

Do Not be Deceived

For quite a long time we have seen worldwide invention, promotion and proliferation of devices designed for the purpose of communicating with the masses via numerous social media venues. The result has been a deluge and confluence of ideas, opinions and visual effects that have saturated earth's inhabitants, vying for our undivided attention and affection. What began as something of a curiosity and was initially embraced by those willing to pay large sums of money for such devices has become commonplace, inexpensive and considered "necessary" for everyone to be able to function at a certain, desired level of "inclusiveness," in our day to day lives.

Capture a photo of William or Kate, kissing the cheek of Baby George, on your "I-phone" and post it on the WEB, and within minutes it is circulated around the globe, viewed and commented on by millions who, Oooh and Aaah, as though it's the epitome of a child being kissed.

One of the more recent trends has been the distribution of "Selfies," which has produced an onslaught of photos or videos that capture the image of the person controlling the device and may include a group, objects, or events they want to record, distribute, or be identified with. It is a way of putting ourselves "out there," especially if the images include someone who is considered a "celebrity." The reality is rightly identified in the name that has become the "buzz-word" associated with this craze — "SELFIE."

"Tweets" by "Twits," who constantly use and monitor these devices can garner enumerable "hits" which generate responses and comments from multitudes, (who may be known or unknown), as though everyone is an "expert" on the matter at hand. Self produced videos can be uploaded to "U-tube" and used as the impetus for creating a "Super Star" who becomes a international sensation — over-night. There are untold examples of how the use of technology that keeps the "world" connected is being used for "good" or "evil" and it has become problematic for many who are unable to discern, or who will not take time to check things out, so they can "know" the difference between the "fake" and the "genuine."

The fact that there is "Anonymity" at the core of using the latest technology, should cause every user to be cautious — at every level of involvement — and to keep in mind that there is an element of danger inherent within the "system." Imposters abound and lie in wait to deceive folks for personal advantage. A mature adult can pass themselves off as a high school student; a man or woman may communicate as the opposite gender; youth can present themselves as being of age to consent to untoward behavior; false apostles and prophets can pose as those that Christ has given to the "Church," albeit most of these are not "anonymous," and are so deceived they don't realize they have become dangerous. There are too many examples to list here, of how illicit the use of the internet and the phone systems can be or how much harm can be done by those who have succumbed to "evil," and not even known it.

The "age of information" and digital medium has shifted our way of obtaining "knowledge" from older and more established forms and formats, such as: books, tapes, videos, etc., and has increased the volume and availability of what is "out there," whether beneficial or detrimental to our concepts of "well-being." There are still significant numbers of people who feel more secure by

using

the “tried and true” methods of obtaining whatever information they will use to make important decisions concerning their pursuit of a happy, healthy and prosperous life-style.

Unfortunately, there is no more assurance of finding “reality” in the materials available through older, established and “trustworthy” medium, produced in former generations by, what may be considered, well-meaning authors and publicists. Of course, this should not be limited to times past because it is still very prevalent in our present generation and is still having the same effect on those who are undiscerning or who are looking for what may be their lot in life, both present and future. Even the bible can be misused, mis-interpreted, distorted, perverted, and otherwise made of no effect by the “renditions” of prophecy and distortion of scriptures that are being propagated by those who have made their own image of God and what is His Eternal Purpose.

“But what I do, I will continue to do, [*for I am determined to maintain this independence*] in order to cut off the claim of those who would like [*to find an occasion and incentive*] to claim that in their boasted [*mission*] they work on the same terms that we do. For such men are false apostles [*spurious, counterfeits*], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah). And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light;” (2Co 11:12-14 AMP)

It is the heart that is deceitful above all “things” and desperately wicked. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [*perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind*], I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jer 17:9-10 AMP)

We are warned that even the very elect are susceptible to deception, even as were those whom Jesus spoke to as recorded in Matthew 24:24 _ “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.”

Brethren, these are very trying times and it is often difficult to continue seeing and seeking the things above, and not be persuaded by the current prognostications and false prophecies being proclaimed by those who mis-represent Christ and the true Church that He is building. These inhabitants of the earth realm, who worship a self-made image of the beast, that looks like the Lamb but is a deceiver, are trying to get folks to look at current events and former trends through the light, (of false prophets), which has become darkness, having had its fulfillment in the dispensation that sees their reality in the earth realm. Whatever is to be fulfilled according to prophecy _ in the ages to come _ will certainly be fulfilled in Christ, in the heavenly realm of God’s Spirit, not in this present earth.

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but put the spirits to the test to see whether they are from God; for many false teachers have gone out into the world. The test by which you may recognize the Spirit of God is that every spirit which acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come as man is from God, and that no spirit is from God which does not acknowledge this about Jesus. Such is the spirit of the anti-Christ; of whose coming you have heard, and it is already in the world. As for you, dear children, you are God's children, and have successfully resisted them; for greater is He who is in

you than he who is in the world. They are the world's children, and so their language is that of the world, and the world listens to them. We are God's children. The man who is beginning to know God listens to us, but he who is not a child of God does not listen to us. By this test we can distinguish the Spirit of truth from the spirit of error.” (1Jn 4:1-6 WNT)

Following the resurrection of Jesus, there were two men traveling on the road to Emmaus, and the Lord joined them and asked what they were talking about. One of them, Cleopas, was wondering why He was not aware of what had been happening in Jerusalem — not knowing who it was that was asking, “What is the subject,” He asked them, “on which you are talking so earnestly, as you walk?” And they stood still, looking full of sorrow. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered, “Are you a stranger lodging alone in Jerusalem, that you have known nothing of the things that have lately happened in the city?” “What things?” He asked. “The things about Jesus the Nazarene,” they said, “who was a Prophet powerful in work and word before God and all the people; and how our High Priests and Rulers delivered Him up to be sentenced to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was about to ransom Israel. Yes, and moreover it was the day before yesterday that these things happened. And, besides, some of the women of our company have amazed us. They went to the tomb at daybreak, and, finding that His body was not there, they came and declared to us that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Thereupon some of our party went to the tomb and found things just as the women had said; but Jesus Himself they did not see.” “O dull-witted men,” He replied, “with minds so slow to believe all that the Prophets have spoken! Was there not a necessity for the Christ thus to suffer, and then enter into His glory?” And, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them the passages in Scripture which refer to Himself. When they had come near the village to which they were going, He appeared to be going further. But they pressed Him to remain with them. “Because,” said they, “it is getting towards evening, and the day is nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them. But as soon as He had sat down with them, and had taken the bread and had blessed and broken it, and was handing it to them, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. But He vanished from them. “Were not our hearts,” they said to one another, “burning within us while He talked to us on the way and explained the Scriptures to us?” So they rose and without an hour's delay returned to Jerusalem, and found the Eleven and the rest met together, who said to them, “Yes, it is true: the Master has come back to life. He has been seen by Simon.” Then they related what had happened on the way, and how He had been recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. (Luk 24:17-35)

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If the opening statements of this document are noticeably, “behind the times,” it's because it was being introduced seven years ago and never “updated” or distributed outside of a limited number of readers. However, what was evident, from what was known, in that day, is all the more relevant in our present generation and we continue to have need of instruction concerning the warnings that are continuing to be revealed. “Take Heed,” remains a cautionary word of advice to all who are keeping the faith of Jesus Christ as part of their foundational “First Principles,” and pressing onward and upward into the measure of the stature that belongs to the, “fulness of Christ.” He is in us as — our Hope of Glory. The truths recorded in Hebrews 5, and 6, remain important for us to “take heed to,” and for each of us to review our past and present condition. If we are not practicing

the word of righteousness and allowing our senses to be exercised to discern the difference between good and evil, we will remain children who need milk and are unable to consume solid food.

“Therefore leaving elementary instruction about the Christ, let us advance to mature manhood and not be continually re-laying a foundation of repentance from lifeless works and of faith in God, or of teaching about ceremonial washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and the last judgement. And advance we will, if God permits us to do so.” (Heb 6:1-3 WNT)

And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God." Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev 19:5-10 NASB)

There is, of course the legitimate use of technological marvels and it isn't intended for this article to be a totally negative view of the use or mis-use of computers, phones, tablets, etc.. It isn't the introduction of “gadgets” that has caused mankind to become “deceivers” who are bent on judgement, destruction or the manipulation of our hearts and minds.

“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” (1Jn 2:18-27)

