WORSHIP GONE WRONG
A BIBLE STUDY IN FALSE DOCTRINES
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Satan’s Lie

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-13

Aim: By the end of the lesson I will identify the source of all false doctrine.

Start Here

This quarter we will be studying about false doctrines, but we are going to take a different approach. Instead of examining specific groups in our day that are wrong in doctrine and practice, we are going to look at some of the underlying causes and conditions of false doctrine.

Satan is a deceiver. He keeps telling the same old lies over and over. If we can learn how he works, we can avoid his lies no matter how they may be presented. One thing is certain, as long as this present age continues, there will be false doctrine. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:13, “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

This has happened throughout the church age and it is still happening today. Consequently, what you believe makes a real difference in your life. Satan might try to sell you on the idea that it really doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere. This is an outright lie. Some deceived people believe that little green men are coming in spaceships to get them and take them to Heaven. They are sincere, but they are horribly wrong. Some men believe that they can reject Christ and live a life of sin and not be punished. Some foolish people even think that God doesn’t exist. All of these false concepts will change the way you behave. It is important that you know the truth and that you believe the truth. What you believe does make a difference.

Take a Closer Look

The text verses reveal how sin came into the world. They show us what’s false about false doctrine and give us a valuable insight into how Satan teaches lies.
We are warned in the Bible not to allow Satan to get an advantage over us because we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). When we see how Satan works and realize that what he says is a lie, we can identify false doctrine and resist the things it teaches.

A test of our knowledge. The first thing Satan does is to test our knowledge of the truth. One of the best things anyone can do to protect himself from false doctrine is to know and practice the truth. The more we know the truth and the more we practice the truth, the closer to Jesus we become. This is not to say that we can ever be immune to falsehood, but we can take positive steps to protect our minds from lies.

Satan appeared to Eve in the form of a serpent. This serpent was more cunning, or subtle, than any other beast. We need to realize that Satan is like that. He is a trickster and a liar. He has no desire to help anyone and the only agenda he has is his own. Satan knows his fate, and he is trying to get as many as possible to join him.

He asked Eve a question to see whether she knew what God had commanded. He was asking her whether God really said what she thought that God said. God had given Adam and Eve some simple instructions. God had placed them in a beautiful garden and told them that they could eat from every tree there except the tree in the middle of the garden. Satan posed his question as a negative. He asked her, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” This allowed Eve to give an easy answer. She could have just answered yes or no. To her credit, she did not.

Learn that you are not obligated to answer a question just because someone else asks it. There are many questions that can’t be answered. There are many matters that are your business and God’s business and no one else’s business. Learn when to answer and when to walk away. When you study the life of Jesus, you will see that often Jesus ignored the questions that men asked Him. There are questions that are only designed to cause trouble and we should avoid them (Titus 3:9).

An accusation against God. When Eve correctly answered Satan’s question, that is, she accurately reported what God had said to her through Adam, Satan then employed another strategy. Here is one of Satan’s oldest and most often used lies. He told Eve that God was not telling her all the truth because He had a secret agenda and her ignorance was cheating her out of great blessings.

Satan’s exact words are found in Genesis 3:5. Satan suggested that God had forbidden this fruit because eating it would make men like God.
This is a lie. We know the rest of the story. Adam and Eve did sin. They ate the fruit, but they didn’t become like God. Instead, they lost their innocence and became sinners. False religion thrives because it promises people that they will learn secret things and have special abilities that ordinary people don’t possess. We all like secrets. We like to learn them and we like to share them. Satan uses this to his advantage.

God is honest. He has revealed in the Bible all that mankind needs to know about life, about living, about death and about eternity. God hasn’t held back some things that we need because He has a secret agenda. God does not play games with mankind. He acts out of great love and eternal concern for your life. The best thing that you can do in all of your life is to know the truth and walk in the truth. We may not understand all the mysteries of life, but, if we have been saved, we will be assured of an eternity with Him where all things will be explained to us.

Eve was at a crossroads. She could trust in God and in what God said, or she could listen to the serpent. She chose to listen to the serpent. If you question what God says, who are you going to believe? Who do you think knows more than God does? Do men? Do angels? Do demons? You see the foolishness of this way of thinking. We can and we must trust that God is telling us the truth. We have to believe that He is seeking the best for each of us in what He does for us every day.

**Appeals to the flesh.** Satan closed the deal by appealing to the physical side of life over the spiritual. Eve knew what God had commanded, but, when she looked at the tree, she saw that the fruit was good to eat. She saw that it looked pretty, and she wanted to be as wise as the serpent said she could be. This fleshly appeal triumphed, and Eve chose to disobey God.

The essence of false religion is a fleshly appeal. This is a powerful thing. We all live in fleshly bodies, and we all want things that please our flesh. We naturally want to feel good about ourselves and about the world. When Satan offers worldly temptations, it is difficult to resist.

But we should stop and think. We don’t always eat because we are hungry. Like Eve, we may eat because we are tempted. Those who accept false doctrine do not do so because there is no food in the truth of the Bible. They just see other things and want them. The lust of our eyes, the lust of our flesh and the pride of life will tempt us to sin. Before we know it, we have done things that we will regret.

We will never be in a circumstance exactly like Adam and Eve; however, the principles and the tricks that Satan uses are common in false doctrine.
today. Learn them and learn to watch out for them when they come your way.

Have you ever been tempted to do something that you knew was wrong? Of course. We all have. What did you do about it? Many will yield to the least temptation that comes along. Others may resist but for the wrong reason. We may resist because we think we will get caught if we sin. We can develop a conscience that simply tries to protect us from harm. If we get our hand spanked when we do something, we will soon learn not to do it, but we will not know why we should or should not do it.

God expects us to act out of conviction as well as conscience. This means that we act positively. We know the truth and we decide positively to walk in the truth. We will proceed to do those things that are right and to avoid the things that are wrong. We don’t avoid wrong things because we think we might be caught, we avoid them because they are wrong.

If Eve had simply told the serpent that she knew and believed what God said and that she would not disobey God, this account would have had an entirely different outcome.

Satan uses to his advantage the fact that many people think they know it all. Some even think that they know more than God. Whenever we decide to ignore our knowledge of the truth, we become easy victims of Satan’s lies.

In a real sense knowledge is power. Do you recognize Satan? Satan is a liar. One of the boldest lies he has ever told is that he does not even exist. Strangely, more people believe in God than believe in the devil. If you recognize Satan and you know how he works, you have a great advantage in avoiding false doctrine.

False doctrine will always question the truth you believe. It will seek to determine whether or not you really believe it, and it will attack you where
you are weakest. False doctrine will tell you that there are secrets that you can learn, that there are superior things that only a few special people can know, and of course, you can be one of them if only you will discard those biblical truths and follow the lies.

False doctrine will do its best to make you feel good. It will appeal to your flesh and in many ways it keeps this promise. It may feel good to the flesh for a short time, but you will regret it for a long time afterward.

What we believe is the foundation of our lives. We literally are what we believe. Make sure that we are building our lives on a good foundation—the foundation of the truth of the Word of God.

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Satan is alive and he is living and practicing deceit on earth right now. He is fooling men, women, boys and girls. He is telling them that right is wrong and that wrong is right. He is telling them that God doesn’t know what He is talking about and that the Bible is not to be trusted. He is telling them that the world is a grand accident and that men have invented a god to satisfy their own weaknesses.

We must recognize these lies and many others for what they are. We must look behind the lie and see the liar. Then we can know the truth, we can believe the truth and the truth will set us free from the lies.