

1 **THE SECOND GREAT DECEIVER**2 **GROUNDHOG DAY**

- Movie with Bill Murray playing the roles of a news anchor who is forced to live Ground Hog day in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania over and over again until he finally has his character transformed
- So for those of you who have heard this before... it is Groundhog Day
- By the way, Punxsutawney Phil did NOT see his shadow this morning, so we will have an early spring!

3 **OVER AND OVER AGAIN...**

An honest picture ...

4 **CORONAVIRUS – THE TRUTH?**

- China: 11,411 confirmed cases
- Japan: 20 confirmed cases
- Thailand: 19 confirmed cases
- Singapore: 18 confirmed cases
- Republic of Korea: 15 confirmed cases
- Australia: 12 confirmed cases
- Germany: 10 confirmed cases
- Malaysia: 8 confirmed cases
- United States of America: 8 confirmed cases
- Viet Nam: 7 confirmed cases

5 **CORONAVIRUS – R₀ VALUE**

- Currently estimated to be 4.08 (as of 1/31/2020)
- That means that each infected person is likely to infect 4.08 more people who will become infected
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6 **WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?**7 **SO OBVIOUSLY, IT ISN'T UNDER CONTROL**

- The good news:
 - Not affecting individuals under the age of 14
 - Individual that were healthy before infection tend to recover well. Deaths appear to occur only in those with other respiratory issues or compromised immune systems.
- But the point is, don't expect governments to tell you the truth!
- Politicians are famous for lying.

8 **HOW TO MAKE A CHAIN REFERENCE BIBLE**

- A chain reference leads you from one passage to another passage and then to another with all verses being on the same topic.
- You find your first verse and then number it #1 and then at the end of that verse, put a reference to the second verse.
- On the second verse, you put FROM: <Reference for 1st verse> and then TO: <Reference for 3rd verse>
- By continuing this process, you chain together a set of verses on a given topic that interests you

so that you can easily repeat the study in the future.

9 **LET'S LEARN HOW TO DO THIS!**

- If you have your printed Bible with you, I encourage you to take a pen / pencil and make a chain reference on today's sermon. We'll do it together.
- If you only have an electronic Bible today, then make your notes on the back of the bulletin and then put them in your printed Bible later.

10 **1 CORINTHIANS 3:18**

#1

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone thinks himself to be wise among you in this age, let him become a fool, in order that he may become wise. (1 Corinthians 3:18, LEB)

11 **WE DECEIVE OURSELVES WHEN:**

- We think that we are wise
- We rely on our intellect, human reasoning, human philosophy, or any other sources outside the Bible as the rule of faith and practice.
 - Some sects believe in following the teaching of the "Early Church Fathers" (bad term). This is wrong because they did not agree with one another.
 - John Chyrostom recognized the other church fathers were erring in their turning every Old Testament passage into an analogy.
 - These men argued over where Christ was born.
 - They abandoned the exegesis ("drawing out" the meaning of the original Bible authors) and practiced eisegesis (reading their own meaning into the text). Augustine and Clement were the worst offenders.

12 **WE DECEIVE OURSELVES WHEN:**

- We follow those with supposedly superior intellect who base their reasoning on human philosophers.
 - Most of the "early church fathers" followed the teachings of Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates (each man had serious moral problems that we cannot discuss in an audience with children).
 - The philosophers' reasoning was not based on God's truth.
 - Some sects today follow the teachings of certain writers, philosophers, the early church Fathers – while embracing doctrines that are contrary to God's Word.
 - Sacraments of the church vs. Christ being our sacrament
 - Infant baptism vs. believer's baptism

13 **A WORD TO THE INTELLIGENT**

- The greatest danger faced by the naturally intelligent Christian is that they will be drawn away by
 - A reliance on their own intelligence and reasoning
 - A reliance on others who present themselves as being scholarly
- If you or your child is gifted with intellect, you must learn that all true reasoning starts with Christ and with the Word of God. Anything that contradicts the Word of God is not true!

14 **HOW DO WE BECOME WISE?**

- Admit to God that only He is wise
- Realize that God does not need or want your intellect – He wants your heart to submit to His will.

- Ask God for His wisdom. *Now if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask for it from God, who gives to all without reservation and not reproaching, and it will be given to him.* (James 1:5, LEB)
- Realize that wisdom comes from God's Word and understanding His principles.

15 **1 CORINTHIANS 3:18**

#1

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone thinks himself to be wise among you in this age, let him become a fool, in order that he may become wise. (1 Corinthians 3:18, LEB)

GO TO: 1 Corinthians 6:9

16 **1 CORINTHIANS 6.9-10**

#2

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, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–10, KJV 1900)

17 **THE LEXHAM ENGLISH BIBLE**

- *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Neither sexually immoral people, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor passive homosexual partners, nor dominant homosexual partners, nor thieves, nor greedy persons, not drunkards, not abusive persons, not swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* (1 Corinthians 6:9–10, LEB)
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18 **PAUL LISTED KINDS OF PEOPLE THAT WILL NOT GO TO HEAVEN**

- Fornicators (people who commit sexual sin)
- Idolaters (people who put other gods or things before the true God)
- Adulterers (people who are not faithful to their marriage partner)
- Effeminate (a reference to men who practice sodomy)
- Abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomite)
- Thieves
- Covetous (wanting what others have that you do not have)
- Drunkards (or alcoholics)
- Revilers
- Extortioners (robber or plunderer; carries off the possessions of another)
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19 **WOW! CAN ANY OF US GO TO HEAVEN?**

- Have you ever committed a sexual sin?
- Have you ever put something else ahead of God (idolatry)?
- Have you ever lusted after a person who was not your marriage partner?
- Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you?
- Have you ever coveted what someone else had?

- Have you ever been drunk?

20 **VERB TENSES IN GREEK**

- Present tense = Continual action
 - It is this tense that Paul employs in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- Aorist tense = Action at one point in time
- Perfect tense = Action at one point in time with a continuing result
- Future tense = Action at a point in the future

21 **SO, WHAT IS PAUL SAYING?**

- *Do not deceive yourselves! Those who continually live in sexual immorality, those who continually put idols before God, those who continually live in adultery, those who continually live the homosexual lifestyle, those who continually steal, those who continually live to satisfy their greed, those who continue to live in slavery to alcohol, those who continue to abuse others, and those who continue to swindle and cheat others give evidence of the fact that they are not going to inherit the kingdom of God because they are not genuinely born again.*

22 **1 CORINTHIANS 6:11**

- But Paul gives us some good news!
 - When we receive Jesus Christ, we might occasionally do some of the things that are in that list, but we can no longer continue to live in that lifestyle of sin. The Holy Spirit convicts us and corrects us.
 - *And some of you were these things, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11, LEB)*
- Instead of being a lost people who continually live a lifestyle of sin, we become saints who sometimes sin. The overall pattern of our life has shifted. (We may still get dirty, but we stop living in the mud.)

23 **MOVING ON...**

#2

- *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, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–10, KJV 1900)*

GO TO: 1 Corinthians 15:33

24 **1 CORINTHIANS 15:33**

#3

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. (1 Corinthians 15:33, KJV 1900)

Do not be deceived! "Bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15:33, LEB)

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25 **HOW DO WE DECEIVE OURSELVES**

- We deceive ourselves when:
 - We keep company with ungodly companions
 - We subject ourselves to literature that is not God-honoring

- We subject ourselves to music that is not God-honoring
- We subject ourselves to media that is not God-honoring
- These things dull our senses and cause us to become tolerant of wicked words and values. The world's lies start to become our truth.
- GIGO – Garbage In, Garbage Out

26 **MOVING ON...**

#3

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. (1 Corinthians 15:33, KJV 1900)

GO TO: Galatians 6:3

27 **GALATIANS 6:3**

#4

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. (Galatians 6:3, KJV 1900)

For if anyone thinks he is something although he is nothing, he is deceiving himself. (Galatians 6:3, LEB)

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28 **HOW DO WE DECEIVE OURSELVES?**

- By thinking that we are good enough to get into heaven
- By thinking that we are more precious to God than others are
- By believing that our intelligence is sufficient to make us a critic or judge of God's word – to determine which parts are true and which parts are not
- By choosing man's reasoning or religious tradition as our faith and practice even when it contradicts the word of God
- By thinking that others should be impressed by our academic achievements, our wealth, or something else that makes us "special"

29 **WHAT IS THE REALITY?**

- The reality is that none of us are special enough to merit God's favor so that he would take us into heaven without us repenting of our sins and receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior
- Without Jesus Christ, all of us are just bags of dust waiting to return to the dust because our lives will amount to nothing for eternity
- A life that does not live for Christ is wasted
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30 **EVERYTHING WITHOUT CHRIST IS NOTHING**

- Paul believed his earthly possessions to be NOTHING.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:10 -- *As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*
- Paul believed to gather earthly wealth and acclaim led to having NOTHING.
 - 2 Corinthians 8:15 -- *As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.*

- Paul believed himself to be NOTHING without Christ
 - 2 Corinthians 12:11 -- *I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.*
- Paul believed the religious leaders / hierarchy of his day added NOTHING to God's truth
 - Galatians 2:6 -- *But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me*

31 **MOVING ON...**

#4

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. (Galatians 6:3, KJV 1900)

GO TO: Galatians 6:7

32 **GALATIANS 6:7-8**

#5

Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked, for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap, because the one who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. (Galatians 6:7-8, LEB)

33 **HOW DO WE DECEIVE OURSELVES?**

- We deceive ourselves when we think that we can get away with sin and that there will be no consequences
- The laws of reaping:
 - We always reap more than we sow
 - We always reap the same kind that we sow
 - We always reap at a later time than we sow
- What are you sowing in your words and deeds? Will you be happy with the harvest?
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34 **MOVING ON...**

#5

Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked, for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap, because the one who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. (Galatians 6:7-8, LEB)

GO TO: James 1:22

35 **JAMES 1:22-24**

#6

But be doers of the message and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves, because if anyone is a hearer of the message and not a doer, this one is like someone staring at his own face in a mirror, for he looks at himself and goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. (James 1:22–24, LEB)

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36 HOW DO WE DECEIVE OURSELVES?

- We deceive ourselves when we read or hear the word of God and do nothing with it
 - We do not examine ourselves (James 1:22-24) -- EXAMINATION
 - We do not repent of what we saw was wrong -- RESTORATION
 - *And you will make a basin of bronze and its bronze stand for washing, and you will put it between the tent of assembly and the altar, and you will put water there. (Exodus 30:18, LEB)*
 - *And he made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze from the mirrors of the serving women who served at the entrance of the tent of assembly. (Exodus 38:8, LEB)*
 - We do not allow ourselves to be transformed to be more like Jesus Christ -- TRANSFORMATION
 - *And we all, with unveiled face, reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory into glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18, LEB)*

37 WHAT WE MUST REMEMBER

- We should know that the word of God is inerrant, infallible, and inspired (God-breathed)
- But we often forget that the word of God is also imperative. It was never meant to simply be read or heard. It is not just an act of religion to read Scripture. Nor should it simply be part of a liturgical ceremony.
 - It is meant to be studied diligently.
 - It is meant to be meditated upon and absorbed into our lives.
 - It is meant to transform us into the image of Christ.
 - It is meant to be active and alive discerning between the thoughts and intents of our heart.

38 MOVING ON...

#6

But be doers of the message and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves, because if anyone is a hearer of the message and not a doer, this one is like someone staring at his own face in a mirror, for he looks at himself and goes away and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. (James 1:22–24, LEB)

GO TO: 1 John 1:8

39 1 JOHN 1:8

#7

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8, KJV 1900)

40 I WAS CALLED A MILK SOP

- When I was pastoring in Palestine Texas, a woman called wanting to come to my church.
- My initial reaction was positive until I talked to her a while more and found out that she was a Christian Scientist. She wanted to come and teach her false doctrine in the church that I pastored.

- During the phone call she revealed to me that she was not a sinner and had never sinned. I quoted 1 John 1:8 to her and told her that she was lying to herself. I suggested that she needed to repent of her sins and receive Jesus Christ as her Savior. She became angry and hung up the phone.
- A few days later I received a letter in the mail in which she called me a "milk sop of a preacher."

41 **SURELY WE WOULD NEVER DO THIS...**

- I think most of us here would admit that we are sinners, so it might seem that this verse does not apply to us.
- However, I think many Christians have things in their life that are sinful, but which they justify as not being sin.
- In other words, our morality dictates our theology. We justify those sins we want to keep and convince ourselves that in our circumstance, that behavior is not sinful.
- We need to examine God's word and see what God thinks about the behavior. For God, there are no gray areas. Everything is clearly black or white. Another words something is either sinful or it is holy.

42 **THE GREAT DECEIVER'S GREATEST WEAPON**

- Obviously, Satan is the greatest deceiver of all
- Perhaps one of his most effective weapons is the human heart which can easily deceive itself
 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* (Jeremiah 17:9, KJV 1900)
- Our hearts are easily led astray. Remember that the heart is the source of feeling. Whenever someone tells me, "I can't get away from the feeling that..." I can hear trouble coming.
- God does not want us to base our lives on our feelings because they are extremely deceptive. Instead, we are to base our lives and conduct upon the written word of God as contained in the 66 books of the Bible.

43 **ARE YOU DECEIVING YOURSELF?**

- Do you think that just by being a good person that you will go to heaven?
- Do you think that you have no sin of which you need to repent?
- Do you hear or read the word of God and then don't do anything with it?
- Are you living in a continual lifestyle of sin rather than living in a lifestyle of godliness empowered by Jesus Christ to do right?
- Do you believe that you can sin without consequences?
- Do you believe yourself to be so smart that you can pick and choose what you want to believe from God's word?
- Do you choose human reasoning and philosophy or religious tradition that contradicts God's word as contained in the 66 books of the Bible?
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