

According to the Bible Satan does exist. If you do not believe the Bible is God's word this study will not benefit you. However, if you are a believer in God's word this study will give you a lot of food for thought. Jesus tells us to beware of the deceitfulness of Satan, that he is a liar and the father of liars. Paul tells us Satan uses religious leaders to his advantage. Paul says they, too, are deceitful, and false (liars).

2Cor 11: 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

We should ask ourselves, "What should I look for when trusting my salvation to other men's spiritual teachings"? We should look for someone who hedges about when you ask difficult questions, which answers can be found in the Bible. If they don't know the answers they should be willing to sit down and look for the answer from the Bible and give you the answer. The Bible also tells us we can test them by their fruits. Do they, themselves, obey the Biblical teachings? Are their teachings based on the Bible? Can they prove their teachings by the word of God? We should search the Bible to find the answers ourselves at the same time. If we are not willing to do that we are guilty of willingly accepting Satan's lies, and spiritual blindness.

What are some of Satan's lies we can look for? What methods does he use to deceive us?

It is true false "religions" is Satan's most effective tool to keep us from eternal life. But what are some of the methods he uses to knock us off the straight and narrow road as we struggle to find our way? There are many, starting with our childhood. Deceived parents may be our false teachers. If parents are deceived they don't realize they are deceived.. Satan starts at an early age deceiving us into believing, and relying on, throughout our adult lives, that our superiors know and teach the best of all truths. As we mature many so called Christians often rely on others to find God's truth instead of searching for the truth ourselves. It is the sin of spiritual laziness. When we do this we willingly accept spiritual blindness. Satan is happy, he has you right where he wants you! His most and strongest desire is to use any method at his grasp to keep us from eternal life.

On the other hand, we may not have been taught the basics of anything about God or His word. Out of curiosity we may have accepted vague religious thoughts passed on by friends, acquaintances and/or teachers on television, none of which shared the same religious doctrine. Or we may become confused and decide religion is a bunch of rules and prejudices originating with men; religion is just not worth

wasting time on. Satan loves that attitude, as well. This attitude will rob us of eternal life as long as we choose to be blinded. Satan is so-o-o happy!

But you may not fit into any of the above categories. You may have been searching, off and on, for a church that you hoped would be the right one. You find one that impresses you. One that you think teaches the truth. At first you settled in and made many friends, got involved in activities, and became a member of their group. You had read the Bible through a couple times, continuing to study. Gradually you begin to suspect that this church was leaving out, or twisting, a lot of biblical truths, in a hidden effort of control over their members. So now we are not only disappointed and angry, but frustrated, uncertain what to do. At this point the decisions made are crucial! Satan wants us to give up and decide to do nothing, which will make him happy, or we can continue studying, praying, fasting, and seeking God's will in our lives. This is a test, and it is our decision. God says "I set before you life and death, (please) choose life"

These are some of the methods Satan uses to deprive us of eternal life. Some of the more sinister and unrecognized methods, to spiritually blind us, are by use of man's religious "traditions". Where do traditions come from and why does Jesus condemn them?

Mr 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

Mr 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Mr 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Mr 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

We, just as the Pharisees did, have many traditions that we keep every year in honor of Jesus Christ that he did not command us to do, but fail to keep his ten commandments. (Gen.20). We make excuses as to why it's alright to honor Jesus' birthday on a date he wasn't even born on, and ignore the fact that it is strictly tradition and not by Jesus' command. Both God and Jesus condemns us adding anything to his commandments when worshipping him. It makes sense that if he wanted us to celebrate his birthday he

would have told us how he wanted it done and given us the correct date. In addition to that it is strictly man's tradition that was part of pagan celebration in honor of their false gods before Christ was born. It is interesting that no mention of believers celebrated birthdays. It must really be an abomination to God when we teach our kids the lie about a false Santa Clause, instead of the true God's love for us. Satan loves it, and so do our kids.

De 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Re 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

There are many other abominations that we celebrate, with gleeful applause from Satan, such as the wrong day memorial of Christ's resurrection and a false easter bunny, the tooth fairy, and halloween, among other man made traditions based on lies.. Is it any wonder that many question the true story about Jesus? We have trained our children to believe Satan's lies, neglecting to teach them about the true God..

Another religious tool Satan uses is the one of "Idolatry". You don't have to bow down to an object to make it an idol. However many (blinded) nations are guilty of replacing idols, in religious worship, for the real powerful spiritual creator God. Even now we can go into many churches that are abundantly decorated with idols and picture images. In the following verses God voices his anger against (religious) idolatry.

Eze 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

Eze 14:4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; Eze 14:5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

Eze 14:6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Here we see that an idol can be "set up in ones heart". This is God talking to his chosen nation Israel whom he condemns because of their false religions. God labels idolatry as an abomination to him. God

adamantly condemns “idolatry” and religious “traditions.” Anything that takes more of our time than we spend with obedience to God is idolatry.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Ac 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

1Co 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Ga 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

It is no secret that our religions are saturated with traditions and idolatry that God labels “abominable.” These are not God’s religious churches; no matter how righteous they may appear, they belong to Satan. They are his most successful tool against humanity. Many historians have written volumes of books on how so many of our religious traditions, here in America, have been adopted from pagan religions which God condemned. It is not that God did not give us celebrations that he approved of; there are many more than we have created for ourselves. For instance; there are seven holy days to observe and celebrate once every year, the Sabbath to be observed every week, the new moon celebration to observe the first of every new month, and the Lord’s supper can be observed “as often as we do it”.. Most of these can be found in Lev. 23; they are called “feast” days. In addition to those, God does not condemn national observances, such as Labor day, Thanksgiving day, and Independence day. Why should we add more? Does it make sense that a nation should celebrate days that Satan uses to prevent us from having eternal life and ignore God’s special days of blessings instead? God not only promised it would please him if we kept his days, he promised great blessings also.

De 11:13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

17 And then the LORD'S wrath will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

31 For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.

32 And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

De12:28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Even though God was talking to ancient Israel in the above verses, does not mean these same rules do not apply to everyone during this age of grace. I am sure that God has not changed his mind about the way we worship. This is the time of decisions "choose life or choose death". God says to Israel and to us: De 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.