelling, "Behold, the bridegroom comes!"

Preparing to wait: Being the Bride of Christ isn't about standing at the altar in a white dress; **it's about _____ and _____ for His presence in our lives daily.**

2. Paul's fear for the believers in Corinth (3-6)

- _____ was something Paul himself warned about in many other letters he wrote to the New Testament churches.
- The Causes of Spiritual Deception
 - _____ speaking lies to me (Romans 16:17-18)
 - _____ disguises himself and speaks lies to me and I believe it (2 Corinthians 11:3,12-15)
 - _____ when I, with the help of no one else, am led away from the truth (James 1:26)

3. The making of a sincere and pure devotion to Christ

- The beginning for the Corinthian believers (Acts 18:1-17)
 - The deciding issue was whether or not THE CHRIST was _____.
 - Accepting the truth that Jesus was the Christ and trusting in him for their salvation from sin began a _____.
 - Following their belief in Jesus was a public baptism.
 - Discipleship was key to their spiritual growth
 - Their relationship with Jesus flowed into other people's lives.
 - Following Jesus always comes with a price.

- Why Be Devoted To Christ?
 - Jesus is the Christ (*Messiah*)
 - Jesus became a human (*Incarnation*)
 - Jesus' dead body came back to life and left the tomb (*Resurrection*)
 - Jesus is the sole securer and source of salvation (*Soteriology*)

TRUTH INTO ACTION:

1. Being certain of your relationship to Jesus is vital. **Do you know where you are at?**
2. Being a bride is all about getting ready. **What are you doing to make yourself ready for the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ)?**
3. Spiritual deception leads people away from a sincere & pure devotion to Christ. **Are there elements of spiritual deception in your life today that are undermining your devotion to Christ?**

Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.



Table Talk

Warm Up: Think about a time when you were tricked or deceived. How did that event affect you?

1. Vv1-2 Paul uses the image of a pure virgin or bride. What thoughts do you have on this subject after listening to this sermon?
2. V. 3 being deceived by Satan is mentioned. Deception was something Paul himself warned about in many other letters he wrote to the New Testament churches. Paul no doubt knew Jesus' words in Mark 13:5 "See that no one leads you astray...". Read the selection of verses and write down what you learn about deception.
 - Colossians 2:4
 - Romans 16:17-18
 - Colossians 2:8
 - 1 Timothy 6:20
 - Ephesians 5:6
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - 2 Timothy 3:13
 - James 1:16
 - 1 John 2:26
 - Luke 21:8
3. A simple and pure devotion to Christ ought to be the aim of your life. Write down what you believe to be true about Jesus.
4. Write out your plan to protect your devotion to Christ.

Closing Prayer: Father you designed each of us uniquely. Help me to see your hand in my life and help me to anchor my soul in Bible truth and live my life for you.