



# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

## Discerning the Daze of Deception, Pt. 1

Pastor John Riggs

### Key Scriptures:

- Romans 6 – On baptism symbolizing union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- 2 Corinthians 11:1–6 – The primary sermon text concerning deception, false teachers, and “another Jesus.”
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” used to emphasize the authority and purpose of Scripture.
- Galatians 1-6 (entire book referenced) – Especially Paul’s defense of the true gospel versus false gospels.
- Revelation 16 – Mentioned regarding Satan’s activity and war against believers, not the unbelieving world.
- John 1 – To affirm the eternal nature and divinity of Christ (“The Word was with God and the Word was God”).
- Matthew 24:1–14 – Jesus’ teaching on the signs of His coming and warnings about deception in the last days.
- Psalm 113:3 – Quoted by Zoe during baptism testimony: “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

### Key Points:

- Baptism is presented as a significant public declaration of faith and a symbolic representation of a believer's union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- The pastor warns against false teachers who proclaim 'another Jesus,' stressing that the enemy's deception is most potent within the church.
- Deception is a primary and pervasive sign of the end times, affecting spiritual, political, and economic spheres.

- There are three main ways people are deceived: by a different Jesus, a different spirit, or a different gospel.
- True Christian doctrine originates from apostles who received the gospel directly from Christ, ensuring doctrinal consistency.
- The spirit realm is actively influencing the world, and Christians need to discern between the Holy Spirit and demonic spirits.
- Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and any addition to this gospel constitutes a false gospel.
- Religious systems that add works to salvation, like Roman Catholicism, or rely on human prophets, like Mormonism, are presented as deviations from the true gospel.
- Jesus's primary warning regarding his second coming is to ensure no one deceives you.
- Many will claim to be Christ or speak in his name, performing 'mighty works,' but will be rejected by Christ if they do not do the will of God.
- The world will hate Christians not for their wrongdoings, but for their association with Christ, mirroring the world's hatred for Jesus.
- Signs of the end times include wars, famines, earthquakes, increased lawlessness, and a great falling away (apostasy), all serving as 'birth pains' indicating the imminent return of Christ.
- The prevalence of false prophets and teachers leading many astray is a repeated and critical sign of the times.
- Endurance and faithfulness are crucial for Christians, as the race of faith requires active participation and commitment until the end.
- The modern gospel in America is often a perverted version, focusing on easy salvation without true repentance or the reality of sin and hell.
- The true gospel has been proclaimed worldwide, but not every individual or people group has necessarily heard it. God will deal with those who haven't heard.
- Deception is a primary sign of the end times, mentioned multiple times by Jesus.
- Christ, his gospel, and his followers were never intended to be popular with the world and will be hated by it.
- Many churches today compromise the gospel to gain popularity and numbers, creating a 'consumer-driven church with a consumeristic gospel' that appeals to fleshly desires.
- The prosperity gospel is a manifestation of this compromised gospel, focusing on material wealth and personal desires rather than the true message of scripture.
- The 'spirit of antichrist' is already present in the world, and not everyone who claims to follow Christ is truly of Him.





**Question and Answer:** (answers provided on pages 21-24 of the study)

Q: What is the significance of baptism according to the pastor?

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Q: What are the testimonies of the individuals being baptized?

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Q: What is the main message of the new sermon series 'Days of Deception'?

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Q: Where can people go if they have questions or need prayer after the service?

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Q: What is the role of scripture according to the sermon?

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Q: What are the primary ways people are led astray in the last days, according to the teaching?

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Q: How can one distinguish the true gospel from false gospels?

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Q: What is the most important warning Jesus gave concerning his second coming?

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Q: Can someone be a Christian and still be deceived?

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Q: Why does the world hate Christians, and what does this signify?

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Q: What are the 'birth pains' that Jesus mentioned as signs of the end times?

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Q: What is apostasy, and is it a sign of the end times?

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Q: How should Christians respond to the prevalence of deception and false teachings?

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Q: What is the significance of Jesus being God?

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Q: What is the role of 'prophets' in contemporary religious movements, and how should they be viewed?

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Q: What is the 'modern gospel' being criticized in the video?

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Q: Has the gospel been preached to every person on Earth?

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Q: Why do many churches today try to make Jesus popular?

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Q: What is the significance of 'itchy ears' mentioned in relation to 2 Timothy 4:3-4?

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Q: What is the prosperity gospel, and why is it criticized?

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Q: What is the difference between Antichrist and the spirit of antichrist?

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Q: How can Christians discern between the spirit of God and the spirit of antichrist?

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Q: Who is the 'woman' mentioned in Revelation 12?

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Q: What role will the false prophet play in the end times?

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Q: Why is it important for believers to study God's word in the context of end times deception?

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## Sermon Transcript:

We're going to learn together from God's word how we are able to discern the days that would be the d- a ze of deception that we are living in. And so if you did if you didn't hear last week's message, it was really the beginning of how we started this. We're going to get into fleshing out 2 Corinthians 11:1-6. If you would open your Bibles, please with me this morning to 2 Corinthians 11. We're going to read this passage again once more. And then we're going to spend some more time breaking down this particular passage. So, if you didn't hear last week, you can go online or you can find it and you can watch it. But, um, before we're done with this series, we're also going to answer the question about how we apply these things to our life. And it'll be very, very important. Now, God's word, we know, is inspired. It is God breathed. In fact, I want to start off with this passage. I've done it a lot in the past. It's very important that we get this. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. I want to start off with this so we can hear this and understand it. It's a great passage to take into memory. All scripture is written by inspiration of God. Depending on what translation you have, it might say God breathed, but I'm just quoting from from a translation here um that I know personally. So all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. So the man and woman of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. So what we're looking at here is God's word. Every aspect of this, not just the letters written and read, makes for a fancy country music song, but nothing could be further from the truth. All of scripture is God's word. It is the word of God. Now, God wrote this word not to scare us. The purpose of this particular study is not to scare anyone. God wrote scripture for many reasons, but one of those reasons that he wrote scripture for is not to scare us, but to protect and prepare us so that we will not be led astray by the deceptive cunning and craftiness of Satan and the kingdom of darkness in these last days. And it's imperative that we know this and we understand it. I would encourage you this morning to write down these passages. We're going to look at lots of different passages of scripture today. I didn't get to finish this last week because we ran out of time and more than likely we will run out of time again, but I want to cover these passages so that you have them and you can study them this week as you continue to grow and understand the significance of these days that we are living in. So 2 Corinthians 11:1-6. Paul writing this second letter to the Corinthians, the believers there in Corinth, he says, "I wish you would bear me a little foolishness. Do bear with me, for I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ." In other words, Paul came to Corinth, preached the gospel, and they came to believe through faith in Christ by the grace of God. They have come to know Christ. And Paul has a great concern for these people because he was the vessel that God used to go to Corinth and preach the gospel. And the church was born there in Corinth through the spreading of Paul's gospel which he received from Jesus Christ. And so, he has a great connection with these people. Therefore, you know, when you love people, you have a great concern for them. And Paul spiritually loves these people as brothers and sisters in Christ, but he also has a love and a a very serious sincere um concern for these people spiritually. So Paul is the one that actually shared the gospel and they came to hear and know and believe the gospel by faith in Christ. And he moves on, he says, "But I am afraid." Paul is fearful of what is going on that he hears about in Corinth. I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, and we looked at this last week, his trickery, his cunning, that he was hoodwinking these people, just as he did Eve, Paul says, I'm afraid the serpent, just as he deceived Eve by his cunning, that your thoughts, that is your mind and your intellect, will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Jesus Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims, this is very important. These three things are very, very important for you to understand. And I'm trying to make this as clear as I can through this study because this has been prevalent since the church began. And Satan does his best work in religion. He does his best work within the church. You understand this? The world is already in the in the grip of darkness. The world is already lost. And when Satan, as we read about in Revelation 16, is cast down to the earth, he doesn't go make war on the

unbelieving world, he makes war on Israel and the the the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, which be the church. That's who Satan is making war with. And we we see here that number one, that Paul is concerned that they will be led astray from their sincere devotion to Jesus Christ. And here's the reason he's concerned. Number one, for if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus, guys, there is so many rebranded forms and types of Christ being proclaimed today. And just because they use the buzzword Jesus and they use the buzzword the Bible and they use the buzzword the gospel, it doesn't mean that what they're proclaiming is the true King of Kings, Lord of Lords, eternal son of God, Jesus Christ himself. It doesn't mean that. But we get deceived when we hear words like Jesus. And we think that when someone talks about Jesus, we assume that they're talking about the Jesus that we read about in scripture that we are that that's why I've spent so much time teaching you about christology. In other words, who is Jesus? Why? Because every religion in the world, they all have shared what they believe about Jesus. They all talk about Jesus. They all have Jesus somewhere in their story. But he is not the eternal son of God who was from the very beginning before the foundation of the world. The one who created all things. The great I am, the third, the second person of the triune Godhead who has always been and always will be. We have to know that christology matters because in our time, as it was in Paul's time, and I'm telling you in our time, it is off the rails. And if you're not careful when people post things and say things and teachers say this and got all these things going on, if you just hear the buzzwords, you're going to think that you're hearing about Jesus. That's why you have to know the word. Because when you know the word, you will know when someone is mistakenly preaching and teaching or knowingly a different Jesus. And here's what Paul was so concerned about, and you'll read this in his other letters. He does this over and over and over again. Why? Because Satan came to attack the church from its foundation. That's why. But think about this. In Corinth, there was one church. One church of believers, the body of Christ. And Satan is not omnipresent. Nor are angels omnipresent. That means they can't be everywhere at one time. And so in order for these things to happen there there had to been a person who would come who Satan was using to preach a different gospel. Now you multiply that the world around with the millions of churches now and with a platform right here where Satan now he can use all of this to do his work all over the world all the time everywhere. We are on a level of deception that we cannot even quantify, Christian, and you have to understand this so you are not deceived in these last days. It's so very important. And so Paul says that that um for if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one that we proclaimed. In other words, Paul is making it clear that I came to you and I proclaimed the one true Jesus. Why? Because in Galatians, he tells us that the gospel he received, he didn't receive it from any man. No, cults start from people who follow men. Paul says, "I received the gospel from none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself." That's why Paul's gospel, Peter's gospel, Matthew's gospel, they all line up. Why? Because Christ taught these men the gospel. They are apostles of Christ. And so, someone though has come and they're preaching another Jesus than the one that Paul proclaimed. And then notice this, or if you receive, and we're going to get into this next week, a different spirit. Now, this is very, very important because unfortunately in the church, this is not preached or taught very much, especially in relation to the spirit realm that is actually um operating right here with us in the dimension that we cannot see, but it is here. And the spirit of God and the spirit of Antichrist and the fallen angels, these these demonic spirits and all that's going on in the world, it is right here around us all the time going on. But we don't have the ability to see into that dimension. But what we can see is that dimension fulfilling itself in operation in the physical realm that we live in. This is very, very important. But you got to be able to have eyes to see to understand what is going on. It's very, very important. So Paul says, not only you you you put up with someone preaching a different Jesus than I preached, but you also will receive another spirit. Why? Because another spirit would come proclaiming Jesus through a person, a different Jesus. It's by a different spirit. Not the Holy Spirit, but a different spirit. Then the third thing he says this, so let me let me back up though. And you receive a different spirit from the one you received. What spirit have we received as Christians? The Holy Spirit. And Paul says, not only do you receive a different Jesus, you're willing to

receive it by a different spirit. And notice the third thing, or if you accept a different gospel, a different gospel. Listen guys, there is a plethora of gospels out there and some of them are going to have bits and pieces of the true gospel, but they add to the gospel. In other words, the gospel is by faith alone through grace alone in Christ alone are we saved. That is it. You do not add one thing to the gospel. Not one thing. But you're going to see other religious systems like the Roman Catholic pagan religious system. Now I love Roman Catholic people, but their system that they are deceived by Roman Catholicism is a very pagan fallen religious system of Rome. That's what it is. And see, so when you don't understand some of these things, people just go on with it. We talked about the Mormon church last week and how they use Jesus and they use the Bible, but they also have the Doctrine of Covenants and they have the Pearl of Great Price and they also have the Book of Mormon and they think the Bible itself is not inherent or infallible that it has got all kinds of problems. So that's not the book that they really follow inherently. They got the other books that their prophet, by the way, key word when you hear the word prophet, you know you got a cult going on. The prophet Joseph Smith himself received. Now, I don't doubt he received something, but it was received by a different spirit, not the Holy Spirit. The Roman Catholic Church uses words that we find in scripture, but they add works to the gospel that you've got to do some things other than being saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. You've got to do penance and you've got to do the mass and you've got to do, got to do, got to do. Got to do, got to do. That is a false religious system. It's called works. And so, um, we don't have time to get into that. I preached on that at length. There's a lot we could talk about there. But notice a different gospel. The prosperity gospel is so prevalent in our time. But see, these false gospels appeal to the flesh of men. It's not the true gospel. And Paul was so concerned because number one, they were putting up with someone preaching a different Jesus. We should never put up with someone preaching a different Jesus. They were receiving a different spirit. We're going to learn next week how we as Christians are to test the spirit. Test the spirit. This isn't all weird stuff. This is real stuff. We need to know how to do this and why it's so imperative that we do and how scripture is used in order that we'd know how to test the spirit because not every spirit is of God. Not even close. And then the third one was the another gospel. That's why when we studied the book of Galatians verse by verse, chapter by chapter, I wanted to take our church through that. Why? So that we could learn together what the gospel is. What is the gospel? Why is it so important that Jesus is preached correctly? Why? That it's the true Jesus. Because there's only one name under heaven whereby men might be saved. It is Jesus Christ alone. There is only one gospel that truly saves because Jesus Christ himself, he is the way, the truth, and the life. And there's no other way to the Father. Let me repeat that. There is no other way to God. That's not my word. That is the word. We're just being the mail deliverer. That's all we're doing is delivering the mail. So those of you that think it's okay for a Muslim or a Mormon or a Hindu or a Buddhist that they're brothers in Christ, nothing could be further from the truth. They are going to hell because of their unbelief in Jesus Christ for who he is and the gospel that he came to provide through his own atoning sacrifice. It's very important. Why is this such a big deal? Because the world is hoodwinked and it's getting it's getting off the rails, folks. And Christians, the reason I'm preaching this is because I, like Paul, care about you. Now, if you want a psychology message, you can probably find one of them somewhere. If you want to feel better about X, Y, and Z, and what I mean, I I look at some of these messages that are preached, and I'm like, dude, what is this guy doing? You remember what Paul told Timothy last week? Preach the word in season, out of season. Paul didn't he didn't pull any punches. Why? Because Paul was given this responsibility to proclaim the gospel and the truths of Christ. These doctrinal things were so important. Paul wasn't doing it because it was just something fun to do. No, he was called by God specifically to preach the word, teach the word. So, we have to be very cautious in our day. Now, we're going to get into a sign, guys. Right now, you are watching one of the largest signs that are that's pointing to the return of Christ. It's here right in front of you. In fact, it's it's like the biggest billboard you've ever seen. It is flashing with all kinds of colors. It is it is bright. It is it is it is glaring. This sign that Jesus Christ told his disciples that they needed to be aware of. Let me go through this with you. So, one of

the key signs given to us in scripture that would happen before the second coming of Christ and the end of the age is that of worldwide deception. And this deception is not just spiritually. It is political. It is economical. It is it is deception over every aspect of all things. Why? Because the God of this age is at work in knowing that his days are coming to a close. We're living in it. Even more specific is that the worldwide deception would be religious. Jesus Christ, God the Son, not just begotten and and and came to be like the Mormons teach. No, no, no, no. He is eternal past. Always has been, always will be. If you read John 1, you're going to find this to be true. And I can give you other scriptures, Colossians, and so on and so forth. Jesus Christ is God. Not because that he's come to have these attributes. He is God. Always has been eternally God with God in the beginning before the foundation of the world. He's God. This is what we need to know. He's also the word. The word. And the word was with God. And the word was God. This is who Christ is. So go with me to Matthew 24. We did touch on this last week. I could take you to Luke's gospel and also Mark's, but I like Matthew um and his account of the gospel. Matthew, we know, was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ. The book of Mark was written by John Mark, not one of the twelve apostles. The book of Luke was not written by one of the twelve apostles, but by the physician, um Luke. And so, and then you get to John. John's one of the twelve apostles. We're going to get into him as well. But I want to take you to Matthew chapter 24. Why? Because Jesus Christ is going to give us information that we need to know as he gave it to his apostles. And you say, well, why is this so important? Well, because we are part of what Christ is sharing. Okay, Matthew chapter 24. I'm going to read to you 14 verses. That seems a little lengthy, but oh, let me tell you what, we got a lot of scripture to read this morning. And the reason I want to give you so many scriptures is because there's so many different scriptures that talk about these things that I want for you to know and to study. Matthew 24:1-14. Jesus left the temple and was going away. I've taught about this. You know what was happening here when his disciples came to the point to point out to him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." So, you can read a few of the other gospel accounts, and you're going to find that they were overly mesmerized by the beauty of the temple and the buildings around the temple. And Jesus says, "Hey, you see all this? I'm telling you, there's a time coming when not one stone of all that you see will left be standing upon another stone." In other words, what was Jesus saying? Hey, don't get too caught up in the beauty of all this because this baby's coming down. The system is coming down. This temple that you see is coming down. The disciples are going, "Woo, what in the world is Christ talking about?" But I want you to notice their question to him. They have a little bit of time to think about it because you got to walk across the Cedron Valley over to the Mount of Olives to the east and it's a little walk. I mean, you got some time to think. And I'm sure probably who knows, we don't have that in scripture, but they must have been talking and looking at each other going, "What in the world is he talking about?" I mean, this is this is it right here. I mean, the temple, the priesthood, all of this stuff. No, it's all coming down. Jesus says they didn't understand. But listen to what happens as he sat on the Mount of Olives. Now there's been a little walk there. Stuff's been brewing in their mind. The disciples came to him privately saying, "Tell us." And they want to know. Tell us when will these things be? What things? When all this is going to be torn down and then there's a few more things they're going to add here. Listen to this. When will these things be? And notice this is so amazing. But listen to this. This is where you and I also come into the picture and what will be the sign, the sign of your coming. The disciples knew Christ was coming a second time. He's going to come. What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? You see the questions here? Not just when will all of these magnificent structures here on the temple mount be destroyed, but they also want to know Jesus, what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age? In other words, the finality of all this, God, when are you going to wrap all this up, Christ? When's this going to happen? And then Jesus now he is going to begin to unpack what is going to happen to give them the information that they would need. And also all who would come to believe in Jesus Christ not knowing from these men that this gospel and the grace of period of the gospel would last 2,000 years. They didn't know this. Notice what Jesus says right out of the

box. The first thing that God in the flesh is revealing to his men and to his people, the first thing you got to know, see that no one leads you astray. That means in some translations there like the King James, it's going to have deceives you. So leads you astray and deceives you are the same thing. Number one, the very first thing Jesus says before he says anything else, make sure that no one deceives you. Why? Listen. For many will come in my name. Remember Matthew 7? Many will, in fact, let's go there. Hold on. Go with me to Matthew 7. I want to show you something. I know you don't have this one, Eric, but I just want to share this one. Matthew 7:21. I want you to hear this, okay? It's very important. Christian, there is no need of us, any of us, to be deceived. If you're deceived, part of that will be the responsibility that you have not taken seriously. Here it goes. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, see, we're going to hear these buzzwords a lot. 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. See, there's a thing that we do as born again believers. There is an application of truth in our life. Imperfectly, yes, but we are doers of the word, not hearers only. On that day, what day? The day that Christ comes, the second coming, the judgment. On that day, the judgment of God. On that day, many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? How many people do you hear on the internet today that are prophesying in the name of Jesus? And here's what blows my mind.

We've had people in the last 5 years making very strong prophetic statements who are these big platform Bible teachers and their prophecies were false. They were proven false because they didn't happen like they said. And what do people keep doing? Well, they come back on and say, "Well, you know, I guess I was wrong about that one." No, you are a false prophet. In scripture, a false prophet was to be killed. To be killed. Think about that. And people just keep following Joemo. Bless his heart. He got that one wrong. I'll send him another thousand. Maybe he can get the next one right. See, you got to be careful today. Not everyone who says this is a prophecy. Listen, we have the we have the word. This is the fulfillment of God's word its entirety. Nothing to be added to it. Nothing to be taken away. I don't need some Joemo to give me a prophecy about something that's going to happen in the last days. God himself through the spirit of God. And those men that were carried along by the spirit, as John says, no prophecy of itself was ever given by man. But they were carried along by the Holy Spirit who actually told them what was going to happen in the future. So here, stop believing these guys that call themselves prophets. Come on. We have the book right here. And notice they're going to say though, but but Jesus told me. Listen, you got to be careful when someone ever comes to me and says, "God told me." I'm thinking, I don't know what's wrong with me. God had never spoken to me. I God told me he spoke to Listen, be careful. He has spoken to us by his word. His word. But Christians listen, oh, that must be a man of God. Be careful. They're going to say, "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, says Christ to them, I never knew you. Depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. Oh, we got a lot of people who are speaking on behalf of Christ, saying they're coming in his name, who, as we're going to see, are nothing more than charlatans who are workers of lawlessness. Christian, you got no reason to be deceived. We don't want to be deceived. We hate deception. So, you got to understand that. Be careful. Just because someone quotes a Bible verse on their Facebook page doesn't necessarily mean they're Christian. You can start watching the totality of their posts and learn a whole lot more.

Here we go. Moving right along. We're not going to get far today. I can see. So, in verse five, many you young students going off to university, please hear what I'm saying. There are there are going to be professors that you will have to take as a requirement of your degree program and they got nothing to do with your degree program. More than likely the philosophy classes and so on so forth, but you're going to be required to take these. Listen to me. You are going to have to gird up your loin spiritually because they're going to try to decimate everything you thought you knew and believed about Jesus. You are not going to a place where they're going

to pump you with the truth of the gospel. You're going into battle when you go on those campuses. Please hear me. Young people, you must stay connected to the word of God. You must stay praying. You must stay in fellowship with the body. you are going to face some real challenges because these men who you look up to or women who are supposedly PhD students that have it all figured out are going to do their very best to take down your belief system. Parents, your kids, Hollywood, all of this stuff, they're all doing it to your kids. Got to be careful.

Let's move on. Okay. Verse five. For many will come in my name. Notice that name saying I am the Christ or I am going to give you a word from God or I'm I've been called of God. There will be those who claim to be the Christ. We know that. But we're looking at something much broader here. And they will lead many astray. They will deceive many. How many? Many. Many. Some of you sitting in here are on your way to deception. Or you might already be deceived right now and you don't even know it. I know Christians who are self deceived and they can't see the truth themselves and they're deceived. They're deceived. We're going to learn how danger dangerous it is to keep unforgiveness in your life or bitterness or willful sin. And why is that such a big deal? Because there is one who has been given to you to be your pariclete. And there are things that will affect that relationship, Christian. And that's a dangerous thing to be out of comm communication and fellowship with the one who was sent to help you do what you can't do on your own. Serious. If God has convicted you of something, you better stop it now. If you have a bit a bitter heart and a root of unforgiveness, be careful. Satan has got a foothold. And let me tell you something. It's just the beginning of where you can find yourself selfdeceived and justifying what you're doing. And all along you are being hoodwinked by the enemy. It's no joke. Serious business. Notice they will lead many astray. And listen, that's the second warning right there. Twice already in a couple verses. Jesus says, "Listen, deception, deception. Pay attention. Be aware. and be alert.

Then he moves on. And you're going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. I don't think in my lifetime there's ever been a time that there's not a war going on. In fact, America, we've been in wars. Pretty much my entire entire adult life. And we're in one right now, whether you like it or not. That thing over there is just it's it's not settled. Don't think for a second just because Trump thinks he's the man, he ain't the man. No, no, no. Don't put your trust in all that. So, you're going to hear of wars and rumors of wars, guys. This is part of it. This is what's going to happen in a world, a fallen world, so on and so forth. Notice Jesus tells them, "Do not be alarmed. Don't be alarmed when you hear about this. This is going to happen." He says, "For this must take place." Some of the wars that we're going to see here in our time are actually wars that are going to move us to the day of the Lord. They're going to happen. So don't be a weirded out about them or scared about them. When you start seeing that stuff going on over there in that part of the world like it has been, listen, we're moving to the day of the Lord. We're moving there and wars are going to be part of it. It's coming. It's going to happen. And then he says, "For this must take place, but the end is not yet." Listen. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom and there will be famines and there will be earthquakes. Notice this in various places. In other words, they're going to be happening all over the world, not just in one location. All these are but the beginning of birth pains. And we know this. When a woman goes into labor with birth pains, what is the outcome? I know, lady. You know what this is. I'm not talking about Braxton Hicks. I'm talking about when you go into labor. You can't stop that baby from coming. And see, all of these things Jesus is sharing. He is sharing to us here also because why? We're going to be living in these days and there'll be those living in the future. This is very important because see, these are just the beginning of birth pains. And when birth pains begin to happen, what do we know? We know that delivery is not far off. So he's given us multiple signs here that we can look at and we can see going on in the world. And when you see them, you simply say, "Aha, thank you, Christ, the eternal son of God, my savior, for writing these things down." The word himself is informing me that these things are to happen. These are simply God giving us signs about the days we're living in. Signs.

But let's go on. Let me show you. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation. All the apostles experienced this. The church throughout history has experienced this. Why do we think we're somehow special? It's happening around the world today. They will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death and you will be loved by all nations. What does scripture say? Hated. See, anytime we see a Jesus that is popular with the culture, you already know it's a different Jesus. What have they been doing? We talked about this last week, the He Gets Us movement. They're just rebranding Jesus to make him this this incredibly appropo person that's just a social justice warrior. They rebrand him to make him popular with the masses. This is where the church is really in trouble because so many churches are trying to rebrand Jesus to make him popular with our community so we can get our community to come where it's popular and it's vogue and it's you look at the the pastors today. They all look the same, man. They got their hair all spiked up. They wear this little jacket. They got their little loafer or their their little biker tennis shoes on or whatever they are like the skateboarder dude. They they got the They all look the same. They're trying to look hip and they're trying to look cool to make Jesus look cool. But listen to me. Scripture tells us Jesus says the world is going to hate you. You got to think about this. The world's you will be hated not because of anything you've done. You're not going out and being a a a wicked, vile, evil person. No, they're going to hate you. Why? Because Jesus says in John 15, they're going to hate you because they hated me first. What do people not like about you? They don't like you because you talk about Jesus or you live for Christ or you uphold the things of Christ in his word. They don't like it. So, what is happening in America? They are rebranding Jesus. And these churches are growing very fast. They're giving them a popular Jesus, man. One that appeals to the sensual flesh of the world. And they love it, man. This is where we are. You better be careful. You might be hoodwinked and sucked right into it. Got to be careful. You will be hated by all n by all nations for what? My name's sake. You see that? Anytime you see a preacher that's like I mean he's popular with all the talk show hosts and he's on all all he makes Ellen and all that dude and he won't touch certain topics when asked the question. Well, we would have a conversation about that. No, what does scripture say about that? Quote the word, man. If you even know what it says, they won't do it because that ain't cool and that ain't hip. And this world doesn't want the Jesus of this Bible here. That's why all the more we must preach it and teach it because we don't want to strip the gospel of its power. If you want to be popular, don't preach the gospel. And Paul mentions that also in this section.

Okay, let's move on in verse 11. Oh, let's move on. I missed a spot here. And then many will fall away. That word fall away is apostasize. And we talked about this last last week in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. Paul says, make it very clear before the coming of the Lord and our being gathered to him, there's a couple things that are going to happen. They're the signs of what Christ said. Number one, the great falling away. Jesus said it right here. There's going to be this falling away. That is apostasizing. And we have apostate churches by the d by the droves today. Oh, they say Christian. They got all the buzzwords, but they're apostates. Listen to this. And they will betray one another and hate one another. And then verse 11, he's going to do it again. And many false prophets will arise. This would be teachers, pastors, prophets, all of these people that are speaking on behalf of God or are opening the word and and teaching the word. The these are this is what we're looking at. Teacher and listen what it says. They will arise and lead many astray. They will deceive many. How many times in that short section does Jesus give us a sign repetitively? Three times. He gives us that three times in verse 4, verse 5, 11. Jesus talks about false teachers and deception. Three times. You want a sign for your time? It is deception, Christian. And it is all around. And if you I'm telling you, if you do not start taking this life with Christ seriously, you very might, you very easily might be one of the many who will be led astray in these last days. And that's why we are delivering the mail this morning about this. So you hear it and you know it, you need to do it. So important.

He goes on and says, "And because of lawlessness will be increased." Oh boy, has that not happened. The love of many will grow cold, but the one who endures to the end, Christian, you need to mark that down in your Bible. We need to have the mindset of Paul. We're not on the Polar Express to heaven. We are on this fight, this race of faith. And it is something that I'm actively involved in. And Paul at the end of his life says, "I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." He is he is all about his his responsibility in doing his due diligence to ensure that he's running the race of faith that God has called him to run. The modern gospel in America is nothing more than the polar express to heaven. You ask Jesus into your heart. There's no sin. There is no hell. There is nothing of the sort. It's just say a prayer and you're in. It's not the gospel. It's not the gospel. The one who endures to the end will be saved and this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world. It doesn't say that every human being will hear the gospel. It says it will be proclaimed throughout the whole world. There is not one continent on this globe that has not had the gospel preached to it. Not one continent. The gospel has already been to the whole world. You understand this? Now there might be people groups who have never heard the gospel. And those people groups will be there and there will always be somebody who has never heard the gospel. But God will deal with them accordingly. What we should be concerned about is those who have heard the gospel, who have tasted, who have experienced and reject that gospel. There is a higher accounting that is coming for those of us that have been raised in the south and have heard of all these things most all of our life. Might be in a country song and used in the wrong way but nonetheless.

So in answering what will be the sign of your coming into the end of the age Jesus gave them what they would see what we would see before his return. And at the end of the age of this list given I already told you that deception is mentioned three times. Now notice that Jesus did not say that he his gospel and his followers would be popular and loved by the world. I'm I'm getting ahead of myself, but they would be hated by all nations. Christ, his gospel, his word through his spirit, and his followers have never been popular to an unbelieving world and never will be Christian. You got to understand that. So, what's happening today is so much of the church in order to continue to have numbers, they change things. They try to make Jesus popular. They give him a little washed out gospel, a life of sin without change. All of these things, we become no different in many ways in the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church doesn't matter if you sin or not. All you got to do is go and tell the priest, do a Hail Mary or two or three and do it again. The church is even worse because most of the churches out there today preach that there is no such thing as true repentance. In other words, you just keep living your life. You don't have to go tell a priest. You don't have to go do penance. You just keep living in sin and enjoying it and going along the way because Jesus loves you. Telling you, this deception is overwhelming. I think about it all the time.

Now, we've read the account of Matthew, who was one of the 12. Let's look and see if some of the other apostles wrote the same things concerning the last days. You guys give me 15 more minutes. or we're going to be doing this for a year. Well, let's look at John. John the beloved. I'm going to stop as soon as I get through probably John's and then we'll get back on this next week. John writing in 1 John 2. Go to First John. You're going to go back to the right in your Bible pretty close to the end. Okay. 1 John chapter 2 15-16. We're going to get into all this. We're going to just get rolling here. Let's If you guys would just bear with me, let me go a little a little fast. Okay. Do not love the world, John says, or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desires of the flesh, and the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life, these things are not from the father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires. But whoever does the will of God abides forever. We read about that in Matthew chapter 7 about those that do the word. The last days apostate churches will appeal to the flesh. This is one of the telltale signs of what I'm talking about. And you need to be able to see this. Their teaching will be that which the itchy ears of the world loving people, those who love the world. Now listen to me. The itchy ears of those people who love the world want to hear. So in order for you to captivate that

audience and for us to grow this mass number of people to come and hear, we got to change things to make it appeal to the consumerristic mind of our modern day. So they offer them a consumer-driven church with a consumeristic gospel. Okay? And it's always going to always going to appeal to the flesh. 2 Timothy 4 3-4. We read this last week. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching. They don't want any true doctrine teaching. They want just a little bit of Jesus stuff. But having itchy ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own what. This is what John's talking about. What are they what are they wanting? They want teachers to help them feel good in their passions. What are their passions? Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life. These men today, if you just watch the church, you're going to see it. And you watch the teachers and listen to their messages. This is what they're doing. They are preaching types of messages to a consumeristic group of people who want to hear things that will help them feel good in their passions of their flesh. passions of their flesh. That's why the prosperity gospel is so big. It's all about you. It's all about God giving you what you want. It's about wealth, prosperity, all of these things. It appeals to the flesh. It's got nothing to do with the gospel of scripture. And they try to say, "Well, Jesus, he wore a pretty expensive garment. Are you kidding me? This doesn't even work." work. They try to say, "Well, his was a high dollar garment. Didn't have any seams in it." As they wear their \$4,000 suits and their Mercedes, they pull up to the special parking spot there in the parking lot and they live in their mansions. See, it doesn't work very well when you look at Christ, who didn't even have a place to lay his head. It doesn't work very well when all the apostles, but one, were martyred for their faith. It doesn't work very well. It only works in America because America is all about materialism. So what do they do? They preach a different Jesus, a different gospel by a different spirit. And why do they accumulate 30,000 people in a coliseum? Because all they're hearing is stuff that appeals to their passions. The gospel is not meant to appeal to your passion. It is meant for you to understand how desperately you need a savior. It's such a contrast and every church denomination is migrating this way. Why? Because over my lifetime, you can go to all kinds of conferences on how to grow your church. And and it's always about church growth. My job is not to grow the church. My job is to equip the saints, pastor. That's what my job is. And if people don't like to hear it, that's not your problem. Your problem begins when you begin to offer a slighted gospel, a fluff gospel with a different Jesus and allow a different spirit to have his way. This is where we are. Says they will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Now, I could spend weeks putting up clips, but hopefully you're going to have enough discernment that we don't have to do that. In verse 18 of First John chapter 2, children, it is the last hour. When did the end time start? In Acts, John the Apostle says, "It is the last hour and as you have heard," this isn't something the church didn't know about. The apostles were already teaching these things because Christ had taught his apostles that Antichrist is coming. I want you to notice something because you're also going to have people tell you that Antichrist is not a person. That is not true. The Antichrist will be a person. Okay. But there is something called the spirit of antichrist. And we know that it is an this evil spirit of the kingdom of darkness and all that is behind that with Satan and all who follow and serve him. Listen to this. John makes a distinction that Antichrist is coming. So now many antichrist have come. He's going to get into the spirit of Antichrist here in a minute. Therefore, we know that it is the last hour. Notice this. This is fascinating. They went out from us. Did you catch that? They went out from us, but they were not of us. Not everyone who professes Christ is of Christ. You need to know that. some of the greatest charlatans, con artists, crooks, and wicked people you can find sitting in a church on a Sunday morning. Not that we're not all sinners. I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about sinister individuals with a purpose and a desire to bring harm. I know that's not many of you or any of you. Maybe a small number. I don't know. But there's probably some and there will be in every church. But notice he says that for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out that it might become plain that they are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One. And you have all knowledge. You have access to it. I write to you not because you do not know the truth, but because you know

it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar? But he who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Now listen, this is very, very, very careful. You need to take this very careful. You got to understand what John is getting at here. Or there are those who have come and they have said that Christ is X, Y, or Z, but he is not God. This all goes back to Christology. You got to be careful because when you get into different religions and faith uh in and faith religious systems, you're going to find they might use the word Jesus in there. But if you begin to do your due diligence, you're going to find that what they're actually presenting to you is not the Christ of scripture. It's not the Christ of scripture. That is the antichrist who denies the father and the son. No one who denies the son has the father. Whoever confesses the son has the father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. For if what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you will you too will abide in the son and in the father. And this is the promise that he has made to us eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. In John's day, the apostles writing and saying, "Listen, you got these deceptive people coming in here and they're lying to you about the Christ they're preaching is a different Christ." He warns them. Anti means in opposition or in place of. As I told you last week, the antichrist, he will be in opposition, yes, but he will be in place of. And the reason he will deceive so many is because he will have Christlike characteristics. But he will be in opposition to the true Christ.

1 John 4 1-6. I will promise you I will close after we get through John. We'll get to the other ones next week. 1 John 4 1-6. Beloved, you hear the heart of John. Beloved, he loves these people. Do not believe every spirit. We're going to get into this when we get into the second part of 2 Corinthians chap 11. Do not believe. We have to have discernment. Don't believe everything you hear or see. Christian, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. Why? For many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the spirit of God, holy spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. It goes back to christology. This is the spirit of antichrist. He's repeating himself here. Which you heard was coming into the world and now is in the world already. That's the spirit of Antichrist. That means in place of or in opposition to little children, you are from God and you have overcome them. For he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world. Therefore, they speak from the world and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us. Whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. If you remember from our passage in 2 Corinthians 11, Paul is concerned that the Corinthian believers are being deceived by Satan through false teachers that were tolerating preachers who were teaching a different Jesus by a different spirit with a different gospel. Today we have many doing the very same thing. A different Jesus, a different gospel, a different spirit. They're rebranding Jesus.

The Apostle John also writes in Revelation 12:9. I've only got two, one more passage and we'll close. I promise. We want to be mindful of our teachers back there. In Revelation 12:9, we know the Apostle John also wrote the revelation of Jesus Christ. We might have taken one small passage out of this last week. Excuse me. I don't know. But and the great dragon was thrown down. The ancient serpent who is called the devil and Satan. The deceiver of the whole world is thrown down. Notice Satan is the deceiver of the whole world. There's coming a war in the heavenlies where Satan no longer will be allowed to be in the heavenlies, but he will be cast down to earth and he will be only able to occupy planet earth. That's it. But notice the dragon became furious with the woman. Now, the woman we're speaking of here is not Mary. The Roman Catholic Church will try to tell you that this is Mary. This is not Mary. This is the nation of Israel. We're going to see here. We're given a clue for who she is. The woman, Israel, gave birth to a male child, Christ. Verse 17 continues, "The dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring." The problem that the Roman Catholic Church has with that is, according to them, Mary remained a perpetual virgin. And they would have to say, "Well, who were the rest of her offspring?" And it doesn't even work if we had

Mary because we know the scripture says Mary did not know Joseph until after Christ was born. She didn't remain a perpetual virgin. She had other children. We know that according to scripture because Jesus had sisters and brothers. The way out of that is simply to say that Joseph was married prior to Mary and he had children by another woman. But Mary was a perpetual virgin. No, she was not a perpetual virgin. Anyway, the woman here is Israel. And then notice he goes off, Satan does, to make war with the rest of her offspring, that is the Israelites and those those who keep the commandments of God. We're looking at a people here, a hold to what? The testimony of Jesus Christ. Can't be referring only to the Israelites because the Israelites as a whole, as a nation to this day, do not believe Christ was their Messiah. We do know that there are Jews who have come to faith in Christ like us. We are part of Israel, grafted in. But we hold to the testimony of Jesus. Who did the enemy, Satan, the great deceiver of the world come after? You guessed it, God's people. That's who he comes after.

Finally, in Revelation 13, I'm going to end with this one. Verses 11-4. John here writing from Revelation of Christ. Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast which we find earlier in chapter 13 which is Antichrist in the Antichrist world system. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast whose mortal wound was healed. The one thing I don't like about the ESV translation in this particular section of scripture and a few others is the usage of the pronoun it. If you use a different translation like the King James version and a few others, you're going to notice that the pronouns are masculine pronouns. They would be he here. It's pretty hard for a an it to have a mortal wound. But nonetheless, that's speaking of Antichrist. This is the false prophet. He performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people. And by the signs that it is allowed, or he is allowed to work in the presence of the beast, he deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword yet lived. Well, as we can see here, John the Apostle also warns, and we could write other scriptures down for you, but this is a good place for you to start with just John, one of the 12. We know that deception is going to be an overarching theme. The spirit of Antichrist is already in the world. The Antichrist one day will come on the scene. We are moving to the day of the Lord. When Antichrist does come on the scene and we have the false prophet, we're going to see this delusion of all kinds of deceptive miracles and signs and people are going to fall for this thing. Hook, line, and sinker. The reason we have to know this, why is so we are not one of the many who are deceived in the last days of deception. When we get through this, you're going to have so many scriptures to take home with you and to study and to meditate on and to pray on. Why? Because, dear brothers and sisters, I do not want for any of you to fall prey to the cunning, crafty deceptions of the enemy in these last days.

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## Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What is the significance of baptism according to the pastor?

A: The pastor explains that while baptism does not save, it is a very important demonstration of faith. It symbolizes a believer's union with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, illustrating the washing away of sins and the reception of new life through God's grace.

Q: What are the testimonies of the individuals being baptized?

A: Deina shared her journey of overcoming addiction with the help of sober living and Sick Ministries. Brendan, a young man, testified to accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior at church camp. Zoe expressed her relationship with Jesus, thanking her support system for helping her connect with Him.

Q: What is the main message of the new sermon series 'Days of Deception'?

A: The sermon series aims to help believers discern the times they are living in and identify deception, particularly from false teachers who may proclaim a distorted version of Jesus. It emphasizes the importance of knowing God's word and understanding true Christology to remain devoted to Christ.

Q: Where can people go if they have questions or need prayer after the service?

A: Following the service, individuals with questions about scripture, doctrine, or who need prayer are encouraged to go to the 'lodge,' located between the two double doors, where men will be available to assist them.

Q: What is the role of scripture according to the sermon?

A: The sermon emphasizes that all scripture is inspired by God ('God breathed') and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, equipping believers for every good work. Its purpose is not to scare, but to protect and prepare people against deception.

Q: What are the primary ways people are led astray in the last days, according to the teaching?

A: The teaching identifies three main avenues of deception: 1. Preaching or following a 'different Jesus' than the one proclaimed in the Bible. 2. Receiving or following a 'different spirit' that is not the Holy Spirit. 3. Accepting or promoting a 'different gospel' that deviates from the core message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

Q: How can one distinguish the true gospel from false gospels?

A: The true gospel, as presented, is based on salvation solely by grace, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Any religious system or teaching that adds requirements, such as works, penance, or adherence to human prophets, is considered a deviation and a false gospel. The speaker emphasizes that nothing should be added to or taken away from the gospel.

Q: What is the most important warning Jesus gave concerning his second coming?

A: The most critical warning Jesus gave, according to the speaker, is to ensure that no one deceives you. This is the very first thing Jesus emphasizes when asked about the signs of his coming and the end of the age, indicating the pervasive nature of deception.

Q: Can someone be a Christian and still be deceived?

A: Yes, the teaching suggests that Christians can be self-deceived and unable to see the truth. This can happen if they harbor unforgiveness, bitterness, or engage in willful sin, which can affect their relationship with the Holy Spirit and make them vulnerable to deception.

Q: Why does the world hate Christians, and what does this signify?

A: The world hates Christians not because of their personal wickedness, but because they follow Christ, who was hated by the world first. A Jesus who is popular with the culture and avoids controversial biblical truths is likely a 'different Jesus' than the one described in scripture. This hatred is a sign that believers are aligned with Christ.

Q: What are the 'birth pains' that Jesus mentioned as signs of the end times?

A: The 'birth pains' are a series of escalating global events that signal the approaching end of the age. These include wars and rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes in various places, and an increase in lawlessness. These events are not to cause alarm but to indicate that the end is drawing near.

Q: What is apostasy, and is it a sign of the end times?

A: Apostasy, referred to as a 'great falling away,' is a significant sign of the end times. It involves people who once professed faith abandoning it, and it manifests as 'apostate churches' that may use Christian language but have departed from core biblical truths. This falling away will be accompanied by betrayal and hatred among people.

Q: How should Christians respond to the prevalence of deception and false teachings?

A: Christians are urged to be vigilant, test the spirits, stay connected to the Word of God, pray, and remain in fellowship with other believers. They must take their faith seriously, study scripture diligently, and not be swayed by popular cultural trends or teachings that deviate from biblical truth. Endurance and faithfulness to the end are paramount.

Q: What is the significance of Jesus being God?

A: The teaching emphasizes that Jesus Christ is eternally God, not just a created being or someone who 'came to have these attributes.' He is described as 'eternal past. Always has been, always will be,' and 'God in the beginning before the foundation of the world.' This understanding is crucial for the true gospel.

Q: What is the role of 'prophets' in contemporary religious movements, and how should they be viewed?

A: The speaker warns that the term 'prophet' is often a keyword indicating a cult. While acknowledging that some individuals may receive something, the teaching stresses that true prophecy comes from the Holy Spirit through inspired scripture, not from modern pronouncements. Relying on human prophets or their prophecies can lead to deception, especially if their predictions are false.

Q: What is the 'modern gospel' being criticized in the video?

A: The 'modern gospel' criticized is one that has been diluted and perverted, often referred to as a 'watered-down' or 'consumeristic gospel.' It typically omits the concepts of sin and hell, suggesting that simply saying a prayer is enough for salvation without requiring genuine repentance or a transformed life. This is contrasted with the biblical gospel which emphasizes endurance and the proclamation of the kingdom of God.

Q: Has the gospel been preached to every person on Earth?

A: The speaker clarifies that the gospel has been 'proclaimed throughout the whole world,' meaning no continent has been left untouched. However, it does not mean every single human being has heard it. There may be specific people groups or individuals who have never heard the gospel, but the speaker states that God will deal with them accordingly. The focus should be on those who have heard and rejected it.

Q: Why do many churches today try to make Jesus popular?

A: Many churches today attempt to make Jesus popular to maintain or increase their numbers. They do this by altering the message of the gospel, presenting a 'washed-out' version that avoids challenging topics like sin and repentance. This approach appeals to a modern, consumeristic mindset, offering a gospel that aligns with people's desires rather than challenging them to follow Christ.

Q: What is the significance of 'itchy ears' mentioned in relation to 2 Timothy 4:3-4?

A: The phrase 'itchy ears' refers to people who desire to hear teachings that satisfy their own preferences and passions, rather than sound, biblical doctrine. In the context of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, it means people will seek out teachers who will tell them what they want to hear, often related to the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life, rather than the truth of God's word.

Q: What is the prosperity gospel, and why is it criticized?

A: The prosperity gospel is a teaching that emphasizes God's desire for believers to be wealthy and healthy, often suggesting that faith and giving money to the church will result in material blessings. It is criticized because it appeals to the flesh and personal desires (wealth, prosperity) rather than the true gospel of scripture, which focuses on salvation, repentance, and following Christ, who himself was poor and whose apostles were martyred.

Q: What is the difference between Antichrist and the spirit of antichrist?

A: The speaker explains that Antichrist will be a specific person who will come in the future. However, the 'spirit of antichrist' is an evil influence that is already present in the world. This spirit leads people to deny the true nature of Jesus Christ and to deviate from biblical truth. Many individuals can exhibit this spirit, even if they are not the final Antichrist.

Q: How can Christians discern between the spirit of God and the spirit of antichrist?

A: Christians can discern spirits by testing them against biblical truth. According to 1 John 4:1-3, any spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. Conversely, any spirit that denies this or denies Jesus is not from God; it is the spirit of antichrist. This involves examining the teachings about Jesus Christ's identity and nature (Christology).

Q: Who is the 'woman' mentioned in Revelation 12?

A: The speaker clarifies that the 'woman' in Revelation 12 is not Mary, as some interpretations suggest, but the nation of Israel. This woman gave birth to a male child, Christ. The dragon (Satan) then makes war with the 'rest of her offspring,' which refers to the remaining Israelites and those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ, including Gentile believers grafted into the people of God.

Q: What role will the false prophet play in the end times?

A: The false prophet, described in Revelation 13, will work in conjunction with the Antichrist. He will perform great signs and miracles, even making fire come down from heaven, to deceive people on earth. His purpose is to compel inhabitants to worship the first beast (Antichrist) and his image, using deception and false wonders.

Q: Why is it important for believers to study God's word in the context of end times deception?

A: It is crucial for believers to study God's word to develop discernment and avoid being deceived by the 'cunning, crafty deceptions of the enemy' in the last days. The speaker emphasizes that the end times will be characterized by widespread delusion, deceptive miracles, and false teachings. Knowing God's word provides the foundation and wisdom needed to recognize and resist these deceptions.