



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 24 Be Not Deceived, but Continue in Steadfastness

“There are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world. And also Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you.” (D&C 50:2-3)

D&C 26; 28; 43:1–7; 50; 52:14–19

A study of this lesson will help us understand how we can avoid deception and apostasy.

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "The penalty inflicted upon these rebellious spirits is that they are denied the blessings of this mortal life. They are known as sons of perdition because they are denied bodies and are partakers of the second death, which is eternal banishment from the presence of the Lord. Their mission in this world is to tempt mankind and try to get them to deny Jesus Christ and reject the everlasting Gospel. Having great knowledge and power, for they had great experience before their rebellion, they use all manner of cunning schemes to entice men from the path of rectitude and away from the kingdom of God. In their cunning craftiness they teach some truths, but never the whole truth. The devil is the author of false religions. He is perfectly willing that men should worship something and in some manner. He makes them think they are worshiping Jesus Christ and his Father but sees to it that many false doctrines contrary to the plan of salvation are introduced among men. He is the author of confusion and laughs at the divided condition existing among the religious denominations. He it was who brought to pass the great apostasy from the religion and Church of Jesus Christ in former days. Satan is exercising great power and has led the great majority of mankind away from the commandments of God, even while he makes them think that they are serving him. In these latter days he is extremely busy and dominates the thinking and the philosophies of the world and has led many people into 'strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.' He knows 'that he hath but a short time'." (Man, His Origin & Destiny, pp292-293)

President Brigham Young: "It is most astonishing to every principle of intelligence that any man or woman will close their eyes upon eternal things after they have been made acquainted with them, and let the . . . things of this world, the lusts of the eye, and the lusts of the flesh, entangle their minds and draw them one hair's breadth from the principles of life." (Discourses of Brigham Young, p82)

President John Taylor: "When a man deserts from the gospel, from the ordinances, from the priesthood and its authority, from the revelations of the Spirit of God, from the spirit of prophecy, from that sweet, calm influence that broods over the upright man in all his acts, he loses the blessing of God and falls back into error; and, as the scripture says, the last state of that man is worse than the first." (Gospel Kingdom, p434-435)

President Joseph F. Smith: "The moment a man says he will not submit to the legally constituted authority of the Church, whether it be the teachers, the bishopric, the high council, his quorum, or the First Presidency, and in his heart confirms it and carries it out, that moment he cuts himself off from the privileges and blessings of the Priesthood and Church, and severs himself from the people of God, for he ignores the authority that the Lord has instituted in his Church. These are the men that generally get crotchets in their heads, that get inspiration (from beneath), and that are often so desirous to guide the Church, and to sit in judgment upon the priesthood." (Gospel Doctrine, p45)

President Spencer W. Kimball: "To avoid the unpleasant recognition of their sins, many rationalize. Some blame God or his laws for their downfall, and by eliminating God and his Church from their lives they seem to think they will get relief. But rationalizing and minimizing sin betrays disregard for or ignorance of the scriptures and the program of God.... However much the lips may deny the sin it is difficult to escape the accusations of the conscience." (Miracle of Forgiveness, Chapter 11)

Heber J. Grant: "I have never known a person, man or woman, who attended his meetings, and partook of the spirit and inspiration that are present in the meetings of true, faithful Latter-day Saints, who has ever apostatized." (Gospel Standards, p42)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 84:33–44; 121:34–46; D&C 107