

The Deception of Distractions Part 2 and 3

- I. How many of you would like to experience the very best that life has to offer?
- A. Here is the what the word of God tells us is the most important thing we can do in our life and why:
Ecc 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.
1. There is going to be a judgment. We all have to face God and give an account for the works that we have done in this life.
 2. There is going to be a judgment but judgment does not necessarily mean for bad. Judgment can also mean for rewards. Every man's work will be judged and he will be given what is due him.
 - a. Good things for good works
 - b. bad things for bad works
 3. The Scripture says whether good or bad. Jesus said:
(NIV84) Re 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

WHAT CAN BE MORE IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD THAN HEARING AND OBEYING GOD?

- B. It must be understood that justice does not wait until after the death. After death comes the final judgment. We are being judged in the here and now. This means what we sow we will reap.
1. We will sow in this life, and we will reap in this life. In the world to come we will reap the fullness of what we have sowed.
 2. We will receive equal justice.
- C. The most important thing about life and living is hearing and doing the Word of God! Our blessings in this life and our rewards in the world to come are contingent upon our hearing and doing the word of God now.
1. Person may be good in his own eyes but what is important is if he is doing right in God's eyes. God will bless him!
(NIV84) Ge 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
 2. Ahaz did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord but he did what was right in the ways of the world
(NIV84) 2 Ki 16:2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God.

3 He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, following the detestable ways of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.

3. We must be careful to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord!

- D. When Jesus had a woman come up to him to tell him about how much of a blessing he was to his mother he had this to say:
(NIV84) Lk 11:27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

28 He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

(NKJV) Lk 11:28 But He said, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

(AMP) Lk 11:28 But He said, Blessed (happy and to be envied) rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey and practice it!

- E. **Blessed** – meaning happy! Fortunate. Prosperous, The most important thing we can do in life is hear his word and then do it!
(NIV84) Jas 1:25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

WE WERE CREATED TO BE BLESSED

- F. We were created to be blessed. All we had to do was to do what God said. Therefore, it is important to listen and then do as God says! Let us see why.
(NIV84) Ps 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked *(listening and following their advice, their plans and their purposes)*

or stand in the way of sinners *(submissive and inactive, not saying anything)*

or sit in the seat of mockers. *(Being comfortable around people that scorn the word of God)*

2 But his delight (*desire is to know*) **is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** (*Such a person does not get distracted*)

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (*It will come into fullness*)

- G. With God's word saying things such as this, we should make every opportunity to study and know his word so that we can do it and be blessed of God!
 - 1. We must study's word so that we would not be put to shame when we stand before God and God says I could have done better for you!
 - 2. God will backup his word!

- H. We do not have tomorrow to do God's will, we only have today. Every day is precious. We must use it or lose it.

EVERY DAY OF OUR LIFE IS PRECIOUS, WE MUST USE IT WISELY OR LOSE IT FOOLISHLY

- 1. Have you done things that will get you rewarded for today?
- 2. Was this a day that gained you rewards? Or was this an empty day. A day you wasted?
- 3. How we spent this day was entirely up to us.

- I. satan is aware that our short-term blessings here and our eternal rewards in heaven are dependent upon our hearing and doing the word of God.
 - 1. Therefore, he uses every device he can to keep us from hearing and doing what the word of God say for us to do.

sATAN USES DISTRACTIONS TO GET US DOING FOOLISH THINGS

- 2. His principal weapon is **deception**. He deceives us into doing foolish things we think that are important but in the end are simply a waste of our time.
- 3. Satan uses **distractions**. He **distracts** us with short term pleasures to deny us a long-term gain.
- 4. It is so sad that so many of us take the bait.

sATAN DISTRACTS US WITH SHORT-TERM PLEASURES TO DENY US LONG-TERM GAIN

- J. Satan so very oftentimes uses people to distract us from hearing and doing God's word. There ways that seem right for us to do but they are wrong!

1. A lot of your good friends are doing you tremendous damage. We need to break up with some relationships which are distracting us from hearing and doing the word of God. Can you think of some of them now?
- K. Jesus warns us about becoming distracted from his word in this life on the way to eternal life by people who will mislead us. They will make a ruin our life here in the world to come.
- (NIV84) Mt 7:15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**
1. Notice he says prophets. This certainly means people within the church. **What does he show us to let us know he means people in the church?**
 2. He clearly spells that out when he said sheep’s clothing.
- L. Many times this will be pastors and teachers that Satan has sent to teach God's people opposite ways of God.
- (NIV84) 2 Ti 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**
1. He says people will be this way but God still has pastors and teachers that will tell the truth – even though people might not want to listen to them. That's why he told Timothy
(NIV84) 2 Ti 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (NIV84) 2 Ti 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
- M. Knowing this then we are warned of the distractions of these false teachers by Peter:
- (NIV84) 2 Pe 3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.**

4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? *You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.*

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, *make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

N. We must be careful to not become distracted. We must remember this is a device of the devil.

1. *You, now named some distractions.*

a.

O. How can we keep from being distracted?

1. We must learn to rely upon the word of God not our feelings.
2. We must train ourselves to know the voice of the Holy Spirit by thorough knowledge of his word. This way we can distinguish between the distractions of Satan and the truth of the word of God.
3. We must learn to be in submission to those God has called.
4. **His Word:** 2 Ti 3:16-17 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in

righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5. **His Holy Spirit:** Jn 14:26 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
- a. He reminds you, how can you be reminded of what you never have had in mind?
 - b. He speaks to your mind, not audible
 - c. Why he need not be labored by your ears
 - d. Deep calls unto deep
 - e. It says, "He brings it to mind." That means there's got to be something in there to bring out. That's why you need to get into his book. When you read his book and study his book and fill your mind with his book you are banking the truth in your mind and then the Holy Spirit can bring it to mind at just the right time.
 - f. Sometimes when you read the Bible and go, "I didn't get anything out of it today." You don't have to. You don't have to get something out of the Bible every time you read it. What you're doing is you're banking the truth in your mind. Your mind's filled with everything else you've seen – every billboard, every commercial, every bad joke, every movie. It's all in there. You need to balance it with the truth. Then the Holy Spirit can bring it to mind in your mind. You're banking God's word.

P. **His church leaders:** (CEV) Eph 4:11 Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, 12 so that his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong.

Q. Life is useless. It has no value if we do not focus on doing the Word of the Lord.

1. It just makes good sense to serve the Lord!
2. Life is more meaningful if we do.

R. We are able to do more in life if God is on our side.

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14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

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Bishop Jim Lowe

May your
STRENGTH
equal your
DAYS

Deuteronomy 33:25; 34:7