

Spoken Word no. 65

Be not deceived, God is not Mocked

Brian Kocourek

Let us open our Bibles this evening to the book of Galatians and we will read from **Galatians 6: 7** for our text. *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* So we see here that God is admonishing us to be careful that we are not deceived. We also find in **1 John 1: 8** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* Now, if you read this carefully, it does not say that we are deceiving others. It says we deceive only ourselves. The **Wuest** translation says, *If we say that (indwelling) sin we are not having, ourselves we are leading astray, (nobody else) and the truth is not in us.*

And let us read one more word of exhortation from the Apostle Paul before we go to the Lord in prayer...

1 Corinthians 3: 18 *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.*

Let us remain standing as we bow our hearts and our heads in a moment of prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father, we come humbly and with fear and trembling in our hearts knowing that we are approaching the Supreme Judge, and knowing that one Word off is Satan's Kingdom, we ask Thee O God, to look upon us not as the Supreme Judge, but as Thy Children begotten with thine own God-Life by Thine Own Word. Help us therefore, "to walk in the Light as you are in the Light, that the Blood of Your first Born Son might cleanse us from all of our sin and unbelief, for we ask it in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

You may be seated.

We read this evening several Scriptures that warn us to be ever so watchful that we do not allow ourselves to be deceived, or rather that we deceive not our own selves.

The Apostle John said, if we deny our own unbelief exists we only deceive our own selves, and the Apostle Paul said, *Let no man deceive himself*, So I hope you can see that it is not only possible for you to deceive yourself, but actually, I want to tell you that it is very easy to do so.

In **ROMANS 16:17** we read, *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.* Notice here that Paul warns us to mark them that do not teach the doctrine as was taught by Him. Then he tells us to avoid these people because their purpose is to deceive. And furthermore, don't place yourself in a position that you allow yourself to be deceived. Because a man can repeat to himself a lie over and over again and he will begin to believe it is true.

Proverbs 16: 25 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

God's power to transform 65-0911 P:129 *How many in here that doesn't have the Seed of God, the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Would you just raise your hand, say, "Remember me, Brother Branham, that I will receive that Holy Spirit." Now, you take the Word in your heart and believe It. Now, if you can, look at you... Go up, look at the mirror, and you can see where you are. See, you can know. You say, "Well, I didn't raise my hand, because I believe I have..." **Look at yourself in the mirror, then you see what kind of a spirit is deceiving you (See?): deceived thinking. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death."** Is that true?*

And from his sermon, **Christ revealed in His own Word 65-0822M P:93** brother Branham said, *Notice, we cannot; we must not, listen to any other man's word. We don't care how smart, how educated. The Bible in Proverbs says we must **cast down reasonings**. See? Now, here in this second realm... First realm is your senses of see, taste, feel, smell, and hear; that's in your outer body. On the inner body, which is the spirit, is reasonings, and thought, and so forth. We must cast all that down. Can't reason, say, "Now, wait, if God is a good God..." And we're told so much today that He is. "If He is a good God, then if I be sincere, though I can't see that in that Bible being right, though I be sincere, I'll be saved." **You'll be lost. "If I go to church and just do the things that I believe it's right and try to hold up for what I think is right, well I..." You're still lost. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death. See? You won't be saved; you'll be lost. See, see? It must be that inside control man.***

LEAN NOT UNTO THY OWN UNDERSTANDING 65-0120 118 *You know, the Bible said you can believe a lie and be damned by it. See? That's exactly the truth. They form, **no matter what the Word of God says, they lean to their own understanding**. They lean on it; they believe it; they think it's the Truth. **You can keep believing a lie over and over and over till it's the truth to you**. That's right. But how do we know whether it's Truth or not? **God proved it's Truth, 'cause it's in His Word and He a-vindicates It**. He does His own interpretation of It. How do they do, get to this? They do it by their culture, their education, of their understandings...*

So you see, salvation is not based on your understand, or your having good thoughts, or even right thoughts, Salvation is God's business and you can not be saved outside of how God said you can be saved in His Word.

In other words, if we say we have no sin, no unbelief in our hearts, we are deceiving only our selves. The Baptists thinks because he made a confession that his confession wipes away all his sin, but let me tell you something, sin is unbelief, and we all have unbelief of some degree within our hearts or we would have no need of redemption.

The Apostle Paul said, **Galatians 2: 20 I am crucified with Christ:** (Not I was, but I am... Your crucifixion is an ongoing event in your life, not a historical event. That historical event was His Crucifixion, but you have your own and that is to die to self.) **I am crucified** (right this moment) **with Christ: nevertheless I** (am alive and living) **I live; yet not I** (that am living), **but Christ** (Himself, His Life is alive in me) **Christ liveth in me: and the life** (what Life? His Life) **and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the**

faith of the Son of God, (Whose Faith? His Faith, the faith of The Son of God) *who loved me, and gave himself for me*. And remember, Faith is a revelation, and it was the Revelation that Christ had and the complete trust and obedience to His Father that saves me from my own self.

So the legalist who thinks by works he can perfect himself, goes around with his or her nose up in the air but they aren't fooling anyone but themselves. Look, I know you are all a bunch of rank heathens saved not by any thing that you have done, but you are saved by the blood of the Lamb. And how do I know that? Because that's what I am, and that is what saved me. I was a rank heathen that came out of Catholicism, which is nothing but a bunch of Creeds and superstitions, and if I thought otherwise about my salvation, then I would only be deceiving myself. But I've been saved by His Grace, and by Faith I am walking in the Light of His Glorious Presence. And John taught us that, "*if you walk in the Light as he is in the Light, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.*" So keep walking and the blood will keep cleansing.

It is really an indictment against so called believers in all forms of So called Christian organizational systems because most have been taught that based on their confession they once made that they are saved and will go to heaven.

In the *Church Age Book Chapter 9 - The Laodicean Church Age P:68* Brother Branham said, *Take a good look around you. Examine the people as they walk by. In the multitudes you see, can you pick out those that have the appearance of Christians? Watch how they dress, watch how they act, hear what they say, see where they go. Surely there ought to be some real evidence of the new birth amongst all those we see go by. But few there be. Yet today the fundamental churches are telling us they have millions saved and even Spirit-filled. Spirit-filled? Can you call women Spirit-filled who go around with frizzy bobbed hair, shorts and slacks, halters and briefs, all painted up like Jezebel? If these are adorned in modest apparel as becometh Christian women, I would hate to think what it would be like if I had to witness a display of immodesty.*

Matthew 7: 13-22 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:* Notice, he tells us that many will go the way that is broad and wide, but notice what he tells us next... *14 Because strait* (that word means **narrow**) *So narrow is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* So the way of Life will not be a very popular way, will it? Then Jesus warns us... *15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits.* (and William Branham taught us these fruits are their teaching, what they teach the people. You shall know who is a ravening wolf by what he teaches. Then he says,) *Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?* Of course not, because if the figs had thorns it would be hard to gather the fruit in, and so with the harvest of God's seed.

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; That doesn't mean that they can just talk the doctrine that's right, but they also must live what they are teaching.

Jesus taught us, *“As a man thinks in his heart so is he”* and *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”*. Brother Branham said *your thoughts are heard louder in heaven than your words*.

And he also said in his sermon, ***Hidden life with Christ 56-0213 P:52*** *You know the best thing is to live a sermon instead of preach one, you know that. You're written epistles. And you can't do it in yourself; you can impersonate it for a little while, but your sins will find you out. You better just consecrate yourself to God and get on the inside, shut the doors behind you and burn every barrier there is behind you, and every bridge, and launch out. Amen. I know it's the truth; I know it'll work. If it hadn't been for that, I don't know what would become of me. That's right. But it ain't the people you that you look at then, it's Christ.*

In ***Jesus Christ the same 61-0118 P:8*** *And then as we are sons and daughters of God, and joint heirs with Him in the Kingdom, then we express Him in our lives. If many of us would just live our sermons instead of preaching it, I think it'd be better, if we'd just go ahead and live the sermon. You know it's a lot better to live me one than it is to preach me one, I believe, because I can see your life. God looks at our lives, and the world looks at our lives. He wants to know what our lives are. And people know us. No matter, our action is so loud it drowns our testimony. Depends on what we say. If we are Christians and don't live it, then the people know better. But when we are Christians, and say we're Christians, and live like Christians, our lives will do it if we never said nothing else. Our lives... We're written epistles read of all men. So they watch how you walk. And I was thinking the other day about being sealed by the Holy Spirit. A seal is marked on both sides. They see you coming and see you going. Look like a Christian coming, you look like a Christian going so, when you're sealed by the Holy Spirit.*

And Jesus continued saying, *“but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit”*. Why? because it is a living epistle of being corrupt. It walk is corrupt and it's talk is corrupt. But then he said, ***18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,*** (it will not talk corruption and it will not walk in corruption. How can it if it is walking in the light as He is in the Light.) ***neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

Now, look, it's not just by what they say, it's by what they do... If you walk in the light, it didn't say if you talk about the light. Talking is cheap. That's what Jesus tells us next. He says, ***21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.***

And what is iniquity? It is going beyond the limits of God's Word. It's knowing to do what is right and you won't do it.

Power of transformation 65-1031M P:73 *Jesus said, "Many will come to Me in that day, and say, 'Lord, Lord, have not I cast out devils, and--and worked great and mighty works and wonders in Your Name?'" He said, "Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity." What is iniquity? David said, "If I conceive iniquity in my heart, God will not hear me." See? Iniquity's something that you know that you ought to do and you won't do it. You know better, but won't do it. It's iniquity. See? You know that you should stay with the Word of God, but for the church's sake, or somebody else's sake, or something else, you'll stray from the Word of God and do what the organization says. "Well, I don't know. My church says we should do it this a-way, and I believe it this way." See, and it's right before you that you shouldn't do it. That's iniquity. "Depart from Me, you that work iniquity."*

Anointed ones at end time 65-0725M P:135 *What is iniquity? Ask somebody. It's something that you know you ought to do and you won't do it. They know that Word; they hear it. You're listening to this tape; you're listening to this message. You see the Lord God say so; you see Him confirm it, make it true. And you know this just as plain as the sun shining outside. But you that'll hold on to your denomination, hold on to those false things, you worker of iniquity..."Oh, yes, I had great campaigns. I done this; I done that." Said, "You depart from me, you worker of iniquity, I never knew you." "Well, the Holy Ghost fell on me." I don't doubt that a bit. "I spoke in tongues. I sang in the Spirit. I done..." I don't doubt that a bit. No question to that. Oh, brother, sister, what kind of a condition? This is a trembling time. Where we at? This Word is coming to Life now.*

I like the way the New Translation called the Message puts it. **Matthew 7:23 The Message 21-23** we hear Jesus saying, *"Knowing the correct password, saying 'Master, Master,' for instance isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience, doing what my Father wills. I can see it now, at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'*

What a pity on that day, when there'll be thousands that will hear those frightful words because they have chosen to teach contrary to God's End-Time prophet even though they claimed to believe God sent Him. So many say, "Well bless God I believe God sent a prophet in this hour. And they think just because they get together and talk about the Message that will mean something to God. Or they say, bless God I believe God's prophet. I believe every word he says, but listen friends, that don't mean one thing with God.

Branham said in his sermon, **The Token 63-0901M P:103** *Don't just come this far, say, "I believe the message." You obey the message. Come into Christ. You say, "Oh, I believe every word you said, Brother Branham. "That's good. but that is just being able to read. Take the Message; take it into your heart, that you must have the Token, the very Life that was in Christ, be in you. "When I see that, I will pass over you."*

So don't deceive yourselves into thinking that just because you attend church you will be alright, or just because you believe the Message or you preach the Message, that you will be alright. Listen friends, the people in this message should be living on a much higher plane than the rest of the world. But statistics show other wise.

Right in this Message we have preachers and laity living in adultery, and un-confessed sin. Right in this Message we have men pulling deals and women getting on the phone and gossiping. Churches in this Message that claim to believe Brother Branham where the preachers have been married several times and you can't be a deacon in their church it seems unless you have done the same thing. And we call ourselves the righteous seed of Abraham?

As I told the ministers in Kampala Uganda in 2006, How dare you call William Branham your prophet when you won't teach what he taught and you won't live the life that he showed us to live? And you call yourself spiritual and have your hand out to every ministry with a few dollars in their churches. I said, shame on you. I said, David said, "I have been young and now am old, yet never have I seen the Lord's righteous forsaken nor begging bread." I said, You have no more right to call William Branham your prophet than the Catholic church has a right to call Peter their first Pope. You can claim it all you want, but just because you say it doesn't make it so.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 6: 9** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

And again in **1 Corinthians 15: 33** *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.* And that word communications means companionships. The people you hang around with.

So Jesus warns us to not allow ourselves to be deceived. In **Luke 21: 8** *And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: (Be ever so careful that you be not deceived.) for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;(I am anointed) and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.* Notice that Jesus Himself warns us to not go after them.

And then the Apostle John tells us in **1 John 3: 7** *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.* In other words, I don't care what he tells you, unless his life is righteous, then don't believe a word he tells you. I don't care if he hunted with the prophet or had his own visions of Jesus Christ. If he pulls deals and you find that he has been involved in crooked money schemes, then get as far from him as you can.

And Paul warns us again in **2 Thessalonians 2: 3** *Let no man deceive you by any means: (he says, by any means...in other words, I don't care what moves he uses, and what schemes he has, nor do I care what he tells you, if his life is not righteous, then watch out for that bird.) for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;* And we know that man of sin is the devil himself, and when they fall away, it isn't from a so called Christian church but from The Faith. And we see many falling away from The Faith right among us in this Message.

And the preachers are the worst of the bunch. Having affairs and then trying to justify their filth by teaching polygamy is better than divorce. Bilking widows out of their life savings, and bilking entire churches out of what little income the people might have calling on them to make all sorts of great financial sacrifices yet living lavishly on the money that was meant for missions. I know their schemes and I will be a witness against them at the great white throne. Don't try to come in that day and say, *'Lord, Lord, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored world-wide missionary endeavors have everyone talking.'* And do you know what Jesus is going to say? He'll say, *'You haven't got a clue you puffed up toad... All you did was use me to make yourself important, and to set up your own kingdom down on earth. You don't impress me one bit. To the lake of fire with you.'*

So Paul warns us in **Ephesians 5: 6** *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.* Because of what? Vain words, empty and useless words. Like the minister who promised his people that when the resurrection took place he would drive by their house and honk their horn and they would need to be ready immediately. Such nonsense, and yet the people love to hear those things, and they love to have it so.

Paul said we are not to be deceived like little children. We are to grown up and mature. **Ephesians 4: 14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;* Notice the very purpose of these men is to deceive, so don't think they won't be very good at their craft.

Paul warns us again in the book of **Romans 16: 18** *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.* Notice, he warns us not to just listen to the way they speak but be careful about what you hear them saying. Because it is with fair speeches and good words they will deceive.

Jesus Himself warned us often as we see in **Mark 13: 5** *And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:* And again in **Matthew 24: 4** *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.*

And don't let miracles and the supernatural become tools to deceive you either, for Jesus warned us that deception would come this way as well. **Matthew 24: 24** *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

And he also warned us in **Matthew 24: 11** that *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

Matthew 24: 5 *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;* (not saying I am Jesus, but I come to you in the name of Jesus and He has anointed me) *and shall deceive many. So be on guard for the deception is ordained to come, but woe to those in whom it comes and are not on guard against it.*

Now, we know that we are living in the time of the great deception, but why is it that people are able to be deceived?

Paul tells us in **2 Thessalonians 2: 10** *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness* (with all deceptiveness of un-right-wise-ness, in other words, with all deceptiveness in a wrong word they will come to) *them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.* So you see their not loving the truth and placing the Word as the Absolute in their lives opens them up for the hour of deception.

The Wuest Translation says that *this deception is geared to the gullibility of those who are perishing* and that *this gullibility is caused by the fact that they did not have a love for the Truth.*

2 Thessalonians 2: 10-12 *"Of every kind of wicked deception geared to the gullibility of those who are perishing. This gullibility being caused by the fact that they did not accept the love for the Truth to the end that they might be saved. And because of this God sends them a deluding influence resulting in their believing the lie, in order that they all might be judged who did not believe the truth but took delight in wickedness."*

So if they are geared that means they were made that way. I like his illustration of them that are perishing are *geared to the gullibility* which if you understand what a gear is, it is made in such a way that it fits itself to the *gullible delusion*. And in the Book of Romans Paul said, **Romans 9:22** *What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

So if they are fitted for destruction then they were made to be taken and destroyed. **John 3: 19-20** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

2 Timothy 3: 7 *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* They can't come to the understanding of the Truth because they will not give up their own thinking.

And it is not going to get better, only worse...**2 Timothy 3: 13** *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

Let us pray,