

## **THE DANGER OF DECEPTION**

1. Text: Hebrews 3:12-15
2. We deal in this lesson and the next with one of the most difficult problems man faces. It is deception and it's mentioned time and time again in the New Testament.
3. May each one of us examine ourselves with this issue in mind and use this as we deal with and teach others.
4. Its danger is seen in:

### **I. Its Explanation Of Importance.**

1. Deception means to delude or mislead, lead into error or astray. At least seven different Greek words are translated by deceive. The most common is planao from which we get our word planet and it means to cause to wander. (See I Timothy 6:11)
2. Deception is much more serious than simple ignorance which can easily be dealt with. When one is ignorant and knows this he is very teachable; when one is deceived in thinking he does know it is difficult to teach.
3. Ultimate source of ignorance: deception. People can be smart, educated, respected, even wise, but still deceived. Think how this keeps people from seeing the Scriptures alike.

### **II. The First Sin**

1. Go back to the garden of Eden. Genesis 3:4-6. Eve was deceived by the serpent.
2. I Timothy 2:14 The woman being deceived fell into transgression.
3. II Corinthians 11:3 The serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so you may be too.
4. Revelation 12:9 Satan the deceiver of the whole world.
5. Think how important all this makes this problem.

### **III. The Exhortations**

1. James 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.
2. Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows that he will also reap.
3. I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.
4. I John 3:7 Let no one deceive you: He who practices righteousness is righteous.
5. Titus 3:3 We ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived.
6. Often one hears speakers say sin has nothing to offer. Wrong! Sin offers much by deception. Depends on our scales of relative values.

### **IV. Warnings**

1. Romans 1:28-32 In a long list of evils deceit is found.
2. I Corinthians 6:9-10 Another long list of evils says do not be deceived and then gives all these sins that will keep one from heaven.
3. II Corinthians 11:13 Deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.
4. Colossians 2:8 Beware lest you be cheated or plundered through philosophy or empty deceit, according to the tradition of men.
5. Titus 1:10,13 There are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers. Rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in the faith.
6. II Timothy 3:13-17 Evil men and impostors grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and be ensured of.
7. Hebrews 3:12-13 Evil heart of unbelief, exhort daily, don't be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, May 21, 2006**

