

CHRISTIANITY IN TROUBLED TIMES

“Empty Deceptions”

Scripture Reading: COLOSSIANS 2:8

-) **SLIDE 7.** Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today’s message is titled, “*Empty Deceptions.*”
-) **SLIDE 9.** Remember this line (write it down): “*What you win them with, is what you’ll win them to.*” What do I mean by that? Let me answer that by specifically talking about the church (although it could apply to any organization).
-) There is something about that (happens) church that has grabbed the attention of a person. And that something has won them over. It’s what keeps them coming back. And don’t change that “*something*” because it’s what I’ve been won to.
-) A prime example would be music in the church. I promise you many people attend churches because the praise band rocks the house. It’s loud, the lighting sets the mood, and I’ll sing whatever words are put on that giant screen because I am in the groove. What you win them with (music), is what you’ll win them to (music). To these people church is all about the music.
-) Today we are going to look at a few very bizarre “*church*” services and practices. And because they are so bizarre and unusual and different, it’s what has won the people. And forget about anything else that happens in this “*service*” just make sure that when I show up you give me the bizarre.
-) Why is America going through troubled times? Because of what I showed you last week and what I’m about to show you this morning. I continue to be convinced God has reached His breaking point with the church. He will no longer tolerate these church antics and He is removing His restraining grace.

-) **SLIDE 10.** What we about to see are what I would consider empty deceptions. And the apostle Paul warns us about these empty deceptions. They are empty because they contain no truth. And they are deceptions because they are principles of the world rather than principles of Christ.
-) And people love the world. Well, if I can have “*church*” and the “*world*” at the same time, then I fulfill a religious obligation while getting my ears tickled at the same time.
-) This morning I will be showing you 5 short YouTube clips from 5 different church gatherings in America. Each clip propagates an empty deception. The more we get into the clips, the more bizarre the actions become. After each clip, I will identify what is Biblically incorrect with their actions. I want to show you firsthand what the “*church*” looks like out there.
-) **SLIDE 11.** Andy Stanley. Northpoint Ministries. 90 partner churches. 30,000 people weekly. During a church service, which is meant to be God-honoring and God-exulting, let’s honor and cheer for our favorite college football team.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Can’t we take just 90 minutes of our week on a Sunday morning and exalt the Lord without bringing the world into God’s house? READ. Are we not to be separate from the world? If any of those 30,000 people had any Biblical discernment, they would tell Andy Stanley to change these ungodly habits or say, “*See you later.*” But what you win them with, is what you’ll win them to.
-) **SLIDE 13.** Unknown. I have spoken about money in here a few times. Each time it was to inform you of the NT command to simply be a cheerful giver. But where is this sermon going? I have already said that false teachers do what they do out of greed. Greed for attention. Greed for power and authority. And greed for what? MONEY! The song clearly says, “*I wanna be rich.*” And that is where his teaching will be going.

-) Let's satisfy that carnal desire to have money and be rich by placing our faith in our faith! And all the while, that preacher is the only one who's cashing in.
-) **SLIDE 14.** Commands for the overseer/pastor.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Lovers of money.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Now before we watch our final three videos, I need to explain a movement that is happening in the "*church*" today. It is called the New Apostolic Reformation or NAR. It is extremely dangerous, it's getting extremely popular, and should be avoided at all costs. It is mostly found in the Pentecostal and Charismatic circles (584 million). What is their direction and what are they teaching?
-) **SLIDE 17.** They claim a five-fold ministry. And they get this from EPHESIANS 4:11-13. They claim that since the church has not attained unity of the faith, that God is restoring the offices of apostle and prophet in the church today.
-) **SLIDE 18.** But EPH 2:19-20 clearly tells us that the foundation of the church was built on the apostles and prophets. What is a foundation? Once a foundation is built, you do not need to build another one.
-) The apostles and prophets were part of the apostolic age. The apostolic age ended with the death of the apostle John around the year 100AD. The foundation had been built.
-) But what could apostles and prophets do? They were given the power of the miraculous gifts. The miraculous gifts consist of prophecy (new revelations from God), speak in tongues (to further the gospel to other lands and other languages), and perform miracles (as a sign they were sent by Christ).
-) Today there's a lot of power, popularity, and prestige in the miraculous. So, let's start a movement of restoring these three Spiritual gifts, say it is a movement of the Holy Spirit, and start new churches unlike your grandfather's church (NAR).

-) **SLIDE 19.** Has anyone ever heard of Mary Bushiri (456k), Mattie Nottage (100k), Pep Donker (51.9k), Juanita Bynum (48.2k), Kay Nash (24.4k), Collette Williams (10.8k), Rose Kelvin (5.5k), Tiffany Morriar (4.7k), Marcia Morrison (4.4k), Patrice Smith (1.8k), Janet Floyd (514), Valerie Moore (332), or Sharon Seay Whitelaw (116)?
-) They are the 13 most popular prophetesses you will find on YouTube. They have all received a prophetic word from God and want to share that with you. They are all part of the NAR. In total they have 708,662 YouTube subscribers. What you win them with, is what you'll win them to.
-) I find it amazing that none of these prophetesses or prophets from the NAR ever once prophesied the onslaught of C-19. If they were truly hearing from God, don't you think God would have let some of them know that 2020 would be an extremely dangerous year with a global pandemic?
-) This movement, the NAR, has taken the miraculous gifts and abused them to an ungodly bizarre level. This first video needs no explanation.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Benny Hinn. Folks, this isn't the power of the Holy Spirit. This is fake and demonic. And all the undiscerning goats in the crowd cheered. Why? Because what you win them with, it what you'll win them to.
-) **SLIDE 21.** This next video is from a church in Redding CA called Bethel church. The leaders of this church are Bill and Bennie Johnson. They are part of the NAR. They have captured the hearts of many young people.
-) They sponsor a band called "*Jesus Culture*" and churches all around the world (and probably right here in Nelson County) play their music. The words of their songs are repetitious and boring. 7-11. Their words also reflect their theology which is heretical. Yet churches sing their songs every Sunday.

-) **SLIDE 22.** This church also has a school called BSSM (Bethel School of Supernatural Ministries) where they teach the undiscerning how to prophesy, speak in tongues, and perform miracles. The tuition is \$5250 for years 1 (1300) and 2 (650). \$900 for year #3.
-) This first clip shows three deceptive and evil practices. Unfortunately, I cannot stop the clip while it is being played.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Bethel Church. Gold dust. Feathers from the Holy Spirit. Grave soaking. What you win them with, is what you'll win them to.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Stacey Campbell. She may be in a spirit, but that's not the Holy Spirit.
-) **SLIDE 25.** That is demonic and resembles a mystic practice called kundalini. READ.
-) Empty deceptions. Itching ears and false teachers. They find each other. Why? Because what you win them with, is what you'll win them to. They won't like a church like this. It's boring. There's nothing exciting here to hold their interest.
-) Why is America going the way it is going? The church has failed to be the church and God is judging us. He is allowing the fake church to go its own way. Today and last Sunday I showed you video clips of why that is so. The church has tragically fallen to empty deceptions.
-) There is so much more I could say about denominations that can't recognize sin, are more concerned about social issues than the gospel, and that list goes on. I'll stop here.
-) Next week we will continue this journey of Christianity in troubled times. Are we in end times? If so, what should our response be?

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