



The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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Deceit--Part 1

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I am going to speak briefly about deceit or deceive. That is spelled d-e-c-e-i-t. It is used a lot by a lot of folks in different ways. But first here is the definition for the word deceive. "To cause to believe an untruth, or to practice deceit." Here are a few synonyms for it, mislead, delude, beguile. Other words in describing it more fully, implies the imposing of a false belief that causes bewilderment or helplessness or furthers the agent's purpose. Then mislead stresses a leading astray from the truth usually by deliberately deceiving. Delude and beguile stress the action of the one deceived. Delude implies an inability to distinguish between the true and the false; beguile, a readiness to be charmed or persuaded by the deceiver.

And now the text, from Jer. 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Then let us go on and hear verse 10, "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

Deceit is a dangerous thing and yet as I said it is used by many folks in many different ways. Let us look at it now from a scriptural standpoint. In Mark 7:21-23 we find where deceit comes from: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within and defile the man." So we find here that deceit comes from an evil heart. Then it is usually manifested by the tongue. Did you ever notice that? Rom. 3:13 brings this out, "Their throat is an open sep-

ulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:" That sounds bad enough doesn't it? But notice the next five points backed up by the scriptures regarding deceit:

1. The wicked are full of deceit. "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers," Rom. 1:29
2. The wicked devise it. "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit." Prov. 12:5 The same thought is brought out in Psa. 35:20, "For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land".
3. And then the wicked utter deceit. Listen to this: "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before their

