

*...And men are not led astray? Men cannot be deceived?*

Men and women are led astray (1 Jn 5:19). Man's curse was being condemned to hard labor (Ge 3:16, 19) and physical death (1 Co 15:22). He now has a choice to live forever with God or not (Josh 24:15).

Eve was deceived by Satan (Ge 3:13). Christians today are still deceived by: flattering words (Ro 16:18), false reports (2 Thess 2:3), false reasoning (Col 2:4), evil spirits (1 Ti 4:1) and false prophets (Mk 13:22; 2 Tim 3:13).<sup>1</sup>

Jeremiah wrote: The prophets prophesy falsely and the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so (Je 5:31). Unfortunately, some prefer lies to the truth (Jn 14:6).

If one wants to know the truth, God will make himself available (Jer 29:13-14).

When one does not want to know the truth; first he *will not* believe and then he *cannot* believe (2 Thess 2:11). This begins his decent into a lost eternity (Ro 1).

God is loving and longsuffering (Ex 34:6) wishing for all men to be saved (2 Pe 3:9, 15). He is not far from anyone of us (Ac 17:27). There comes a time; however, when he gives up on one who refuses to humble himself before him (Ge 6:3).

The faith of a mustard seed (Lk 17:6) can lead one to everlasting life (Jn 3:15). After one submits to God's rule and reign for his life (Jas 1:22), God teaches him through his Spirit (Jn 14:16, 26) correcting any errors he may have believed erroneously (Is 28:10, 2 Ti 3:16-17).

No one can go higher in the faith by himself (Jn 16:13–16). Each must grow (2 Co 9:10) in the Lord—not by might or by power, but by his Spirit (Zech 4:6). Saved individuals can come boldly to the throne of God to receive his mercy when in need (He 4:16). God leaves an open door for those who want more of Him (Eph 3:8).

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 170). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.