

Be Not Deceived

1 Corinthians 6:9-10. "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."

The Word of God is clear in that man has been warned to resist sin in all of its forms. In the book of **2 John, chapter 1, verse 7** we are told that many deceivers are entered into the world. This refers to those who would pervert the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teachers of a gospel that may sound good and seem easy to follow, but would lead people astray from God. It would be a religion that would have ceremony and rites that would make men feel like that were worshipping God, just not like the scriptures say.

There are those who think that no one can worship without a lot of ceremony and fanfare. I ran into this once in a hospital where I baptized a man into Christ. After first trying to talk us out of baptism, the chaplain wanted to help by gathering a group of people, books, chairs, and a few other things. He was surprised when I thanked him for wanting to help

but told him that such things were not necessary. He said, "I have never seen a baptism, can I come and watch?" I took the man's confession and baptized him with the chaplain looking on. It took a repentant believer, a body of water, someone to baptize him, and the Lord.

We need not to be deceived about baptism, or any thing else in scripture. All we need to do is to follow the Word of God. The Lord established his church and is the head, the authority, and the guide of the church. If we want to go to heaven we only have to follow our guide. Jesus will lead us in the right path and will help us along the way. Satan, however, will seek to lead men away from God and will present another gospel to blind them to the truth.

It is such a shame today to see and hear the many that mock the Word of God, even while claiming to be sent by God to preach. Jesus said in John 8: 47, "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." To hear with the ears is not the only thing that he speaks of in this verse. To read it and to "Hear" God's Truth is done by a believing person. If, and when, a person can read what God has said and then mock it and ignore, or change the message, he is not of God. It should not happen but it does and such a person opposes himself, going farther away from God.

When you look at the bible and see what God has said, and what he has revealed unto man, it is easy to see and understand that God is against sin. So much so that he sent his son to die for the sins of the world. How then can anyone teach that a person can live in sin and still be acceptable unto God? Many are deceived into thinking that they can live just like they did before they made a profession of faith. A moment of "Lip-service" is supposed to give them eternal peace with God. If a preacher tells you that you can hate, commit fornication, lie, cheat, and do all the things that God has condemned, then leave him and find a true minister of God's Word.

Does a Christian sin? Yes, but a true Christian will not continue in it. He will be sorry for his failure and will repent, asking God for forgiveness. Those who teach that you can sin and that it is nothing to worry about are wrong. Don't be deceived, read and follow God's word for yourself, after all, it is your soul that will be judged.

Then there are those who think that they, and they alone, are the only ones who are saved. Like the Pharisees of old they feel that if you are not like them, then you couldn't possibly be saved. Don't be deceived by thinking that you are better than others, or that you have all knowledge, remember God is the judge and his judgment is the only one that counts.

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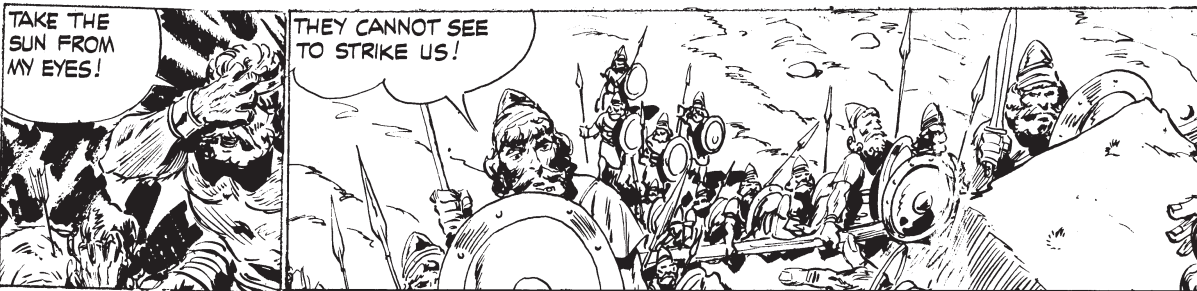
This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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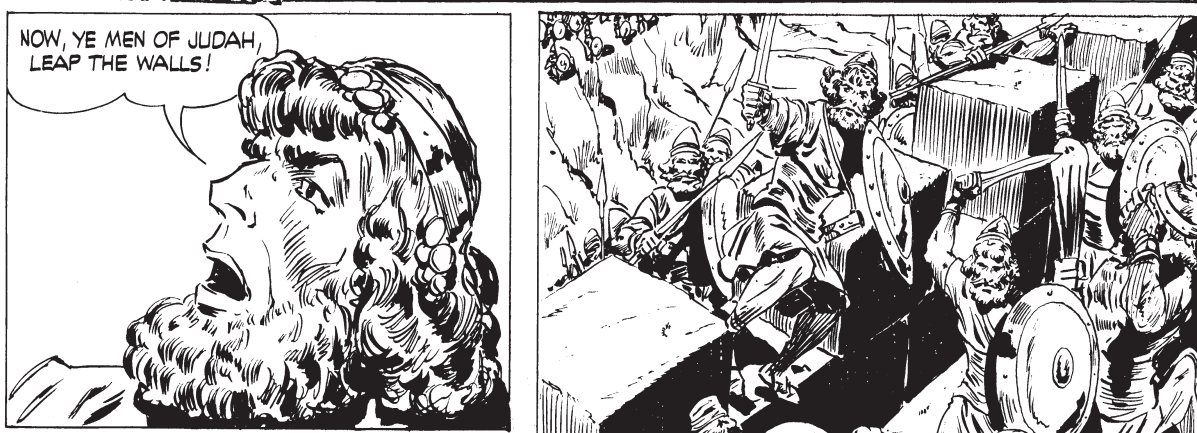
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