

9/28/25

**Sermon – Deception of the Heart – Week 2 of the Deception Series (Honoring Charlie Kirk)**

**Scripture – Jeremiah 17:1-10, 1 Samuel 15:1-23**

**Main Message – The world is selfish, sacrifice is scorned, God's truth is outdated, sin is rampant.**

You can spend all day asking the question, “why is the world so messed up” and getting worse. This deception series is covering a good cross-section of those reasons. God's word has told us what to watch out for and what the fix is. Why is it ignored? Read the Main Message. Sounds terrible? Let me read to you from **Jeremiah 17:1-10**.

Deception from others is to be expected. Lies and deceit are fast becoming more of a foundational doctrine than simple truths that should be written in our hearts. The very vernacular of how people speak in today's language, which my ears flag every time now, is the phrase, “I feel like...” followed by some statement. Feelings now rule truth. Everyone thinks their feelings are the most important thing. This era is marked by indiscriminate selfishness. Pleasure without bounds. Sacrifice only in terms of serving pleasure at every turn. God's truth, laws, ordinances are outdated. People violate his Holy Laws over and over again and say, “Well Christ fulfilled the Law so it doesn't matter anymore.” We can see in the world how much the influence of thinking that no guidelines for a well running society is working – NOT!

Compromising the truth of God and His Holy Laws will always be a problem. Every time it is done it is the stain of sin in the world. In **1st Samuel 15:1-23** we can read about how Saul deceived himself in following God's direction completely.

As a secular example, its easy to find many and they usually revolve around money. In 2022 FTX Cryptocurrency Exchange founder Sam Bankman-Fried and his staff ignored all warnings and reality with their investment management firm. They broke all ethical standards of banking under the guise of “effective altruism” and rationalizing decisions that were obviously not well founded. They ended up squandering \$8-16 Billion of their investors money and went bankrupt. Sam once had \$20B and now it is effectively 0.

Now, none of us will be in a position to lead an army to destroy an opposing force. As I look around, likely no one here is very involved with crypto currency and certainly not running a company that could destroy a tremendous amount of wealth. But everyone has rationalized away God's ordinances and Laws which were meant for our good. We have deceived ourselves in thinking it is okay because Jesus died for our sins. Well, every sin we still commit is like another lash on His back or a hammer hit on the nail pinning him to the cross. So, instead of rationalizing the sin, beg his forgiveness and REPENT.

Would you like examples of sins you may be committing? I'm guessing not. When you watch Charlie Kirk debate with folks, he didn't shy away from the Gods truth. He was able to do it with a compassionate tone, when appropriate, and a passionate tone also but it was always truth. It made some people angry. He also would get applause from others. Those who gave applause I am quite certain could be made angry with another example of God's Holy Laws. You see, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. So, don't deceive yourself in any way that you are good, that the choices you and I have made are good. There is no scale on which sin is the worst, but I know this, that giving up by not pursuing growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through an intimate relationship is a dangerous place to be.