

Seriousness of Deception

William J.D. Shaw

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A question those that profess to be Christians need to ask themselves is that if they are deceived, do they have a personal price to pay and how much of a price ? Recognize that being deceived results in one not obeying God in some areas. It means not following and doing the Will of God. When you are deceived you are in disobedience to some aspects of God's Directives to you.

The Bible tells us there is a price to pay.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

The place to start is with Eve in the Garden of Eden. She was deceived with lies and cunning by the serpent. The consequence of this deception was for both Adam and Eve to be expelled from the Garden of Eden and from direct access to God. At this point the earth given to them was changed such that it required extreme effort to raise food for their existence. The consequence for this deception, being Eve's acceptance of the deception, was severe and set the course for all mankind from that moment forward.

Let's jump forward to the time of the Israelites living in the promised land. They were enjoying life and living surrounded by neighbors that worshipped false gods. In time they fell into accepting and worshiping the false gods of their neighbours and abandoning their God. They accepted the deception of their neighbors. Even their priests accepted the deception and promoted it, abandoning the God that brought them out of slavery, the one that choose them to be His people and gave them the promised land. Along the way God called them back through specific prophets, but for the most part the Israelites ignored the call to repent and come back to following God's Way forward. The consequence saw defeat, death, slavery, and dispersement of the Israelites. Since they did not repent and return to the one and only living God, they would then most likely at their time of death have lost their salvation. They paid a price for allowing themselves to be deceived and following the wrong path through life.

Today from the New Testament we know that warnings were given to us in not to be deceived many, many times, at least 17 times. That number makes that warning extremely

important, one that should not be ignored, one that should be taken in utmost seriousness. Each of us individually are responsible on how we go forward through life, the choices we make, as each of us will at some time in the future stand before the white throne and be judged. It makes no difference what others do, it is not for us to follow them, rather it is for us to follow God and do His Will. So going the way of being deceived will result in a price to be paid by each of us individually. The thing we do not know is the degree or severity of the price to be paid according to the degree of the deception that we follow. It could be all or nothing with respect to our salvation, or it could be some intermediate lack of reward and rebuke for some deceptions. The Bible does not tell us other than the wrath of God comes upon us. In other words we ourselves are held responsible for following the path of deception, whatever it might be. We do not have an excuse and cannot try to pass the responsibility off to the one that deceived us. No we ourselves bear the punishment.

We are given free will to choose and intelligence to think, evaluate and to read. I prefer to choose in order to error on the right or the positive side. The way to do this is to carefully read and study what Jesus told us and showed us by His example and to go forward following and obeying Him. In order to do this, first it is extremely important to recognize and gain understanding from God's Holy Word on what role Jesus played in the Old Testament. These two things together give the criteria of going forward on the correct and narrow path. They form the way forward in obedience and growth with respect to God's Will. If one does this with an open mind and spiritual clarity in what we are told from the scriptures, we will not become deceived in following the wrong path. In addition we always need to go forward with prayer and God's guidance working within us, we need to ask God that we not be deceived and that he will give us help in our walk forward.

There are two major actions that we must take in going forward, one is to obey God in the Directives He gave us. The second is to grow in our heart in the manner that God wants us to grow. That means we must be very careful in identifying these two directives so that we follow them.

Always, we have choice of free will on how we will go forward through this current life. Each of us must choose carefully. Our focus is not to be on this current life, but rather to be on our future life in the presence of the Father and the Son.
