

1 John 2:26

These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

We are taught in the bible to beware of deception in the church, just like John was writing about in today's verse. *These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.*

When bank tellers are trained on how to discover (not be deceived with) counterfeit money, they are not taught what the counterfeit money looks like, instead they are taught to study real money, then when the counterfeit comes along, they will spot it right away.

The same is true with God's word. So many will study about false religions and what they teach and even teachings about the devil, thinking it will help reveal the lies when they come across. But the truth is, that does not work. In order to determine if something being taught, or spoken is a lie, you MUST study the truth.

I know for myself, I read the bible every morning, and in fact, I read through the bible two or three times a year (Note, I am not bragging here). So since I am so familiar with the bible, when someone misquotes the bible or quotes it out of context, it's like fingernails on a chalkboard to me. Not because I know how people will misquote the bible, but because I know the bible and the truth of what it says.

Think of a Baker who studies cake baking. Do they study what ingredients not to put into a cake? No, instead they study what ingredients to put into a cake, and not just what ingredient, but how much. So, if someone says I am making a cake and putting a pinch of sugar and a cup of salt into the cake, the Baker knows that is incorrect, because the person has it backwards.

Yet, people will quote sayings (not verses) like "*God helps those who help themselves*" or "*Fight fire with fire*" which are both not in the bible, and if you read the bible, they are actually the opposite of what the bible teaches.

People will also quote scripture, right out of the bible, but out of context. Here are a few examples.

The first one they quote to nonbelievers telling them that Jesus is knocking on the door of their heart's.

† **Revelation 3:20** *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

But if you read it in its context, Jesus is speaking this to the church (believers) in Laodicea, and it's in regards to their backslidden state. So it's not for nonbelievers, but for a believer who have backslidden.

Another one is in regards to prayer and people will even quote it to the Lord in the midst of their prayers, which is:

† **Matthew 18:20** *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*

But, once again, if you read it in its context, it's in regards to a brother (or sister) who is in sin and addressing it with him or her. When people misquote it, it makes people wonder, "So if I'm praying alone and there are not two or more are with me, does that mean that God does not hear my prayers or He is not with me?" But we know that's not true at all, in fact, the most intimate times in prayer are when we are alone, as Jesus instructed us to do.

† **Matthew 6:6** *But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

So, if you want to make sure you are living a life according to God's way and not man's way, you must read and search the scriptures. Hiding the word of God in your heart. Then you will make sure you are being taught the truth of God's word, and not someone's opinion or misinterpretation of the bible.

As you read this closing verse, pay close attention to the last verse, which is the results of reading, and knowing the truth of God's word!

† **Acts 17:11-12 (NLT2)** *And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.*