



No Growth - Deceit

He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

Psalms 101:7

Defaming - Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 109:2

Eyes - John 9:14

Company - Colossians 2:8

Ears - Mark 4:24

Imagine - Proverbs 12:20

Tongue - Romans 3:13

The theme verse seven comes from Psalm one hundred and one entitled, "A perfect heart." It is about David's vow and profession of godliness. In this psalm, David declares he intended to regulate his household and govern his kingdom, that he might stop wickedness and encourage godliness. It is also applicable to private families, and is the householder's psalm. It teaches all who have any power or control, whether more or less, to use it to be a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well.

People in general should be more concerned with setting a good example of ruling their own houses well. Whenever a person has a house of their own, let them seek to have God to dwell with them; and those who may expect His presence who walk with a perfect heart. David resolves to practise no evil himself. He further resolves not to keep bad servants, nor to

employ those about him that are wicked. He will not admit them into his family, lest they spread the infection of sin.

A froward heart, one that delights to be cross and perverse, is not fit for society, the bond of which is Christian love. Nor will he countenance slanderers, those who take pleasure in wounding their neighbour's reputation. Also, God resists the proud, false, deceitful people who diligently tell lies or commit fraud. Let everyone be zealous and diligent to reform their own heart and ways, and to do this early; ever mindful of that future, most awful morning, when the King of righteousness shall cut off all wicked doers from the heavenly Jerusalem.

Deceit is the practice of misleading. "They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit," as in Job fifteen, verse thirty-five. To do wrong because of something they covet, the evil one creates an opportunity to use the individual. Deceitful is about being dishonest and insincere. "For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land." The deceitful worker creates havoc against their prey.

Deceit begins with an individual defaming someone's character and their name for reasons of no value to others, but to the deceitful themselves. In the New Testament, Jesus received the most defamation from back then, and even now today. People profanely use the Son of God's name in vain without any good reason, especially in a negative manner. "Oh Jesus," or "Jesus Christ," are the most commonly used responses among non-believers to something they heard or witnessed.

The deceitful people are liars and murderers resembling the devil, and are his children. Therefore, it may well be expected that God should abhor them. These were the characters of David's enemies, and such as these are still the

enemies of Christ and his people. "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight," is Psalm one hundred and one, verse seven, which is the overall theme for this subject. David prays to a sin-hating God, where sin is folly, and sinners are the greatest of all fools; fools of their own making.

What fuels a person to tear down another human being's name and character is due to envy or jealousy on their part. A person becomes deceitful when they see another person with something within or beside them, which unfortunately creates an opening in their heart for the devil to use to ruin a life in this manner. "Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue," as in Psalm fifty-two, verse four. Those who give in to deceit to satisfy themselves against the innocent they have issues with without cause will seem harmless. "For they speak not peace, but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land," as in Psalm thirty-five, verse twenty.

Deceit begins with what they see. A deceitful worker initially identifies as one, from the simplest things to the severe. They will monitor the one they have their focus on to see if they see them and if they notice their intentions towards them. The heart is not seen from the outside, but God sees it. Jeremiah seventeen, verse nine, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

What we do know is that deceit first began in the Garden of Eden with Eve. Satan used the serpent to convince Adam and Eve to believe him. He deceitfully expresses to Eve in verses four through five of Genesis three, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Satan, from the beginning, has tempted humans in ungodly ways, and deceit is one of many. The people who do this are under the influence of the devil. Whatever it is that has got the deceitful worker's attention is the access and control the enemy uses to work his plan against God's creation. Believers must be careful not to come against their brothers and sisters in Christ, especially inside the church. It is easy to fall into that trap with so many people in one area, as the eyes can run to and fro and feast on whatever may grab their attention while attending the service.

Deceit needs company. The story of Naboth's vineyard is an example of how a person deceitfully fulfills the desires of a spouse, attempting to gain something that is completely off limits. Ahab wanted to buy Naboth's vineyard, but Naboth said no. "And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee," as in First Kings twenty-one, verse three. Ahab was so sad that he could not even eat. Naboth, perhaps, had been pleased that he had a vineyard situated so near the palace, but the situation proved fatal to him; many a man's possessions have been his snare, and his neighbourhood to greatness, of bad consequence.

Discontent is a sin that is its own punishment and makes men torment themselves. It is a sin that is its own parent; it arises not from the condition, but from the mind: as we find Paul contented in a prison, so Ahab was discontented in a palace.

Naboth's vineyard is given to Ahab deceitfully by Jezebel, his wife. "So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth, and she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial,

before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. As it was planned, so it was done, as in verses eleven through fourteen.

Ahab misleads Jezebel in verse six, " And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. As stated earlier, "And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee, as in verse three. A liar, liar, will eventually get burnt in the fire.

Deceit can hurt a person, especially if it causes the innocent person to die. Ahab was killed in battle in First Kings twenty-two, verses thirty-five, and thirty-eight. Ahab's wife, Jezebel, also died violently in Second Kings nine, verses thirty to thirty-seven. Deceit is so wicked that even the dogs left the skull, feet, and palms of her hands. These three parts are of significance to the death of the innocent Naboth. The skull thought this evil plot. Her feet gave the letter to the elders, and the palms wrote it.

Deceit can be fueled by what a person hears. Saul, the king of Israel at the time, heard this from the women in the cities of Israel, "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." The reaction, in the next verse, "And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?"

The result of what Saul heard made him now watch David, as in verses nine, "And Saul eyed David from that day forward." This approach from the King also invited

an evil spirit to come upon because he was watching David for the wrong reasons. People like this monitor others sometimes when they hear something great that has happened to them, and become jealous if it is a blessing that attracts them. "They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit," as in Job fifteen, verse thirty-five.

Deceit activates imagination. Those who plot and devise evil against others begin by deceiving them, and end by deceiving themselves also. Therefore, whose hearts devise mischief against others, shall be deceived in their hopes, and bring that trouble upon themselves which they design against others. Daniel had this experience, being the foremost of three presidents and administrators who assisted King Darius in ruling the empire. "Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm," as in Daniel six, verse three.

"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God," as in verses four to five of Daniel. Then the rest of the presidents and princes addressed Darius. They wanted the King to make a law that if anyone prayed to another deity for the next thirty days, be thrown to the den of lions. Deceitfully, these princes and presidents had done this to the King, who unknowingly signed this letter. At the same time, Daniel was not involved in this matter.

Due to the King's consideration to set Daniel over the whole empire, the remaining princes and presidents plan to

deceitfully stop this idea from becoming a reality. However, Daniel served God faithfully, and their plan did not go as they had planned. After God delivered Daniel from the lion's den, the King made his next move in verse twenty-four. "And the king commanded, and they brought those men, which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces, or ever they came at the bottom of the den." This is how dangerous plotting deceit can get.

Deceit begins with speech. A deceitful worker may see and hear something, but from that result, the response spoken by a word that comes from the heart, which they covet and are jealous about, begins the damage. "Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit," as in Psalm fifty, verse nineteen. Evil is of the devil. As anyone may see, the only difference between the words is the letter "d."

Jesus Christ went through so much to save humanity and bring people back to God through salvation. The Son of God was crucified for our sins, and to see how it happened involved some form of deceit. However, although He was to fulfill the will of God, leading up to that day, a series of questionable events indicates the evidence of deceit was present. Beginning with Jesus before Pontius Pilate. Although there are four different scenarios from the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, there was only one question asked by the governor to the Son of God in Luke twenty-three, verse three, "And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it."

The response in verse four, "Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man." The public response in verse five, "And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth

up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place." See how deceit works. Jesus went about doing good: healing the sick and casting out evil spirits. However, "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy," as in Mark fifteen, verse ten. Then, when Jesus went to Herod, sent by Pilate, as in verse eight, "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him." However, Jesus refused to speak to him because his heart was so hardened. Herod was responsible for beheading John the Baptist. "Then he (Herod) questioned, with him in many words, but He (Jesus) answered him nothing," as in verse nine.

Deceit is dangerous and can be damaging to a life that practices such living. God declares in the theme verse that he does not want them around or dwell in His sight. And David, from the beginning, did not want such company around his household. Deceitful people are liars and workers for the evil one. Only God can remove that behavior from the heart if they surrender and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Deceit can be so severe that Naboth lost his life because of the vineyard he possessed. Daniel had a very close encounter with the den of lions, only for God to shut the lion's mouth when he was there for a period. All Daniel endured was due to a position and favour with the King. The King later punished the whole family of each man involved in this deceitful plot against Daniel by throwing them all in the lion's den. The King did not want contamination in his empire, and any infection from those men's families, and got rid of all those associated with them. Jesus had his moments with Pontius Pilate and did respond to his question. However, when in front of King Herod, He

did not. The difference is that Pontius Pilate found no fault in Jesus, but the people did. However, Herod's heart was hardened and full of deceit, so Jesus had nothing to say, no interaction. However, in all that, Herod still mocked Jesus before sending Him back to Pontius Pilate. Deceit is sin, and a deceitful worker who continues will only find out at the end that it is a one-way entrance to hell. Lies, fraud, and a monitoring spirit from within will only lead a person to work with the evil one. Deceit sounds like "the seat," as to sit in the chair of the enemy to defraud another victim.