

***Breaking through the Deception Agenda
Resisting the Lure of False Religion
2 Corinthians 11:3-4***

Most people are tired of all the conflicts & deception we are living in today...

- ***Tired of the propaganda based news that is nothing more than marketing for political agendas...***
- ***Tired of the COVID anxiety ...***
- ***Tired of the Social Media “EXPERTS” with their continual opinions and shameless meaninglessness...***

We DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE...

We DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST...

I am continuing our series...

I've titled it, “Breaking through the Deception Agenda”

NOTICE – It's NOT “Breaking through a DECEPTIVE Agenda...”

The agenda I'll be referring to is not anything new...

It's not based upon our current crisis of deceptive agendas...

Rather, it has been around since the dawn of time...

Deception has existed almost as long as man has been on earth...

What is deception?

Deception: “The act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid.”

Today we are going to be focusing on false religions...

I've titled the message, “Resisting the Lure of False Religion.”

There are over 4,300 different religions in the world...

Nearly 75 per cent of the world's population practices one of the five most influential religions of the world: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

If we were to take the number of non-religious people in the world (Secular/Agnostic/Atheist) and bring them together they would comprise the THIRD largest group of people...

The world's 20 largest religions and their number of believers are:

1. ***Christianity (2.1 billion)***
2. ***Islam (1.3 billion)***
3. ***Nonreligious (Secular/Agnostic/Atheist) (1.1 billion)***
4. ***Hinduism (900 million)***
5. ***Chinese traditional religion (394 million)***
6. ***Buddhism 376 million***
7. ***Primal-indigenous (300 million)***
8. ***African traditional and Diasporic (100 million)***
9. ***Sikhism (23 million)***
10. ***Juche (19 million)***
11. ***Spiritism (15 million)***
12. ***Judaism (14 million)***
13. ***Bahai (7 million)***
14. ***Jainism (4.2 million)***
15. ***Shinto (4 million)***
16. ***Cao Dai (4 million)***
17. ***Zoroastrianism (2.6 million)***

- 18. Tenrikyo (2 million)
- 19. Neo-Paganism (1 million)
- 20. Unitarian-Universalism (800,000)

Of all these religious groups that Christians would deem “False Religions”, we are not referring to this morning...

Also, the Mormons and Jehovah Witness we are not referring to this morning with regards to “False Religion”...

What we are referring to this morning are the 2.1 billion people in the world who claim to be “Christian”

Jesus said that at Judgment, there would be many who claim to be His followers that, are in fact, not!

Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV) — “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Throughout the NT we read of constant battles against false teachers “worming their way” into the churches and leading many astray...

ONE THING

False religions lure us through CONTROL of the FLESH by either the ACCOMPLISHMENTS of LEGALISM or the ENJOYMENTS of LICENSE.

In Galatians, we are confronted with a different gospel that conforms to LEGALISM...

Galatians 1:6–7 (ESV) — 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

In our passage we are looking at today, we are confronted with a different gospel that embraces the enjoyment of LICENSE...

2 Corinthians 11:4b (ESV) — ... if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

How do we resist the lure of false religions?...

2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (ESV) — But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

1. The PERVASIVENESS of False Religions

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) — But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

To understand the pervasiveness of false religions we are taken back to the beginning deception...

2 Corinthians 11:3a (ESV) — “...as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning...”

Νόημα (Noama) - the psychological faculty of understanding, reasoning, thinking, and deciding—‘mind.’

Genesis 3:6 (ESV) — So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate ...

In light of this, let’s read verse 3 again...

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) — But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

“Led astray”

Φθειρω (Phtheiro) – To cause someone to become perverse or depraved, as a type of moral destruction—‘to deprave, to pervert, to ruin, to cause the moral ruin

“sincere”

ἀπλότης (haplotas) – Singleness of purpose or motivation

“pure”

ἀγνεΐα (hagneia) – The quality of moral purity

False religions lure us through control of the flesh by either the accomplishments of legalism or the enjoyments of license.

1. The PERVASIVENESS of False Religions

2. The PERSUASIVENESS of False Religions

2 Corinthians 11:4 (ESV) — For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

He gives us here the TRIAD of attacks false teachers use to lure unsuspecting church goers away from Jesus...

- **They proclaim another Jesus**
- **They bring a different spirit**
- **They offer a different gospel**

How is it they are SO persuasive?

2 Corinthians 11:4b (ESV) — ... you put up with it readily enough.

“You entertain these ideas without question”

Why do we put up with them?

➤ **They will be ENTERTAINING**

2 Corinthians 11:5–6 (ESV) — Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.

When Paul came to them he determined to not use popular rhetorical speaking methods...

1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (NLT) — And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

➤ **They will be MASQUERADING**

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (NLT) — These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

They will use all the right words and phrases...

They will “LOOK” the part

➤ **They will be DOMINATING**

2 Corinthians 11:20 (ESV) — For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.

1. The PERVASIVENESS of False Religions

2. The PERSUASIVENESS of False Religions

3. The PRESCRIPTION against False Religions

2 Corinthians 11:4 (ESV) — For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Rather than spending all your time worrying about who are false teacher and what are their false claims...

Focus on the truth! Focus on the REAL JESUS, the REAL HOLY SPIRIT, and the REAL GOSPEL!

The only way to do that is to take your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth!

Acts 17:11 (ESV) — Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

The Real Holy Spirit

The Real Jesus

→ Born of a Jewish virgin named Mary who was of King David's lineage

- **The Son of God – 100% God**
- **The Son of Man – 100% Man**

→ Lived a sinless life

- **Fully human without a sinful nature**

→ Proclaimed God's Kingdom

- **Ushered in God's Kingdom at birth**
- **Preached God's Kingdom in ministry**

→ Died on a Cross for the sins of all mankind

- **Became God's perfect sacrifice**

→ Rose bodily from the dead three days later

- **Appeared to many people**
- **Ate food and was touched by people**

→ Ascended to heaven after 40 days

- **Seated at the right hand of the Father**
- **Interceding for believers**

→ Will return again to rule

- **Will take His believers with Him**
- **Will judge all mankind**
- **Will bring about a new heaven and new earth**