

Living in a world of deception is hard.

We look at all those around us with love and compassion, looking for opportunities to do good for them, all the while realizing that they are living in this condition... what they think is reality is deception.

Whom does that make crazy, them or us?

If you're willing to accept that it's you that's crazy, then fine... but realize that then all that you hold to be true about God becomes fantasy.

If what we believe about God is real, then we are living in a world of deception, and living in a world of deception is hard.

The “normal” deceptions of life have been with us always... that God's not real, that the devil's not real, that there's no afterlife, that human understanding is true/actual understanding, that some humans are better than others, that life is about stuff, that one's personal happiness and pleasure is the most important thing, that human success is up to the human and not to God, etc, etc, etc... all these things humans have lived with us ever, and the church's job has been to spread the Word of Truth, whether or not the deceived receive it.

Such is the way of the the Saint of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But in these days, another deception has arisen, one common to the world as, by means of recently developed communication systems, *the entire world* can be reached almost simultaneously and immediately with the same message. Now *it seems* that humans are or can be on the same page, planet wide... and so that page that they're on, commonly, all around the world, is a deception; a deception so grand as to be on par with the other grand deceptions... that there is no God for example.

Think of the grandiosity of these (*literally!*) Worldwide deceptions...

- that human life expectancy can be determined by contemporary Western medicine and can then be controlled by that medical paradigm/system, being forced upon humans, even against their will

by governments... and that this is the proper, God-ordained way of things.

- that it is the government's proper role to maximize life expectancy, that humans have an inherent “right” to maximized life expectancy, and that governments can and ought to guarantee that length and quality of life even at the expense of others in the society whom may not agree or even want those guarantees.
- that we humans are the masters of our own destiny, and will control that destiny far better as a global collective.
- that without acting as a collective, globally, we will destroy planet earth and its ability to sustain the human population(s).
- that the forces of nature can be manipulated/controlled by either the ingenuity or the ignorance of the human mind.

Add these deceptions to the *already vast* list of deceptions and realize how many of those around us are living under some or all of them, and then understanding that even those in this “information age” from whom we get the “intel” by which we make our own decisions are themselves deceived... some subsequently deceiving intentionally and some subsequently deceiving ignorantly.

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All humans desire to believe that they have and walk in, the truth. They will therefore work to convince others of their truths, actually trying to convince or remain convinced themselves. We humans then share those things we believe are true. Not only do we hold them and share them, we divide over them, seeking to conquer those whom disagree. Cliques, clubs, echo chambers arise, the voices of deception become thus multiplied throughout the world.

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## What then?

We stand. We stand for the Truths eternal that the Living God has allowed us to know. “*What are they and how can we know them?*”, one correctly asks.

In the “container” of eternal Truth, God's Holy Word, we read,

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM? Is 40:13" But we have the mind of Christ. (1Cor 1:12-16)*

AND...

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Col 2:6-10)*

AND...

Realize that we are not wrestling against the deceived, but against the deceiver... those whom we see around us who are themselves deceived, while they are responsible for the light that God has given to them, are not

our enemies!... but are those with whom we ought to share the Truth, whether they receive it or not. Here's how Apostle Paul said it...

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. (Eph 6:11-18)*

Be strong in the Lord beloved, for living in a world of deception is hard.

Pastor