

Do Not Be Deceived

2-8-15 PM

Recreantly a book (*The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven*) that achieved some notoriety was removed from shelves after the author (truly, the author's father) recanted the events recorded as being a lie. We should not have been surprised; the boy stated things that were actually not possible according to Scriptures. We should not have been deceived, in other words, by the message, when the truth was already present.

The expression "do not be deceived" is found four times in the Bible. It is the Greek expression "*planao me planaō*", literally "Astray Not Astray". It refers to the idea that there are certain deceptions that work all the time.

Here are four passages that warn us not to be deceived.

1. Galatians 6:7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

We are deceived if we do not consider that there are consequences to the actions we take.

The Lie is this: it may happen to everyone else, but it will not happen to me.

There are consequences to being drunk, to fornication, to adultery, to lust, to sloth, to idolatry.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*

We are deceived if we do not believe that our associations effect us.

The Lie: I will be a good influence on my friends or family; they will not influence me

We must discern before it is too late that our associations ALWAYS Have some influence on us. We need to determine BEFORE that happens whom we associate with, so that we are not lost.

3. 1 Corinthians 6:9 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor [the] covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

We are deceived to think that we can live in sin and still be in God's Grace

The Lie: I may (fornicate, covet, lust, steal, drink, party, cheat), but I am still planning to go to heaven when I die.

We need to know that committing to the works of the flesh (Galatians 5) invalidates the work of Christ in our lives for salvation (Hebrews 6)

4. James 1:16 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

We are deceived to believe that we bring good things to ourselves

The Lie: Because I have worked hard and I have earned it, I deserve the good things I have.

We need to know that everything we enjoy (whether it be our salvation, our living, our toys, etc) is a gift from God, requiring thanksgiving and praise. To quote President Obama, "you didn't build that"