

DECEPTION

The Garden reflected the character of God, but since original sin our world portrays the character of its god of whom Jesus said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44 niv)

Satan became the god of this world through deception. God's intent is to reveal the Truth of His glory through the Church, and Satan opposes Him with deception at every turn.

PURPOSE

Satan's rule on the earth is irresistible and comprehensive EXCEPT for where God rules in those who have chosen Him as their god. The saints form the Church, whose purpose is to glorify God by reflecting His character and presenting the Good News to a lost world in such a way that they will want it too.

Please PLEASE understand - - THAT is the sole purpose of the Church including every form it takes both as individuals and collectively, and it is the sole standard by which her authenticity is judged.

RETHINKING

Our world is under Satan's deception, and God's people must rethink how much of what we see, hear and believe is what it is represented to be. In politics, economics, society - - and the Church. We too can be deceived.

So, *are* we the dynamic, Spirit-filled Body of Christ that reflects His glory and is cheerfully and genuinely enslaved to His purpose of reconciling man to Himself? The institutional church's belief that we are, confirms that the deep deception of the Last Days is upon us.

We could only believe that, because we are deceived again and believe Satan's lie that we can define "Church" for ourselves in a way that appeases our fleshly instincts instead of by embracing the cross, surrendering to our Lord Jesus, and abandoning our selfish personal interests for His Names' sake.

A Heb. 12:25-29 shaking has begun. All that can be shaken will be shaken - - and the "church" as we know it, can be shaken. Jesus welcomes repentant sinners but turns from hypocrisy.

Is my premise truthful and does it support my conclusion? Push back if you wish to.

Ken Stoltzfus
Kidron, OH USA
May 22, 2021

