

“THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN”

INTRODUCTION

The word “deceit” is used many times throughout the Bible. A particular form of it, “deceitfulness”, is found only 3 times in the New Testament. Twice it is associated with “riches”. Matt. 13:22; Mark 4:19. Once it is used in connection with “sin.” Heb. 3:13. cf Rom. 7:11. NOW, **in** Heb. 3:13, we find the expression, “The Deceitfulness of Sin” which we are using as the title for our lesson at this time, as we analyze the text of Heb. 13 where the term is found, and then look at the ways sin IS “deceitful.”

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, we shall ANALYZE THE TEXT OF HEB. 3:13.

- A. The passage suggests a **NEED** for exhortation, as the word “exhort” is found in the text itself. Heb. 3:13
1. An exhortation is a reminder do do what we know to do.
 2. We often need to be exhorted to do GOOD things, so as to avoid the BAD things.
 - a. It has been said, *“Between 2 evils, choose neither. Between 2 goods, choose both.”*
 - b. The scripture exhorts us to avoid evil and do good. Rom. 12:9; 1 Thess. 5:21-22
 3. By assembling in worship, we exhort one another to love and good works. Heb. 10:24-25
- B. The text is needed **NOW**—not tomorrow, but “TODAY”. Heb. 3:13; cf Jas. 4:14; 2 Cor. 6:2
- C. The exhortation is needed to **PREVENT HARDNESS**. Heb. 3:13, 8
- D. The exhortation is for each individual—**ANY OF YOU**. Heb.3:13
1. Many commands and exhortations are given in a general way, for everyone.
 2. But here, Paul narrows it down to each individual’s welfare and need, when he says **“any OF you.”**
- E. The text also identifies the **CAUSE of hardness**--“the deceitfulness of riches.”

II. Now, in the 2nd place, we shall look at 7 ways SIN IS DECEITFUL.

- A. 1st sin is deceitful because of it’s AUTHOR—Satan himself. John 8:44
1. Eve was deceived by Satan in the garden of Eden. Gen. 3:1-4; 1 Tim. 2:14
 2. Paul said HE was deceived by the sin Satan used. Rom. 7:9-11
- B. 2nd, sin is deceitful by it’s APPEARANCE.
1. Satan emphasized the appearance of the forbidden fruit. Gen. 3:6
 2. Satan often appeals to that which looks good to the EYE, to cause him to stumble. 1 Sam. 16:7; 2 Sam. 11:2; Matt. 5:28; 2 Pet. 2:14; 1 John 2:15-17; Prov. 23:31-33
- C. 3rd, sin is deceitful in it’s PROMISES.
1. Sin promises “rest”, but leads to unrest. Isa. 57:19-21
 2. Sin promises “pleasure”, but such are short-lived and come at a high cost. Heb. 11:24-25
 - a. The “high” reached by drugs and alcohol are **temporary** and have to be repeated over and over.

- b. The sin of fornication has to be repeated over and over. 2 Pet. 2:14
- c. Sin promises freedom, but only brings slavery TO *sin itself*. John 8:32-34; Rom. 6:16-18; 2 Pet. 2:19-20

D. 4th sin is deceitful because of it's POPULARITY.

- 1. Because something is popular (yet evil) is no reason to practice it. Ex. 23:2
 - a. Many young people want to go to the dance because "everyone else is going."
 - b. Many are tempted to drink alcohol and do drugs because many are doing it and seem to be having a good time.
- 2. A majority doing something is not always the right thing to do. Matt. 7:13-14

E. 5th, sin is deceitful in it's APPROACH.

- 1. It says we live in a different world now and times are different.
- 2. It says we live in the 21st century, and what might have been wrong a hundred years ago is all right now.
- 3. Nowadays, sin comes on us gradually, and through little things that are not SO bad, but lead us to participate and sin, and we are guilty of sin before we know it.

E.6th, sin is deceitful in it's REASONING.

- 1. It reasons that we can "flirt" with sin without harm. Cf Jas. 1:14-15
- 2. Sin reasons that others may not handle sin, but YOU can.
 - a. Sin, once begun, is hard to stop.
 - b. Habits, once formed by little things, are hard to break and lead to bigger things.
- 3. Sin reasons that you won't get caught, so go ahead with it. Cf Num. 32:23

F. 7th, and finally deceitful in it's REWARD.

- 1. It doesn't tell you'll feel bad about it tomorrow, and guilty for a long long time.
- 2. Sin doesn't tell you that it will ultimately destroy your soul for eternity. Gal. 6:7-8

CONCLUSION

- I. God is true and faithful, and will not deceive you in any way.
 - A. He has provided something better than sin and it's consequences.
 - 1. He warns us against sin because of what it will do to you.
 - 2. He provides a Savior, who gave His life for us that we might live.
 - B. If we obey the gospel, we are forgiven and are on the road to everlasting life.
- II. If you are not a Christian, we plead with you to become a Christian if you are not one, or to return to faithfulness to the Lord if you have departed from the right way.

Don Tarbet