

10/8/23- 'TRUTH AND DECEPTION' (#4)

PASTOR ROB

Modern
Deceptions

- Pastor Rob gives real life examples of all the scams we all experience in our daily lives (eg. the pushy 'door to door siding sales guys'). Cons, manipulations, deceptions, scams...they're a real part of our current culture. Going back 2,000 years, in 1 John, he was warning of deceivers! The main premise of deception: you don't even know its happening! **1JOHN WARNS US OF ONE OF THE GREATEST DECEPTIONS IN HISTORY!**

Scriptural
Warning
& Promise

1 John 2:15-17- - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is 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.

Worldliness;
... a Grand
Deception

- Pastor Rob: Don't be deceived.....do not love the world! The world knows how to give rewards to its lovers (modern examples: Ponzi and pyramid schemes)we are at risk because we want to believe that the world will reward us if we love it (the world). No!!!
- Verse give us three tactics of deception: (1) desires of the flesh; (2) desires of the eyes; (3) and the 'pride of life'.

Unsatisfied
Cravings
vs.
God's
Fulfillment

- The original con artist.....Satan.....in the Garden.....he's at the heart of this 'con'that these desires and their fulfillment can happen and will satisfy you. It fooled Eve!.....if I can have a bite of this beautiful fruit, I will find satisfaction!
- We are faced with equivalent deceptions in analogous forms of fruit. We regard it (whatever) with our eyes (its beautiful!). We think it will satisfy.....NO! If I eat it.....satisfy?.....NO! If I possess it ...eg. the job, the house, etc. satisfy?.....No!
- In fact, no cravings 'of this world' will satisfy us.....**ONLY GOD WILL!**

Self Exam:
What Is My
Prime Focus?

- Be wise in making a distinction...we should not love the world....but we have the privilege and responsibility to participate.....even enjoy.
- How do we know where to draw that line? The answer is rooted in the word 'desire'. What is it I desire most?
- In our own lives...upon self examination....where am I at most risk? 1. If I could just have some shiny object 2. If I could just consume this; 3. If I could just achieve this (power).....Any of these, again, is part of Satan's 'con'. Pastor Rob's own example: as college student, in a spontaneous moment and while attracted to/tempted by worldly possessions (like white picket fences and 4 wheelers)... emotionally decided he would reject such things as his life's priority.

Gentle But
Profound
Warning

1 John 2:18- - Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that anti-christ is coming, so now many antichrists have come . Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

Thru Holy Spirit,
We Recognize
Challenge

Avoid False
Teaching!

Stand Your
Ground....
Trust In Jesus!

- We inherently recognize the con/the lie.....that why we are sitting in Church.....but we need to remind and re-enforce the notion.....the deception(s) are out there! We are not immune! They're (deceivers) even in the Christian Church! And know that anti-christ is coming.....along with his predecessors.
- Consider 3 things: (1) don't be naive that these deceivers exist (even in the Christian Church) (eg. Are they compromising on the 'desires':.....pride, flesh, pride of life??).....or, there is no hell...or sin isn't real); (2) don't be hurt by them....Pastor Rob: I will bet that many of you come from church backgrounds where one of these deceivers really hurt you; (3) don't be afraid (but don't be too quick to trust in anyone but Jesus!)
- In Religion, you look at the leaders to give you direction and be the supposed 'connector' to God. As a true Believer, YOU get to have that relationship with Jesus. Note also....there are great churches (like ours), but they're still made up with people (with all the defects of humanity). Don't let another Christian or church goer (whoever that may be) mess up your relationship with Jesus. You know the tactics of the 'con'....trust in Jesus (there's the power!)...the deceivers can't hurt you. Teach these truths to your kids! Teach them the only way to attain genuine satisfaction.... Is through Christ.

The Truth of
The Holy Spirit
vs.
antichrists

1John 2: 19-22- - (19)They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (20) But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. (21) 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. (22) Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

Choice: Love
The World, or
... LOVE JESUS



The fully God/
fully Man
Who Saves Us!

- So you know the deceiver.....he who denies who Jesus is.
- Choice: love the world and its 'things (accepting 'the con'.....or.....love God (and your neighbors whom He has created). Love of world subtracts from your ability to love as God intended.
- Our focus: Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man (He had to be both!) ...who loves us, died for us, atoned for our sins for us. Note: with illustration....Pastor Rob explains that if Jesus were sinless but *only* man, you could only trade places with one of us...BUT, being fully GOD AND MAN, He could trade places with EACH of us!!!
- On deception and by way of another illustration...using a \$100 bill, Pastor Rob explains that a counterfeiter exhaustively studies..not other counterfeit bills...but the real thing. BUT....would we, as normal individuals....recognize the bill was fake? NO! But the banker would know. You might get that wrong but you better do what it takes 'to get Jesus right'.

