

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"Let no one deceive you with empty words,
for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."**

Ephesians 5: 6

What does it mean to be deceived? I think it means to be expecting one thing but to actually receive something else. Nobody wants what is bad for them. They may be confused about what is actually GOOD for them, but nobody wants what they know to be bad for them. Or maybe I should not put it in quite such overarching terms. Maybe I should say, nobody wants the thing that they want to actually BE bad for them.

This is why the Bible needs to tell us not to let anyone deceive us with empty words. It tells us this because it is so easy to be deceived. It's easy to think we are receiving one thing when we are actually getting something else. So much deception happens through words. Words have the power to deceive people. The Bible warns us not to be deceived by "empty words." Empty words are words that don't deliver what we are hoping they will deliver.

Some deceivers deceive others on purpose. They know that what they are offering to someone is of no value, but they try to get people to take it anyway. Other deceivers deceive people because they too have been deceived but are not aware that they have been deceived and so they share something with someone else intending to give them something good even when it is not good.

When I was a kid, my parents would inspect all of the candy that my sister and I had acquired from Trick or Treating. I remember them telling us that there had been instances when razor blades were found in candy bars! That's deception! The thing that I am about to bite into looks like a "treat" but it is really a "trick."

As Christians, you and I need to stay on our toes when it comes to what we accept and what we reject as truth. It can seem a little overwhelming, but it really isn't. All we need to do is compare what we are being told with what the Bible says. If they do not match up, it's the Bible that wins. There are a lot of messages out there that are attempting to lead people astray; that is, to lead people away from Jesus Christ. People of the world are easily deceived because they do not have the Word of God as their compass.

So, I would just like to urge all of us to treasure the gift of God's Word. Let us study it, learn it, and become familiar with it.

It's our only source for the truth.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim