

# Things Aren't Always What They Appear To Be

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## Intro:

- 2 - **pics**: parents gave me pic, girls thought it was their great-grandmother, Allan drum major
  - - **lesson**: Things Aren't Always What They Appear To Be – **SR: Eve, serpent, Satan, fruit – Adam**
  
  - **Spiritual deception: evil is good – good is evil**
    - **2 Cor. 11:3-4** deceived by Satan's craftiness – serpent
      - **Eve (vs. 3): Satan's deception, not die if eat fruit – opposite of what God said**
        - **2 Cor. 11:14-15** Satan disguises himself angel of light, his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness
        - **illus.: Satan's deception, not baptized to be saved – opposite of what God said**
      - **Christians (vs. 4): bear with one who preaches a different gospel – opposite of what preached, Bible**
        - **1 Cor. 4:6** not to exceed (go beyond) what is written
          - **2 Jn. 1:9** if go too far and not abide in doctrine of Christ, not have God
          - **Eph. 6:11b, 16b** Satan is scheming (wiles, deceptions) against us, flaming arrows
          - **Col. 2:8** false teachers use philosophy and empty deception to deceive people
      - **things aren't always what they appear to be – Satan, deception, false teachers and doctrines**
  
  - - **1 Cor. 6:9-10** deception: immorality okay – God still loves you and you'll go to heaven
    - **fornication, adultery, homosexuality (vs. 9)**: sin of fornication widely accepted unless harming another
    - **drunkenness and reviling (vs. 10)**: widely practiced by celebrities, politicians, religion leaders
      - **illus. beer commercials:**
        - A 1996 study of adolescents' responses to beer ads by the Center for Science in the Public Interest found that "advertisements typically associate beer consumption with sexual prowess, athleticism and social success, and show characters having fun in different social settings." As for ads set on the beach, the report noted that respondents associated qualities like "good-looking," "popular," "cool," "fun" and "happy" with characters in the beach ads 10 times more than negative qualities like "sad," "mean," "threatening" or "loud." – **it's cool to drink this kind of beer, you'll be. . . .**
    - **things aren't always what they appear to be – fornication, adultery, homo, drunkenness**
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- - **1 Cor. 15:33** deception: evil companions okay – doesn't matter who you hang with, what you entertain yourself with
  - **things aren't always what they appear to be – Satan wants you to think you're strong enough, when you're not**
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- - **Gal. 6:7** deception: you can be a lukewarm Christian and still go to heaven – pew warmer, go to church but not be active, not learn first principles, not prepare of Bible class, sleep during church, not do personal work outside assembly
  - **Rev. 3:15-16** Jesus rather you're hot or cold, not lukewarm – spew lukewarm Christians out of mouth
  - **things aren't always what they appear to be – "lukewarm maturity" not good**
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- - **2 Th. 2:8-12** deception: magic (fake miracles) used to deceive people
  - **Acts 8:9-10** Simon the Sorcerer, deceived people into thinking he was the Great Power of God
  - **things aren't always what they appear to be – today's so called miracles are magic tricks**

- **Beware of hypocrisy – things aren't always what they appear to be**
  - **Matt. 23:28** some men appear religious, but are full of hypocrisy
    - must look at the inward person, not outward – Jesus, know by fruits
  
- - **Rom. 12:9, 10-13** must keep hypocrisy out of our lives
  - **illus.: Gal. 2:13** easy to be ensnared in – Peter, Barnabas, prejudice toward Gentiles (Antioch)
  - never pretend to be something not, never seek to please people by wronging others
  - always be yourself – true Christianity is liberating – law of liberty
  
- - **1 Tim. 4:1-2, 3-4** false teachers use hypocrisy, draw people away from God, to Satan
  - watch out for Satan's trap: his ministers pretend to be religious through doctrines of demons

- **Beware of false assumptions and false conclusions** – things aren't always what they appear to be
  - beware: gossip, slander, false doctrines
- 2 - **illus.: pic.** Allan with root beer bottle – things aren't always what they appear to be
  - **gossip:** whispering, telling people we drink beer, get drunk, never ask us if root beer
  - **slander:** people don't like us spreading lies to hurt us
  - **false doctrine:** say it's okay to drink and get drunk - elder, wife, preacher do it
- - **beware: false doctrines from false conclusions (false assumptions)** – things aren't always. . . .
  - **illus.: Sadducees, no resurrection** since woman couldn't be married to multiple men in heaven
    - **Mk. 12:18-24** scenario, **mistaken, not know Scriptures or power of God**
    - **Mk. 12:25-27** Jesus explanation
- - **illus.: man who recently wrote regarding baptism** (common occurrence):
  - **assumed God would save a person who tripped and died on the way to be baptized, and concluded that everyone was saved before baptism**
    - "There are to many scenarios that I can give you about being killed or dieing before you are baptized for you to tell me I have to be baptized before I am saved."
  - **false assumptions:**
    - **we can judge in place of God** – save and condemn whomever we wish (**cf. Ja. 4:11-12**)
    - **God does not have the power to prevent** someone from tripping and dying on the way to be baptized
      - cf. person on airplane or on battlefield
    - **our thoughts and ways are the same as God's** (**cf. Is. 55:8-9**)
    - **God doesn't say what He means, and doesn't mean what He says** (**cf. Mk. 12:25-27**)
    - **if God were to make an exception** in an extraordinary situation, it **applies to all situations**
      - **Matt. 9:2-8** Jesus forgave sins of paralytic, didn't mean he and everyone else didn't have to obey law to be forgiven in all other circumstances
- - **illus.: thief on the cross** – Jesus forgave thief without baptism, forgives us without baptism
  - **unfounded assumption: thief had sins when on cross** – may have been innocent
  - **unfounded assumption: Jesus saved thief on cross** – may have been forgiven before crucified, M. Law
  - **unfounded assumption: thief hadn't been baptized** - poss. baptized by John and/or apostles
  - **unfounded assumption: thief's salvation has anything to do with our salvation** – diff. dispensation
  - **unfounded assumption: even if Jesus forgave the thief** on the cross, exception to God's word, it changes the terms of salvation for everyone else
    - Jews still had to obey and offer sacrifices, we still have to obey and be baptized
- - **we can lose our souls as a result of false conclusions**
  - **false conclusion:** it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you live the way you believe
  - **Gal. 5:2-4** people who did what they believe but fell from grace
    - **we must obey Christ (Heb. 5:9), if we believe wrong and disobey Christ, we are lost**

- **How do we cut through the lies and deceptions to know the truth – the Bible, word, lamp to our path**
  - **Col. 1:5** the truth is revealed in the gospel
  - **Jn. 17:17** God's word is truth
  - **1 Tim. 2:4** God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth
  - **Jn. 8:32** truth makes us free – sin, death
  
- - **Ja. 1:22-25** use word as our mirror, see if our life is right with God – not believe lies and deceptions
  - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** Scripture: profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training, equipped for every good work
  
- **How do we cut through the lies and deceptions to know the truth?**
  - learn the gospel, know the gospel, use it to guide our path of life in everything (**Col. 3:17**)
  
- **Summary / Inv.**
  - beware of Satan's deceptions: evil is good - good is evil
  - beware of hypocrisy
  - beware of false assumptions and false conclusions
  - **How do we cut through the lies and deceptions to know the truth?**
    - learn the gospel, know the gospel, use it to guide our path of life in everything
  
- **inv.:** cut through the lies and deceptions – obey the gospel – inv.
- - **BTW:** slide background – water not sky – reflection of sky in water
  - don't forget, things aren't always what they appear to be